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It was a glittering ball night

It was a rushing ball night is a 1939 German melodrama film directed by Carl Froelich and starring Zarah Leander and Marika Rökk.

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Storyline

MoscowIn 1865: After years of separation, Catherine Alexandrovna met her former great love Peter Tchaikovsky again at a ball, mediated by Maximilian Hunsinger. Katharina is now married to the wealthy industrialist Michael Murakin and is therefore waiting for Peter in a box, veiled. This arouses the curiosity and jealousy of the dancer Nastassya Petrovna, who is in love with Peter. His plays are not performed, he lives in poor circumstances. Only Nastassja has stood by him in recent years and has been allowed to dance to his music from time to time. Since the masks fall at the ball from midnight, Katharina and Peter go together at this time and spend a few hours together. During this time, Katharina's husband appears at the ball. Hunsinger notifies Katharina and they both rush back to Murakin's mansion. He suspects of Katharina's affair.

Movie

original title It was a glittering ball night



production Germany

country

original language German

Publishing year 1939

length 93 minutes

age rating FSK 12

Rod

directing Carl Froelich

script Geza by Cziffra

production Sound film studio Carl Froelich & Co.

on behalf of UFA

music Theo Mackeben

camera Franz Weihmayr

cut Gustav Lohse

occupation

- Zarah Leander : Catherine Alexandrovna Murakina
- Marika Rökk : dancer Nastassya Petrovna Jarowa
- Hans Stüwe : Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
- Aribert Wascher : Michael Ivanovich Murakin

Katharina decides to secretly support Peter financially. She gives the money anonymously to Peter's publisher Glykow, who publishes Peter's works. Concerts are now also taking place and Murakin invites his wife to one. She feels his jealousy and wants to leave the concert early, but Murakin forces her to stay. Numerous guests of the ball also appeared at the concert, who now recognize Murakin's wife in the woman who was veiled at the time. Music critic Kruglikov, who loves the dancer Nastassya, threatens Peter to make Catherine's identity known in Moscow and is slapped by him. He challenges him to a duel.

Kruglikow appears at Murakin's and reveals to him that he has no intention of dueling Peter, after all it's all about his wife, who disappeared with Peter during the ball at the time. Murakin takes over the duel and goes to Peter to tell him this. In order to protect Catherine, Peter pretends to have had an argument with Kruglikov about his fiancée Nastassya. Nastassja, who is waiting in the next room, throws her arms around Peter's neck - the wedding takes place a little later, but Peter saves himself unhappily on the wedding night to Maximilian Hunsinger. He advises him to compose.

In the years that followed, Peter became a star, his plays became well-known and he himself traveled all over the world. On the occasion of conducting the *Pathétique*, he returns to Moscow, where cholera is rampant. His servant collapses at the train station with cholera and despite the doctor's warning, Peter stays with the dying man. Katharina, who has meanwhile separated from her husband, finds out about Peter's whereabouts and comes to Moscow. Peter, however, receives her coolly. Hunsinger is the first to tell him that Katharina has supported him financially over the years, and they are reconciled. During the performance of the *Pathétique* Apparently exhausted, Peter leaves the hall and collapses behind the stage. Katharina rushes to him, he dies listening to his music in her arms. Crying, she takes comfort in the fact that Peter may have died, but that his music made him immortal.

Production

It was a glittering ball night is only loosely based on the life of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. This film only marginally had anything to do with the true events in Tchaikovsky's life. The melancholy Tchaikovsky was not an avid ball-goer, and he felt attracted to men, even if he tried to hide this from those around him. ^[1]

- Paul Dahlke : music publisher Ivan Caesarovich Glykov
- Leo Slezak : Professor Maximilian Hunsinger
- Fritz Rasp : Critic Porphyry Philippowitsch Kruglikow
- Karl Haubenreiser : concert agent Gruda Sabowitsch
- Ernst Dumcke : Dimitri Pavlovich Miljukin
- Karl Hellmer : Servant Stephen
- Karl Hannemann : Servant Pjotr
- Hugo Froelich : Father Jarow
- Wolfgang von Schwindt : Uncle Jarow
- Kurt Vespermann : Ferdyschenko
- Maria Loja : Elsa Siebeneiner
- Eduard Bornträger : Jarow's brother-in-law
- Grete Greef-Fabri : Mother Jarow
- Franz Stein : Dr. Ossorgin
- Arnim Süssenguth : Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinowitsch
- Leopold von Ledebur : General
- Maria Reisenhofer : Old Princess
- Eva Immermann : Young Princess
- Claire Glib : Fat Lady

The film was shot from January 18 to March 15, 1939 at the Froelich Studio in Berlin-Tempelhof. It premiered on August 13, 1939 at the Venice International Film Festival and was premiered in Germany on August 15, 1939 in Berlin 's Ufa-Palast am Zoo .

In the film, Zarah Leander sings the song *Nur nicht aus Liebe weinen* by Hans Fritz Beckmann (lyrics) and Theo Mackeben (music). She also sings *Romance op. 5* and the *chanson triste* based on melodies by Tchaikovsky. The orchestra of the Berlin State Opera provided the musical accompaniment.

It was the only time that Zarah Leander and Marika Röck acted together in a film, even though they rarely shared scenes. During the shoot, Marika Röck developed appendicitis. On her final day of shooting, one scene had her dancing to exhaustion on a table and then collapsing. Her breakdown in the film was real: Röck was immediately rushed to the hospital and operated on the appendix. Few people on the set, including director Carl Froelich, were aware of her health issues. ^[2]

The film was designed by Franz Schroedter and the costumes by Herbert Ploberger . The two later well-known directors Harald Braun and Rolf Hansen assisted both director Froelich and the production manager Friedrich Pflughaupt . Hansen was also to direct the last three Leander films before the end of the war.

The idea for the film came from Tr. Georg Wittuhn and Jean Victor. Frank Thieß wrote the dialogues. ^[3]

Criticism

Contemporary critics noted that Zarah Leander “looked more beautiful than ever and in the film's dramatic scenes, people were moved to passionate sympathy. Something else about this film is absolutely perfect: the picture. Franz Weihmayr is a congenial cameraman, a creative designer of the image, a man who makes music with his eyes.” ^[4]

Film *-dienst* wrote: "Vaguely based on details from the Russian composer's life, the costume melodrama Zarah Leander gives Zarah Leander the opportunity to play a (seeming) 'femme fatale', with a chanson like 'Nur nicht aus Liebe weinen' between Tchaikovsky melodies is somewhat strange.” ^[5]

Cinema stated: "Zarah Leander vehicle with world pain". ^[6]

Awards

In July 1939, the film received the ratings "culturally valuable " and "artistically particularly valuable" from the National Socialist Film Review Board .

At the IFF in Venice in August 1939 , *It was a lavish ball night was awarded the 1st bronze medal.* ^[7]

See also

- List of German feature films premiered in the German Reich during the Nazi era

Web Links

- *It was a glittering ball night* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0031277/>) at the Internet Movie Database (English)
- *It was a glittering ball night* (<https://www.filmportal.de/165da82cbb7242c1855a0456884aa144>) at filmportal.de

Itemizations

1. Cornelia Zumkeller: *Zarah Leander. Her films - her life* . Heyne Film Library, No. 32/120. Heyne, Munich 1988, pp. 108–109.
 2. Marika Röck: *Heart with paprika. memories* . Ullstein, Frankfurt am Main 1991, pp. 148–149.
 3. Alfred Bauer: German feature film almanac 1929-1950, 2nd edition Munich 1976. P. 460
 4. HE Fischer in: *The film world* , 1939. Quoted from: Manfred Hobsch: *Love, dance and 1000 hit films* . Schwarzkopf & Schwarzkopf, Berlin 1998, p. 99.
 5. *It was a lavish ball night.* (<https://www.filmdienst.de/film/details/24475>)In: *Lexicon of international film* . Filmdienst , retrieved March 2, 2017 .
 6. *It was a lavish ball night.* (<https://www.cinema.de/1314145>)In: *cinema* . Retrieved 7 July 2021 .
 7. *It was a lavish ball night.* (<https://www.filmportal.de/165da82cbb7242c1855a0456884aa144>)In: *filmportal.de* . Deutsches Filminstitut , retrieved 7 July 2021 .
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