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Through the Desert (movie)

Through the Desert is a 1936 German feature film directed by Johann Alexander Hübler-Kahla and based on the novel of the same name by Karl May (Karl May Film). *Through the desert* was the first Karl May sound film. Fred Raupach stars as Kara Ben Nemsi.

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Storyline

On the way through the desert to the holy city of El Azar, Kara Ben Nemsi and Hajji Halef Omar come across the remains of a man murdered by the criminal Abu Seif. Kara Ben Nemsi decides to unmask the killer. After successfully escaping a trap in the Great Salt Flats, he disguises himself as a doctor and his reputation reaches out to the wealthy Ibrahim Mamur, whose favorite wife Senitza is seriously ill.

Arriving at Mamur, however, Kara discovers that he is none other than the criminal Abu Seif, who also stole Senitza from Halef's friend Sheikh Malek. Kara Ben Nemsi kidnapped Senitza again and took her back to Sheikh

Movie

original title Through the dessert



production Germany

country

original language German

Publishing year 1936

length 93 minutes

age rating FSK 12

Rod

directing Johann Alexander Hübler-Kahla

script Carl Junghans

production Henrik Heegard
for Lothar Stark GmbH

music Gottfried Huppertz

camera Georg Muschner
Paul Rischke

cut Walter von Bonhorst
occupation

- Fred Raupach : Kara Ben Nemsi
- Heinz Evelt : Haji Halef Omar
- Erich Haussmann : Abu Seif
- Aruth Wartan : Sheikh Malek
- Katarina Berger : Senitza

Malek on a dangerous route, but was attacked by Abu Seif on the sea as she continued her journey and was only able to save herself with Halef on land with difficulty during a storm.

- Gretl Wawra : Hanneh
- Herbert Gernot : Abu Seif's servant
- Franz Klebusch : Merchant in Mecca
- Berthold Reissig : Abu Seif's companion

As they continue their journey through the desert, Abu Seif's only water hole has been blown up and Kara and Halef are almost dying of thirst when they are found and rescued by Senitza at the last minute. The grateful Sheikh Malek gives Kara Ben Nemsi the black horse Rih. Halef, meanwhile, rides with Malek's daughter Hanneh to fetch holy water from the city of El Azar, which Abu Seif has so far denied Malek's tribe. Kara Ben Nemsi secretly follows the two at night and also wants to sneak into the holy city, but is discovered by Senitza, who warns him of the dangers there as an infidel. Kara is promptly recognized in the city by Abu Seif and has to flee with Rih, while Senitza tries to distract the pursuers. In a rocky valley, Kara captures Abu Seif and takes him to the camp of Sheikh Malek's tribe. After Halef has married Hanneh as thanks for the holy water, Abu Seif is judged, but Abu Seif's cronies intervene during the trial. Abu Seif manages to escape. Pursued by Kara Ben Nemsi, Abu Seif flees into a swampy area, where the villain dies in a saber fight. After Abu Seif's death, Kara Ben Nemsi and Halef ride to new adventures.

Background

Filming by the crew of just 18 began in mid-September 1935 in Egypt. The individual locations were 200 kilometers and more around Cairo . At the end of 1935 they returned to Germany and shot the studio shots in Berlin-Johannisthal .

The premiere of the film was on February 20, 1936 in the "Prinzeß" cinema in Dresden . A re-performance took place in September 2003 on the occasion of the Hanover Media Days (Media 21) in the Colosseum cinema there. The copy was made available by the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Foundation and lasted 88 minutes.

Previously planned television broadcasts by Süddeutscher Rundfunk in 1987 and by ARTE in 1997 were rejected because the quality was considered insufficient. In the 1960s there was a cut version of the film on Super8 film.

Criticism

“The long-winded prose is rich in the flowers of oriental rhetoric, but poor in dramaturgically usable action. The fact that the film was shot on the spot helps to overcome the greatest boredom. A certainly unintentional oddity: Hajji Halef Omar saxons.”

– FILM SERVICE , SEPTEMBER 6, 1949

Media

Literature

- Karl May - Collected Works, Volume 1: *Through the Desert* . Karl May Verlag, ISBN 3-78020001-5
- *Karl May Film Book* . Karl May Verlag 1998

DVD

- In March 2011, the film was released by Koch Media with a running time of 85 minutes as part of the “Treasures of German Sound Films” series.

Soundtrack

- *Wild West - Hot Orient. Karl May Film Music 1936–1968* . Bear Family Records BCD 16413 HL - 8 CDs with a 192 page film book

Siehe auch

- Liste der während der NS-Zeit im Deutschen Reich uraufgeführten deutschen Spielfilme

Weblinks

- *Durch die Wüste* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0202859/>) in der Internet Movie Database (englisch)
 - Der Film bei der Murnau-Stiftung (<http://www.murnau-stiftung.de/en/suchergebnis.asp?ID=1057>)
 - Eintrag im Karl-May-Wiki ([http://www.karl-may-wiki.de/index.php/Durch_die_Wüste_\(Film\)](http://www.karl-may-wiki.de/index.php/Durch_die_Wüste_(Film)))
 - Titelbild des „Film-Kurier“ zum Film (<https://web.archive.org/web/20071226234728/http://www.deutscher-tonfilm.de/ddw1-1.gif>) (Memento vom 26. Dezember 2007 im *Internet Archive*)
 - Standszene (<http://karel-may.majerco.net/film/durch-die-wuste/pousti-sm.jpg>)
-

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This page was last edited on July 25, 2022 at 21:51.

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