



FILM: **LABYRINTH OF LIES**

FDG RATING: 3.75



Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Director: Giulio Ricciarelli

Actor: Alexander Fehling (Johann Radmann)

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2015

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **LABYRINTH OF LIES**

Labyrinth of Lies is an effective and insightful dramatization about a young, idealistic German prosecutor, Johann Radmann, (a composite of three actual prosecutors in the 1963-1965 Frankfurt Auschwitz Trials) who relentlessly persists in identifying and locating former SS guards (many who are leading comfortable lives and often owning thriving businesses) so they can be legally punished for their war crimes. The film exposes the prevailing ignorance and insistent denial, in post war Germany, about the horrors of the holocaust and the conspiracy of prominent German institutions and government branches to cover up Nazi crimes. Even Radmann was shocked to learn from camp survivors of the horrific prisoner treatment in concentration death camps. Despite battling indifference in all his efforts, he stubbornly continues driven by his father's words to always do the right thing. The scope of his investigation broadens dramatically, leading to the realization that even his father was a former Nazi. After five years of preparation, in 1963 the trial of 22 SS officers who helped run Auschwitz began. The legal strategy was to prove SS guards would disobey orders and commit atrocities although not directed to do so.

We all agreed that the story was exceptionally interesting and the film was well done but some of us felt the dramatization was a bit cliché. The main character wasn't as compelling as the characters in Bridge of Spies, for example, so the film came off a bit flat. An energetic single 4.5 vote skewed our cumulative average resulting in a favorable 3.75 rating on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is the best).



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See you at the movies!
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