



The family tree of Dr. Pistorius

The Family Tree of Dr. Pistorius is a 1939 German film directed by Karl Georg Külb , based on the novel of the same name by Waldemar Reichardt . Ernst Waldow plays the leading role of Dr. Pistorius, a middle-class man who, after surprising experiences, comes to the realization that a person's worth depends on their personality, not on a noble family tree.

This film is a reserved copy of the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation . It is therefore part of the foundation's collection, is not approved for distribution, and may only be shown with the foundation's consent and under the conditions set by the foundation.

Plot

In 1935, Senior Government Councilor Dr. Fritz Pistorius lived with his wife Elfriede and their son Hermann in the small town of Sodenberg . Although he was actually a middle-class citizen, he often displayed a conceited demeanor and considered himself a "superior gentleman." Believing himself to be of noble descent, he researched his ancestors. He was embarrassed to learn that his ancestors came from humble beginnings.

The political changes in the country, which Hermann Pistorius is enthusiastic about, are opposed by the senior government councilor and his wife. When Hermann falls in love with the daughter of master shoemaker Tettenborn, his parents are anything but enthusiastic, as they have already chosen a girl for their son who, they believe, is of appropriate social standing.

film

<u>title</u>	<u>The family tree of Dr. Pistorius</u>
<u>Country of production</u>	<u>Germany</u>
<u>Original language</u>	<u>German</u>
<u>Year of publication</u>	<u>1939</u>
<u>length</u>	<u>83 minutes</u>
<u>Age rating</u>	<u>FSK <i>unrated</i> , <u>film with reservation</u> ^[1]</u>
<u>manufacturing company</u>	<u>Universum-Film AG</u>

rod

<u>Director</u>	<u>Karl Georg Külb</u>
	Assistant Director <u>Boleslaw Barlog</u>

<u>script</u>	<u>Karl Georg Külb</u>
	<u>Reinhard Köster</u>

<u>Music</u>	<u>Lothar Brühne</u>
<u>camera</u>	<u>Robert Baberske</u>

<u>cut</u>	<u>Hans Heinrich</u>
------------	----------------------

occupation

- Ernst Waldow : Dr. Fritz Pistorius, Senior Government Councillor
- Käte Haack : Elfriede Pistorius, his wife
- Heinz Wieck : Hermann Pistorius, son of both
- Carsta Löck : Marie Klambusch, maid
- Otto Wernicke : Franz Tettenborn, master shoemaker
- Helga Mayer : Irene Tettenborn, his daughter
- Hans Leibelt : Schuhbrink, Medical Officer
- Günther Brackmann : Philipp Stuckert, apprentice
- Ingolf Kuntze : Giesecking, Syndic

In addition to his research into his ancestors, other experiences gradually lead Pistorius to the realization that a person's worth depends primarily on their personality, and that a family tree, no matter how feudal, is not determinative of their character. This also leads him to accept his son's love for the master shoemaker's daughter.

As the couple watches from their window as the Hitler Youth march past, singing in unison, they come to the realization: "Time has passed us by, and we haven't even noticed. The youth are marching their way; they are stronger than we are."

production

The film was produced by Universum-Film AG Berlin under the production direction of Erich Holder and shot by Afifa Berlin. Alfred Henseler was the production manager. The sets were designed by Anton Weber and Hermann Asmus. The costumes were designed by Vera Mügge. The lyrics were written by Konrad Liß. Principal photography began on July 6 and lasted until mid-August 1939, taking place in Zerbst and Trebbin. The film premiered on December 5, 1939, at the Union Theater Kurfürstendamm in Berlin.

- Renée Stobrawa : Käthe Giesecking
- Rudolf Schündler : Baron von Bekker
- Eduard Bornträger : Ingram, tax inspector
- Ewald Wenck : August Lustig, cemetery caretaker
- Maria Krahn : Lustig's wife
- Ulla Blasius : Stupsi, BDM girl
- Trude Haefelin : Alexa
- Franz Arzdorf : Dr. Kurz, regular guest
- Eberhard Leithoff : Baumüller, regular table guest
- Valy Arnheim : another regular guest
- Leopold von Ledebur : another regular guest
- Elvira Erdmann : Gossip Girl
- Ethel Reschke : Gossip Girl
- Lothar Geist : Gliding student
- Walter Lieck : Ladies' hairdresser
- SO Schoening : Man from the club
- Egon Vogel : Man from the funeral home

The production costs were exceptionally low at 484,000 Reichsmarks. However, by February 1941, the box office revenue was only 615,000 Reichsmarks. Therefore, the film can only be considered a moderate success. ^[2]

reception

Today, the film receives little attention. Media scholar Lisa Pine sees the film adaptation as part of National Socialist family policy, in which the role of parents in raising children was pushed back in favor of state organizations, such as the League of German Girls. ^[3]

In Bogusław Drewniak's *The German Film 1938–1945* it is stated: "'The Family Tree of Dr. Pistorius' stood firmly on home soil – a farce of political reality. [...] Pistorius' illegitimate son, however, had become a HJ leader in the glider pilots. This gave the filmmakers the opportunity to show the film audience around 500 Hitler Youth and BDM girls. [...] The film wanted to spread hope: the bourgeois Pistorius would become a better person." ^[4]

After the end of World War II , *The Family Tree of Dr. Pistorius* was classified as a restricted film due to the Nazi propaganda it contained . Since then, its public screening has been restricted. Today, the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Foundation claims the exploitation rights.

See also

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

Weblinks

- *The Family Tree of Dr. Pistorius* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0247723/>) at IMDb
- *The family tree of Dr. Pistorius* (<https://www.filmportal.de/c9068e9446b045b88e7fb58576f11d97>) at filmportal.de
- *The family home of Dr. Pistorius* (<http://www.fwm-stiftung.de/movie/841>) at Murnau Foundation

References

1. *The family tree of Dr. Pistorius* (<https://www.murnau-stiftung.de/movie/841>) at the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung
2. Ulrich J. Klaus: *German Sound Films* , 10th year 1939, p. 181 (089.39). Berlin 1999.
3. Lisa Pine: *Nazi Family Policy, 1933–1945* ; Berg 1997, p. 57.
4. *German Film 1938–1945. A General Overview* . Düsseldorf 1987; pp. 514–515.

Abgerufen von „https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Der_Stammbaum_des_Dr._Pistorius&oldid=251896023“