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Extracts of film about country's most well-known child prodigy to be shown



With an IQ of 149+, thirteen-year-old Maximilian Janish is probably the most weel-known of all highly-gifted children in Switzerland at present. Now locals will have the opportunity of seeing extracts of a film about him and listen to a talk about him, with contributions from his father, Thomas Drisch, too.

So gifted is Maximilian that he skipped three years of primary school and took the school-leaving examination in mathematics when he was only nine, achieving tops marks, too. However, he was declined permission to enrol at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and also at the University of Zurich, as he had not completed the full range of school-leaving examinations.

As a result, the boy continued his studies at an academic secondary school in Immensee in the canton of Schwyz. However, the university did offer to provide him with tuition in mathematics by a professor, taught in coordination with his school at the time.

His story led to much debate about how to go about teaching the highly-gifted being published in the press.

Now, as mentioned, locals will have the opportunity of seeing extracts of this documentary film about Maximilian, produced by Nicolas Greinacher, and as shown at the Solothurn Film Festival.

Among other aspects, the film addresses issues such as how the highly-gifted and child prodigies ought to be taught and also examines the coverage of the boy in the press. Some of the scenes were actually filmed at a symposium which took place at the Zug Teacher Training College. As mentioned, in addition to Greinacher, Maximilian's father, himself a retired professor of mathematics, will also be present on Thursday evening.

The evening starts at 7pm on Thursday 16 March at the Zug Teacher Training College (Pädagogische Hochschule) at number 3 Zugerbergstrasse. There is no need to book in advance.