

THE MOUSE MANSION

SAM & JULIA

78x7'



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About

Format:

78 x 7 minutes

Genre/Subgenre:

Junior/animation/comedy

Target Audience:

preschool

Technique:

Real Time 3D

Keywords:

mice, mansion, Sam, Julia, friendship, community, adventure, inclusivity

Focus/Themes/Tonality:

Sam and Julia is a comedy animation series for preschool kids. It tells the adventures of Julia, a mouse coming from a faraway island, and Sam, her friend in the mansion where she now lives.

What makes the program special?

Real-time animated 3D series, in the stop motion style, to match the very unique, real-doll atmosphere of the best-selling book series Sam & Julia by Karina Schaapman that the series is based on.

zdf-studios-presents.com/sam-and-julia



About

Sam & Julia is based on the publishing successful Dutch book series “The Mouse Mansion”, created by Karina Schaapman, which has sold over 1 million books internationally. Karina’s turbulent early years inspired her to create a welcoming world where kids are free to go out and discover, and where different customs and ways are enriching, not threatening.

Sam & Julia is a moving story about friendship, love and belonging. Julia is an outgoing and curious little mouse, who arrives in the Mouse Mansion – together with her mother – from an exotic faraway island. She is immediately welcomed by Sam, a shy mouse who lives in the Mouse Mansion with his big family. Sam introduces Julia to the Mouse Mansion community. Together they go on small and big adventures that lead them to all corners of the mansion, where they discover its wide variety of inhabitants. Sam & Julia become best friends, and each day Julia feels more at home in the loving community of The Mouse Mansion.

Sam & Julia is a truly tender and heartwarming tale of the friendship of two adorable mice, written for a preschool audience.

Synopsis

Coming from a distant island, Julia, a cute and speedy little she-mouse, has moved into a residential building (a.k.a. “The Mouse Mansion”), where she feels a bit like a stranger. She then meets Sam who also lives there and is a welcoming and crafty little he-mouse. Julia has only her mam for family.

Sam on the contrary has a large family with mam, dad and six siblings. Despite their different characters, they soon get to very much like each other. Sam helps his new little neighbor friend to get used to her new life. The funny entertaining adventures they experience in and around The Mouse Mansion allow Julia to become ever more integrated into this new, different environment. Even though she sometimes feels nostalgic about the beautiful and warm island where she was born and that she misses, she feels more at home day after day, surrounded by her new neighbors and friends.





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Characters



Julia

Julia is an outgoing mouse aged 5 years and 8 months and comes from a distant island far away. She recently arrived at The Mouse Mansion, where she lives with her single mother in a modest apartment. She doesn't know anyone at her new home, but soon that changes when she meets Sam. Sam introduces Julia to the diverse community that lives and works in The Mouse Mansion.

Julia is energetic, fearless, audacious and always looking out for thrills and excitement. She is usually the driving force behind the adventures she and Sam go on. Without ever trying to come across as better than Sam, she urges him to be more self-confident and always encourages him in his endeavours. Her freedom of thought and originality, as well as the fact that she is also very much at ease with her own character quickly make Julia a welcome guest in the many homes and workshops at The Mouse Mansion. Her friendship with Sam helps her to feel more and more at home at The Mouse Mansion each day.



Sam is 6 years old and lives in the front center of the Mouse Mansion. He lives there with his big family. Sam is a shy and somewhat reserved mouse who appreciates peace and quiet.

A meticulous perfectionist at heart, he likes to read, do puzzles or invent things. Sam's life is going just fine until new neighbours arrive in The Mouse Mansion: outgoing Julia with her single mother, who arrive from a distant island. Against all odds – as they couldn't be more different – Sam & Julia hit it off immediately. Sam introduces Julia and her mother to the diverse community in The Mouse Mansion. When Sam is with Julia, he dares to do things he wouldn't otherwise do, and the friendship boosts his confidence. When he is not being dragged into a new adventure by Julia, Sam also enjoys the moments of peace and quiet at Julia's small apartment.



Secondary Characters

Julia's mother



Julia's mother arrives with her daughter from a distant island. Each evening she tells Julia stories about when she lived there, as well as traditional tales. She wants her daughter to have and to remember some of these key traditions from her original heritage. She also prepares food that mice like Sam have never seen or tasted, cooked in a wadjan instead of a pan. More nostalgic in nature about her heritage than Julia, her mother takes longer to get used to their new life. Julia's mother is wise, caring and loving, and has a solution for everything. She is resourceful and can make anything out of nothing.



Ella

Ella is the same age as Sam and Julia. Her family is wealthy compared to the other mice in The Mouse Mansion. Ella's room is styled very differently from the rooms of other mice her age. Sam and Julia are never allowed to touch any of the items in the room. Ella takes ballet classes, which makes Julia a little jealous because she would like to be able to wear a tutu like Ella. Ella's parents are often away and so she tries to find attention in other ways. Authoritarian by nature, she likes Sam because he is compliant. But with Julia it is much less easy for her to make Julia do as she asks.

Dan

Sam's older brother



Dan is 9 years old and shares his room with Sam. He often teases Sam who responds good naturedly with such clever answers that usually leave Dan totally bemused.



Ben

Sam's little brother

Ben is 3 years old and gives Sam a lot of hassle. Sam's mom often makes Sam look after Ben. Restless, clingy and talkative, Ben rarely allows Sam to maintain the calm he so longs for. With an inquisitive nature, Ben tries in vain to find out the location of Sam and Julia's secret hiding place.



Sarah

Sam's older sister

Sarah is 13 years old, sociable and very "girly". She impresses Julia who would like to be her age and who finds her very pretty. Sarah babysits for mice in The Mouse Mansion, especially looking after Ella, who is not the easiest child to babysit.

A grey mouse character is shown in a workshop setting. The mouse is wearing a green cap with a purple pom-pom and a blue and green striped apron. It is holding a white circular object with several black holes. The background features a wooden wall, a lamp, and stacks of papers.

Ramastou

Ramastou is Sam's uncle. With his cart and bell to signal his presence in the courtyard, he encourages the neighbours to get rid of the items that are cluttering up their lives and homes. At Ramastou's workshop, Sam and Julia discover piles of newspapers, unusual objects, rags, trinkets and hidden treasures. Sam and Julia love to help Uncle Ramastou, and he can almost always provide Sam with spare parts for his recycling projects.



Episodes



Episode 5

The shell

Julia lost her lucky seashell, brought back from her island. Sam helps her find it. The investigation leads them to the home of Mrs. Dreamer, the mansion's clairvoyant mouse. But can she really help?

Episode 6

Constellations

Noises on the roof prevented Julia from sleeping last night. Those noises were made by Miss Astro who observes the night sky. Julia gets nostalgic about the sky she was able to admire on her island...





Episode 12

The butterfly

A butterfly has entered the hall and can't find a way out. Sam and Julia use different strategies to capture the insect and get it back to freedom. But the butterfly doesn't seem to understand.

Episode 13

Julia is too nosy

Julia found a gift in her mother's closet and thinks it is hers. With Sam's help, impatient Julia tries to figure out what is in the package, but destroys a part of it. How can she get it back as it was?





Episode 29

Friends day

On the verge of knocking on her door, Sam overhears Julia talking to her 'best friend'. He thought it was him?! Worried, Sam discreetly investigates to discover who Julia's best friend is.



Gallery









Credits

Produced by:

Cielo Films and Superswiss Red in coproduction with ZDF, ZDF Studios, France télévisions, Caribara and M.A.R.K. 13TM

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