

WIKIPEDIA

# Dance with the Emperor

**Tanz mit dem Kaiser** is a German set film from 1941. Directed by Georg Jacoby, his wife Marika Rökk as well as Wolf Albach-Retty and Axel von Ambesser play the leading roles. The story is based on the comedy *The Night in Transylvania* by Nikolaus Asztalos .

## Table of contents

**Plot**

**production notes**

**music tracks**

**reviews**

**web links**

**itemizations**

## Storyline

Austria, second half of the 18th century. Emperor Joseph II is a sensitive and culture-loving monarch whose entire love is for high art, literature and music, old clocks and beautiful books. His co-ruling mother, Empress Maria Theresa , is very dissatisfied that the young monarch shows so little interest in the female gender, because the country urgently needs an heir to the throne. The Empress therefore wants her son to marry off at all costs and believes, after many fruitless efforts, that she has found a suitable partner in Caroline of Saxony. Again Joseph pretends that he has to leave the court in Vienna in a hurry because of allegedly “urgent business”. Why not to the crown land of Transylvaniatravel? It's a long way from the farm, from your own mother and from every young lady who wants to marry, thinks Joseph and sets off. Appropriately enough, the last

### Movie

original title Dance with the Emperor

production Germany

country

original language German

Publishing year 1941

length 102 minutes

age rating FSK 12

Rod

directing George Jacoby

script Geza by Cziffra  
Friedrich Schreyvogel

production Max Pfeiffer

Music Franz Grothe

camera Reimar Kuntze

cut Erika Engelbrecht

occupation

- Marika Rökk : Christine von Alwin
- Wolf Albach-Retty : Rittmeister Josef von Kleber
- Maria Eis : Empress Maria Theresia
- Axel von Ambesser : Emperor Joseph II , her son
- Lucie English : Anna, Christine's maid
- Hilde von Stolz : Countess Daun, lady-in-waiting to the Empress
- Hans Leibelt : Baron Teuffenbach
- Herta Mayen : Nandl, Maria Theresa's maid
- Rudolf Carl : Anton, Kleber's boy
- Jockel Stahl : Peter, Knecht

governor sent by Austria has just died there in the Balkans, and so one could check on the ground for a change. Rittmeister von Kleber, Joseph's faithful adjutant, who gave him the idea, follows His Majesty with a lot of luggage. On the way, however, he suffers a broken wheel with his carriage and accordingly cannot keep up.

After some delay von Kleber, whose first name is Josef like his boss, arrives at an estate in Transylvania. Baroness Christine von Alwin is celebrating Easter there. Kleber mixes inconspicuously with the people and is spotted by the lady of the manor. She has heard about the Emperor's journey and now assumes that he, Josef, must be the monarch from distant Vienna and is completely incognito heretake a rest You quickly become sympathetic and spend a night of love together. Despite sincere efforts, Rittmeister Josef was unable to clear up the "imperial" error. The next morning, the Rittmeister no longer has time to say a grand goodbye to his Christine, because duty is duty and the same calls. The Emperor must be caught up as soon as possible. However, since the monarch was told that the bride-to-be, Caroline of Saxony, had already left Vienna, there was no longer any reason for the ruler to remain sour in the deepest provinces, and so he immediately set off on his journey home to Vienna .

- Wilhelm Bendow : Maria Theresa's court hairdresser
- Fritz Berghof : Coachman of the Kaiserl. body
- Elsa Andrée-Beyer : Maid
- Julius Brandt : the Emperor's valet
- Egon Brosig : Member of the Court of Justice
- Bernhard Goetzke : Judge
- Kurt Hagen : Master of Ceremonies
- Emil Hess : companion of the ladies from Diebenbürgen
- Barbara von Annenkoff : senior among the ladies from Transylvania
- Karl Platen : imperial. court clerk
- Klaus Pohl : Petitioner
- Sandor Pethés : Primate of the Gypsy Band
- Willy Schulte-Vogelheim : dancer
- Armin Schweizer : estate manager
- Paul Walter : courtier
- Fritz Eckert : courtier
- Herbert Weißbach : His Majesty's chamberlain
- Franz Zimmermann : His Majesty's secretary

Meanwhile, Christine yearns for her very personal "Kaiser", Rittmeister Josef von Kleber, and decides to write her "dear Joseph" a letter in which she tells him not to forget her. At court, Empress Maria Theresia gets her hands on the letter and is overjoyed that her son seems to have finally found a woman abroad who he is interested in. Christine is immediately invited to court by Her Majesty. If not quite befitting her status, the young baroness still appears presentable. Christine travels to Schönbrunn and is disappointed to discover that Joseph II is not "her" Joseph. She howls at the breast of the Emperor, who is so touched that he promises her that the "rogue" who claims to be his name will track down and of course immediately punished with death. Since Rittmeister Kleber is always where his ruler is, it is inevitable that Christine will soon meet her lover. She angrily makes a scene for him and then doesn't look at him anymore.

To challenge and annoy Kleber, Baroness Christine now begins flirting with the real emperor, much to the delight of his mother Maria-Theresia, in the hope that he will show interest in her. And indeed, Joseph begins to fall in love with the vivacious young Hungarian from Transylvania. Joseph II invites Christine to his apartments for his birthday. That doesn't fit Rittmeister Josef at all, he intervenes and makes it clear to his monarch that he has the older claims. Christine, who was only waiting for this, is good to her Josef again, but His Majesty keeps the promise he made to the Baroness and has the suspected Hallodri, who was impersonating him, arrested by his guard. In court, the Rittmeister should comment on his assumption of the name. Eventually, however, Maria-Theresia intervened and

prevented the death sentence from being passed on the other Joseph. Rittmeister von Kleber is allowed to leave Vienna with Christine in tow. He is sent to Transylvania as the new governor, while Joseph II can now devote himself entirely to his great love, art.

## Production Notes

---

*Tanz mit dem Kaiser* was created from April 2, 1941 to mid-June 1941 (studio shots) and from June 27, 1941 (outdoor shots at Schönbrunn Palace and in Transylvania ). The film passed the censorship on December 17, 1941 and premiered on December 19, 1941 at the Scala cinema in Vienna. The Berlin premiere was on April 28, 1942. On March 26, 1978, the German television broadcast took place on the third program of the Bavarian Radio.

The film was quite expensive, with production costs of around RM 2,307,000 <sup>[1]</sup> , but it was still considered a box office success. *Tanz mit dem Kaiser* was also successful abroad . Marika Röck, who traveled to Zurich and Basel for the Swiss premieres, had to be protected from a large crowd of fans and autograph collectors by ten Swiss police officers as soon as she arrived at the train station. <sup>[2]</sup> In the fall of 1943, the strip was one of three German film contributions to the International Film Exhibition in the Portuguese luxury resort of Estoril. Marika Röck also traveled there as a guest of honour, as reported in the Munich Latest News of October 6, 1943 <sup>[3]</sup>.

Production group leader Max Pfeiffer also took over production management. Erich Kettelhut was responsible for the film set-up , and Walter Rühland was responsible for the sound . Herbert Ploberger designed the extensive costumes. Sabine Röss rehearsed the dances. Marika Röck, Jockel Stahl and Willy Schulte-Vogelheim danced.

## Music track

---

The following music was played:

- It certainly can't be any nicer in heaven
- Spring in Vienna (singing: Marika Röck and Wolf Albach-Retty)
- Nightingale, I hear you sing (song: Marika Röck and the maids)
- Palotas
- It should stay as beautiful as it is today (twice singing: Marika Röck)

## Reviews

---

“The Dance with the Emperor' is one of those types of historical costume films in which the atmosphere of an era is captured as precisely as possible with great effort. (...) That would pretty much be all right, and we wouldn't object, as the film is quite skillfully shot and has a wealth of gorgeous scenes. The film is also consistently satisfying in terms of acting. What we object to is the manner in which the spirit that reigns at this court... is portrayed. Of course, these courtly people were not saints, and the atmosphere in which they moved was quite careless and frivolous. But there are certain things that a noble-minded person tenderly conceals and prefers to leave in the dark. It goes against our sense of equity and decency

– The Film Advisor, Lucerne No. 1a. January 1942

Boguslaw Drewniak said: "As nice as the film was, it didn't have the right atmosphere of the play. Both the play and the film flirted with historical costumes. In the film, however, the political topicality flashed through only less subtly".<sup>[4]</sup>

The Lexikon des Internationales Films found the film to be lacklusterly prepared with "Franz Grothe hits (as beautiful as today, that's how it must stay") and dance numbers in front of poor backdrops; one of Marika Röck's weakest performances."<sup>[ 5]</sup>

## Web Links

---

- *Dance with the Emperor* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0034265/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- *Dance with the Emperor* (<https://www.filmportal.de/5a161fef7ce84c5b9af9994203009d84>) at filmportal.de

## Itemizations

---

1. German sound films, 11th volume 1940/41. 062.41, p. 274, Berlin 2000
2. Boguslaw Drewniak: *The German Film 1938-1945* . A general overview. Düsseldorf 1987, p. 759
3. Boguslaw Drewniak: *The German Film 1938-1945* . A general overview. Düsseldorf 1987, p. 770
4. Boguslaw Drewniak: *The German Film 1938-1945* . A general overview. Düsseldorf 1987, p. 576
5. *Dance with the Emperor*. (<https://www.filmdienst.de/film/details/36779>)In: *Lexicon of international film* . Filmdienst , retrieved November 6, 2018 .

---

Abgerufen von „[https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tanz\\_mit\\_dem\\_Kaiser&oldid=234613072](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tanz_mit_dem_Kaiser&oldid=234613072)“

---

**This page was last edited on June 14, 2023 at 21:12.**

Text is available under a Creative-Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license; Information on the authors and the license status of integrated media files (e.g. images or videos) can usually be called up by clicking on them. Content may be subject to additional terms and conditions. By using this website, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy . Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of Wikimedia Foundation Inc.