

Today is the most beautiful day in my life

Today is the most beautiful day in my life is an Austrian film from 1936. Directed by Richard Oswald, the tenor Joseph Schmidt plays a double leading role.

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Plot

Beppo and Tonio Forti are twin brothers and grew up as orphans. Each of them has a different uncle as guardian, Beppo Uncle Max and Tonio Uncle Paul. At the age of 16, you notice that both boys have very nice singing voices. Uncle Paul, the more resolute of the two uncles, then tries to protect his protégé and enable him to have a career as a singer in the vaudeville. Uncle Max, the meek personified, doesn't take action nearly as boldly, and so his Beppo ends up just being a clown in the show booth, which is run more poorly than well by both uncles. To make matters worse, the twins also fall in love with the same girl. Inevitably there will be a row and you will break up.

When Tonio is rehearsing a new play, his mentor Paul falls out with the theater director. In order to put pressure on him and because he knows that the director will not find a replacement for Tonio any time soon, he explains that Tonio does not intend to perform. But Uncle Paul with the big mouth made a serious miscalculation. Despite the two leaving the theater, the director fully expects Tonio to return the next day and is therefore not particularly worried.

	Movie
title	Today is the most beautiful day in my life
Country of production	<u>Austria</u>
original language	<u>German</u>
Publishing year	<u>1936</u>
length	84 and 92 minutes respectively
	<u>Rod</u>
Direction	<u>Richard Oswald</u>
script	<u>Heinz Goldberg</u> <u>Siegfried Geyer</u>
production	<u>Heinrich Haas</u> for Globe-Film (di Styria-Film), Vienna
Music	<u>Hans May</u>
camera	<u>Hans Theyer</u>
cut	<u>Ladislaus Vidor</u>
	occupation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Joseph Schmidt</u> : Beppo Forti / Tonio Forti, twins ▪ <u>Felix Bressart</u> : Max Kaspar, show stall owner ▪ <u>Otto Wallburg</u> : Paul Kaspar, his brother ▪ <u>Karl Forest</u> : theater director ▪ <u>Lizzi Natzler</u> : Lola, dancer ▪ <u>Liesl Kienast</u> : Gretl, his daughter ▪ <u>Hans Holt</u> ^[1] : Rudi, Artist ▪ <u>Karl Skraup</u> : ▪ <u>Walter O. Stahl</u> :

Meanwhile, Max and his protégé Beppo read about Tonio's upcoming premiere in the newspaper. You then visit the theater and meet the unsuspecting director. He is very excited because the house is sold out and Tonio hasn't shown up. Until now! When he sees Beppo, the director immediately drags him onto the stage, believing he is Tonio. Beppo's singing skills save the performance. Meanwhile, Uncle Paul rubs his hands because he has to assume that the performance has been canceled. In any case, he expressly forbade his protégé Tonio from visiting the theater.

When he turns on his radio, Uncle Paul is amazed that the performance is being broadcast live. Paul is angry that Beppo has ruined his beautiful plan by taking this action. And so Paul grabs Tonio and rushes into the theater before the show is over. Finally, there is a big reconciliation between the twin brothers on stage, and both sing together in front of the audience.

Production notes

This exile production was filmed in Vienna in 1935. The film premiered on May 22, 1936, also in the Austrian capital. Due to the numerous Jewish participants in this film, the showing of *Today is the most beautiful day in my life* was banned in the National Socialist German Reich.

Some prominent figures who took part in this film had to flee Hitler's Germany, including the Jewish film comedians Felix Bressart and Otto Wallburg , who were extremely popular until 1933 .

The film structures are by Artur Berger , the music lyrics by Ernst Neubach . Herbert Janeczka provided the sound . Oswald's son Gerd, who was 16 at the time of filming, assisted his father.

The music tracks “In life, more is taken from you than given” and “Today is the most beautiful day in my life” were played.

For both Schmidt and Oswald, *Today is the most beautiful day in my life* was the last German-language film.

Reviews

The following can be read in the issue of May 28, 1936 of the Neue Freie Presse : "Richard Oswald's direction, which mostly relies on the inspiration of the moment, indulges in broad descriptions of the Prater and otherwise pays great homage to a comfortable "acting out". The lengths, The resulting consequences could still be avoided with a few dramaturgically well-thought-out cuts. However, Oswald's generally extremely experienced manual dexterity surprisingly does not avoid some even gross mistakes. [...] Of the actors in this film, Felix Bressart is a surprise. This one as Comedian-trained actors know how to literally shake people in the serious role of a touchingly kind and helpless character who is, to a certain extent, crumpled by life." ^[2]

Kay Weniger called the film a “melancholic and cheerful Viennese emigrant production” ^[3]

In the exhibition catalog of the Film Archive Austria 'Cinema before the concentration camp. Film artist as Nazi victim' it says: “Oswald's idea of using Joseph Schmidt in a double role is brilliant from the idea of the singer film, as he can double the singing of his star. [...] Schmidt's films live primarily from the singing performances of their leading actor; in this film he sings one of his most beautiful

and best-known songs: “In life, more is taken from you than given” (composer: Hans May , lyricist: Ernst Neubach) . Also to be noted positively are Otto Wallburg and Felix Bressart, who are responsible for the comedic tone of the film.” ^[4]

Individual evidence

1. at that time still under his actual name Karl Hödl
2. *“Today is the most beautiful day in my life”*. (<https://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?apm=0&aid=nfp&datum=19360528&seite=12>)In: *Neue Freie Presse* , May 28, 1936, p. 12 (online at ANNO).
3. Kay Weniger : *“In life, more is taken from you than given...”*. *Lexicon of filmmakers who emigrated from Germany and Austria 1933 to 1945. A general overview*. ACABUS Verlag, Hamburg 2011, ISBN 978-3-86282-049-8 , p. 445.
4. Film Archive Austria (ed.): Cinema in front of the concentration camp. Film artists as Nazi victims (catalog). P. 81. Vienna 2003.

Web links

- *Today is the most beautiful day of my life* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0027738/>) on IMDb
 - *Today is the most beautiful day of my life* in filmportal.de (https://www.filmportal.de/film/heut-ist-der-schoenste-tag-in-meinem-leben_b724df06fb1c4ddfa7dd59fd5716146b)
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Abgerufen von „https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Heut'_ist_der_schoenste_Tag_in_meinem_Leben&oldid=236499183“

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