



The girls: Franziska & Louisa

The date: June, 2001

The destination: Provence, France

**F**or the first outdoor production of this year, I planned a trip to Languedoc in the south of France. It's the first time that I'm undertaking a bigger trip with the girls, and the production duration of two entire days is also new. In order to make it worth the trip, I was already there a few weeks ago to scout locations and found a whole bunch of marvellous spots amid the lovely

landscape, which should be worth the effort.

After the German weather service expressed itself most optimistically for the end of this week, I'm taking on the trip. Two models, Franziska and Louisa, are booked for two days of production, the hotel reservations are made. Finally, we're off!

### Wednesday, May 30th, 2001: Day of arrival

**8:30 a.m.:** I drive the rented Mercedes over to Heike, my make-up artist. As usual, she drags suitcase after suitcase out of the house, and I also have not exactly few things already in the car: some personal baggage, including mountain boots for difficult terrain, shoes and clothes for the girls, a cooler for drinks and film, and of course, my equipment. The little station wagon is already filled to the brim. Hopefully the girls don't schlep too much around with them!

**5:30 p.m.:** We pass Lyon. Outside temperature of 36 degrees - at this time! Good thing we have air conditioning in the car. But if it's also so warm during the shoot, we're going to have fun!!

**8:30 p.m.:** The hotel is no gem, but quite nice. We are even able to get a bite to eat. Briefing for the next morning.

**12:30 p.m.:** At a reststop near Karlsruhe, we meet up with Franziska and Louisa. They both live in the area and were dropped off by Louisa's boyfriend. They both look even better than I remember from the casting. We are only able to manage packing in the luggage with effort and skill, more can't possibly fit.



**Thursday, May 31st: First day of work**

6:00 a.m.: Franziska goes to Heike for make-up, punctual to the arranged time. I would like to start with her at a wonderful location, which happens to be a beloved tourist attraction, so one has to get up a little earlier. At nine, at the latest, it's uncomfortably full at such spots, plus, good make-up also takes time. Louisa can still sleep a little longer.

7:30 a.m.: I'm with Franziska at the location, a marvellous waterfall with white limestone rocks. It's truly pleasant to work with her: she is quite still and very affable. We make good progress and are finished after a good one hour's work.

9:30 a.m.: Back at the hotel. In the meantime, Louisa gets made up, I go first with Franziska to breakfast. Afterwards, we pack our things together and leave the hotel. It's about a two-hour drive to the next location.



12:00 p.m.: Arrival at the second location. With the help of a hiking guide-book, I found a dilapidated cemetery, situated a bit outside a village. The place has a wonderful atmosphere and we are completely alone here. However, the climate has meanwhile become somewhat uncomfortable: 35 degrees, and we have to work in the sun.



**35 degrees - that's rough!**

I don't mind; but Louisa seems to be a bit more sensitive. Already after just a half hour she begins to complain that she doesn't feel well. I have trouble convincing her to continue some more. Finally, I shoot a couple rolls of film of them both together, but that doesn't really help create the proper atmosphere either.



**Freshening up make-up at the cemetery: in this heat, the make-up quickly sweats away.**

2:30 p.m.: We drive to the next hotel, so that the heatsick Louisa can recuperate a bit. Again, a good long way.

5:00 p.m.: We are in the hotel. Already rather late, I still want to work some today. In the meantime, it's not so warm anymore; but now Louisa has a different problem: she absolutely must have something to eat first! Of course, there isn't a restaurant in France that is already open at this time. We manage to stuff her pretty mouth with a baguette, and see to it that we get to the last location, a couple of beautiful sandstone rocks. First, I work with Franziska and Louisa together, then with Louisa alone, as long as we can still make use of the light.

8:30 p.m.: Finally quitting time and something proper to eat. That's enough even for me!



**Finally a break! Now even Louisa feels better again.**

## Friday, June 1st: **Second day of work**

*6:45 a.m.:* Naturally, Louisa slept in and naturally, it's Heike's fault. Not exactly easy, this woman! It's a pity, the beautiful morning sun is now down the drain.

*8:00 a.m.:* I'm with Louisa at the first location, an abandoned village on a lake. Pretty here, an atmosphere all its own. It's cool, but at least she can't complain about the heat now. Instead, she has still another sensitive issue: every time a car goes past on the nearby road, she runs for cover. It's just a bit annoying!

*10:30 a.m.:* Why does it always take so long until everything is in the car and we can leave the hotel? To the next location is again a good long way.



**SMS is something wonderful!**

*12:00 p.m.:* We have arrived. I've sought out some small church ruins next to an old stone bridge. No tourist seems to know this spot; at any rate, we won't be disturbed. Again a mission for Franziska. Fortunately, today it's not warm anymore. I am able to persuade Franziska to do still a couple more pictures on the bridge, although a few people are nearby. They don't seem to mind at all!

*5:00 p.m.:* The afternoon is passed with a little snack and a lot of driving around. We are just now arriving at the hotel. Actually, I wanted to already be at the last location at this time; but first, the make-up has to be freshened up.

*6:30 p.m.:* We are finally at the last location. Much too late, actually: it is a narrow ravine and there, one always has some problems with the incidence of light. We are able to work for just an hour, then the sun is gone. Pity, much more would have been possible here!



**Always in action: Franzi takes part in everything.**



## Saturday, June 2nd: **Day of departure**

*9:15 a.m.:* It's time for us to hit the road, 1100 km is no hard tour, but it's not exactly light either. Hopefully, the traffic won't be so crazy.

*11:00 a.m.:* The Rhone valley motorway in the direction of Lyon. The excursion-crazy French northerners have set out on a real migration, in order to spend the Pentecost weekend on the Mediterranean. In the opposite direction, the traffic breaks down again and again. Fortunately,

we can get through well in the direction of north.

*2:00 p.m.:* In Alsace. Now we know why all the French want to go south: it's not raining, but it's still quite dreary and rather cool.

*4:30 p.m.:* Between Freiburg and Karlsruhe, oodles of water come from the sky, with a temperature of 13 degrees. Brrr! Good, that we were in the south.