

DEUTSCHER LEBENSTIL UND DEUTSCHE KULTUR (Austrian Lifestyle and Culture)

Why Austrians really hate “The Sound of Music”

Maria Von Trapp’s dark past

Records show that the real Maria Von Trapp wasn't the butter-wouldn't-melt Mary Poppins figure that she is made out to be in the film, but an ice maiden who was cruel towards her musical troupe. It has been documented that Maria was frequently violent with the children, using corporal punishment to keep them in check. As a result of this, the city of Salzburg recently rejected a request to have a trail named after her. A spokesperson stated that, 'on one hand, there's no doubts on the merits of Maria von Trapp, especially for Salzburg, but on the other hand if you look into her biography, into her autobiography, you can read how she educated the Trapp children and there was too much violence against children and we can't accept this today. So we decided not to name the street for Maria von Trapp'. Ouch.

Many Austrian have never seen or heard of it

Although it may be hard to believe, the film was a complete flop in Germany and Austria when it premiered in 1965, and neither country has succumbed to its charms since. The Austrians resented the historical inaccuracies depicting their heritage, while the Germans found the Nazi theme troubling so soon after WWII. Vastly preferable in both countries is the 1956 German language film *Die Trapp-Familie*, which was the original inspiration for the Broadway musical.

Perhaps the hills remain still with the sound of silence from now on.