

ZDF Studios snaps up global distribution rights for children's series Housemates – Vacation Without Parents



Housemates



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Housemates – Vacation Without Parents is a multiple award-winning format. Amongst others, the programme won the prestigious German TV award Grimme Preis, the Golden Sparrow Award and was nominated for the Prix Jeunesse. Last year both Belgium (VRT MAX) and the Netherlands (NTR) launched their own versions of this engaging show. In Germany, FUNK, the public service channel for young adults, aired the special series *Housemates – the Reunion* on the 10th anniversary of the "Housemates" living together.

A trailblazer in reality TV for kids, *Housemates – Vacation Without Parents* follows a group of five girls and/or 5 boys on the threshold of adulthood whose dream has come true when they are invited to spend 3 weeks without their parents in a luxurious villa in a beautiful spot somewhere in Europe. During their time together not only do they have lots of fun and make strong friendships but, for the first time, they must take responsibility for their everyday lives. Household chores such as cooking, cleaning and doing the laundry come into play as well as general activities like shopping or visiting a hairdresser. The children also learn and gain new experiences, for example, by taking part in ice hockey training or attending a cooking school or by doing a one-day internship in a retirement home.

Lisa Boersen, Head of Children's department **NTR - Public Television** in the Netherlands, says: **Zonder Ouders op Vakantie** (ZOOV) is the Dutch version of *Housemates - Vacation without Parents*. It is wonderful to see how during the trip, the young teenagers not only get to know each other, but also themselves. By taking on challenges and overcoming fears, they realize that they can already do a lot on their own, but may still have some things to learn...."

Jan-Frederik Maul, Director Junior, **ZDF Studios** said: '*Housemates – Vacation Without Parents* is captivating for young viewers because they get to see their peers in a unique set-up. Getting in the shoes of an adult for a limited amount of time with both its freedom and responsibilities is a unique experience for the protagonists and viewers. The success of the format is partly based on the fact that the young viewers can identify with the cast and project themselves into the situation of living together with the Housemates. Seeing their heroes going about their daily lives, discussing relevant issues at eye level, and having loads of fun has shown to be a very connecting viewing experience. Respect, diversity and positivity in resolving issues, are the core values of this format which is easily adaptable and would appeal to junior audiences everywhere'.