

## WIKIPEDIA

# A Star Falls from the Sky (1934)

**A Star Falls from Heaven** is an Austrian singing and romantic film directed by Max Neufeld and starring Joseph Schmidt .

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## Plot

Josef Reiner is a Viennese music student, extremely talented as a tenor , but not particularly fit for life. The young Annerl Bachinger, a piano teacher, secretly adores Josef because of his clear, dreamlike voice. Reiner has just missed out on a singing role in a movie production with the popular singing tenor Lincoln because Reiner fails to produce his magnificent operatic voice every time he sees someone bite into a lemon. This is the chance for Annerl to prove her love to “her” Josef. She goes to the film production company to warmly recommend Josef to the director. By chance she ends up in a film set where Lincoln is. She thinks she sees the boss of this film company in this room designed as an office. Lincoln takes a liking to the dashing girl and invites her to a wine tavern evening where Josef Reiner is supposed to be performing. As luck would have it, Lincoln's manager Tomson is also present at this time, but he is not allowed to know that the film's favorite is also here.

	Movie
title	A star falls from the sky
Country of production	<u>Austria</u>
original language	<u>German</u>
Publishing year	<u>1934</u>
length	86 minutes
	<u>Rod</u>
Direction	<u>Max Neufeld</u>
script	<u>Fritz Zoreff</u> <u>Arthur Rebner</u> <u>Heinrich Berthé</u> <u>H. Lauterstein</u>
production	<u>Heinrich Haas</u>
Music	<u>Hans May</u>
camera	<u>Adolf Schlasly</u> <u>Zoltan Vidor</u>
cut	<u>Ladislaus Vidor</u>
	occupation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Joseph Schmidt</u> : Josef Reiner</li> <li>▪ <u>Elisabeth Markus</u> : Ms. Bachinger</li> <li>▪ <u>Evi Panzner</u> : Annerl Bachinger, her daughter</li> <li>▪ <u>Egon von Jordan</u> : Lincoln, a film tenor</li> <li>▪ <u>Herbert Hübner</u> : Tomson, his manager</li> <li>▪ <u>Rudolf Carl</u> : Kerndl, hairdresser</li> <li>▪ <u>Helga Demmer</u> : Susi</li> <li>▪ <u>Alfred Neugebauer</u> : film director</li> <li>▪ <u>Franz Johan</u> : tailor, production manager</li> <li>▪ <u>Ernst Wieland</u> : Prof. Türmer</li> <li>▪ <u>Karl Skraup</u> : Dr. Friend</li> <li>▪ <u>Reinhold Häussermann</u> : composer</li> <li>▪ <u>Karl Ehmann</u> : Neck specialist</li> </ul>

When Tomson hears Reiner's voice, which is very similar to Lincoln's, he is furious as he believes that film favorite Lincoln is giving himself up for a simple pleasure in a wine tavern. The star and manager promptly clashed the following day, and as a result of the argument, Lincoln grabbed a bottle that he thought was whiskey. But it contains a corrosive liquid that temporarily makes it impossible for the artist to sing. This is Josef Reiner's hour. Although he initially refuses to lend his own voice to Lincoln in the remaining film recordings, he is eventually persuaded to do so. While Lincoln opens and closes his mouth, Josef sings to him behind the curtain. The whole affair threatens to be exposed soon, as Josef now finds that Lincoln is beginning to be more interested in the pretty Annerl than Josef would like. Now Tomson and Josef clash, and the press present notices all of this. In order to save the dangerous situation, Lincoln claims that everything was staged that way because he wanted to introduce the new singing talent Josef Reiner to the general public in this way. Ultimately, Josef not only gets the chance for a great singing career, but also the heart of his girlfriend.

- Paul Guttman : librettist
- Eugen Neufeld : General Director of Kosmos Insurance
- Ernst Heinz Häussermann : composer

as well as Trude Krshaber , Ernst Rollé , Friederike Kiesewetter , Ludwig Koranda and the Vienna Bohème Quartet

## Production notes

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*A Star Falls from Heaven* was created in Vienna-Sievering in October 1934 and premiered in the Austrian capital on December 28, 1934. There was no German premiere until 1945 due to the Jewish lead actor Schmidt.

Hans May used foreign compositions in his music and also took over the musical direction. Anton Schmid designed the film structures, Alfred Norkus was responsible for the sound. Karl Ehrlich was the production manager. Ernst Neubach wrote the lyrics .

The later famous theater manager and director Ernst Heinz Häussermann made his film debut here at the age of 18 alongside his father Reinhold Häussermann .

## Things to know

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A British version of the film was also made in 1936 as *A Star Fell From Heaven*, directed by Paul Merzbach . Joseph Schmidt also took on the leading role here.

## Music

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The following music tracks were played:

- A star falls from the sky
- I'll sing you a love song
- There is something special in a song from Vienna
- Mandrulinata di Napoli

- When a waltz sounds over the wine

## Reviews

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Paimann's film lists summed up: “Xth variation of the 'Singer's Fate', with nice ideas but not staged at a particularly brisk pace. Schmidt is used according to his abilities... A good middle film.” <sup>[1]</sup>

The *Österreichische Film-Zeitung* wrote: “The singer’s voice is reproduced softly and melodiously through the microphone.” <sup>[2]</sup>

On film.at it says: “What's nice, and absolutely appropriate for the best of all films about Joseph Schmidt: Neufeld was able to do something with the stocky, visually not particularly striking, but warmly charismatic tenor and cantor like no other. This is particularly evident in the range of the film and its register of moods and emotions.” <sup>[3]</sup>

## Web links

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- *A Star Falls from the Sky* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0140571/>) at IMDb
- *A star falls from the sky* (<https://www.filmportal.de/05c42d958b3e4805828b8dba05e1ca81>) at filmportal.de

## Individual evidence

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1. *A star falls from the sky* in Paimann's film lists ([https://web.archive.org/web/20180826005044/http://old.filmarchiv.at/efg/filmarchiv/paimann/1935/Paimann\\_978\\_1.jpg](https://web.archive.org/web/20180826005044/http://old.filmarchiv.at/efg/filmarchiv/paimann/1935/Paimann_978_1.jpg)) ( Memento of the original (https://redirecter.toolforge.org/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fold.filmarchiv.at%2Fefg%2Ffilmarchiv%2Fpaimann%2F1935%2FPaimann\_978\_1.jpg) from August 26, 2018 in the *Internet Archive* ) **Info**: The archive link was inserted automatically and has not yet been checked. Please check the original and archive link according to [the instructions](#) and then remove this notice.
2. “*A star falls from the sky*”. (<https://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?apm=0&aid=fil&datum=19350104&seite=2>)In: *Österreichische Film-Zeitung* , January 4, 1935, p. 2 (online at ANNO ).
3. *A star falls from the sky* on film.at ([https://www.film.at/ein\\_stern\\_faellt\\_vom\\_himmel](https://www.film.at/ein_stern_faellt_vom_himmel))

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