

The Beggar Student (1936)

The Beggar Student , subtitled *A cheerful game with music from the time when August the Strong was also King of Poland* , is a 1936 German operetta film adaptation by Georg Jacoby . It is based on the operetta *The Beggar Student* by Carl Millöcker .

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Storyline

Poland in 1704: The country is ruled by the Saxon Elector August the Strong , who appointed Colonel Ollendorf as governor in Kraków . The law of professional standing applies, nocturnal gatherings are prohibited. Ollendorf gives a ball to which the impoverished Countess Nowalska and her two daughters Bronislawa and Laura are also invited. As always, Bronislawa is only interested in eating and dancing, which embarrasses the Countess. Laura, however, is swarmed by the men. Ollendorf also wants to dance with Laura, who eludes him. When he continues to press her and kisses her on the shoulder, Laura slaps him in the face because he is not befitting his status and is not a Pole either. He laughs about it, but secretly swears revenge.

Movie	
original title	The beggar student
	
production country	<u>Germany</u>
original language	<u>German</u>
Publishing year	<u>1936</u>
length	95 minutes
age rating	<u>FSK 12</u>
	<u>Rod</u>
directing	<u>George Jacoby</u>
script	<u>Walter Wassermann</u> <u>Lotte Neumann</u> as CH Diller
production	<u>UFA</u> production group <u>Max Pfeiffer</u>
Music	<u>Alois Melichar</u>
camera	<u>Ewald Daub</u>
cut	<u>Herbert B. Fredersdorf</u>
occupation	<div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Johannes Heesters</u> : Symon Rymanowicz / Duke Kasimir<u>Carola Höhn</u> : Laura Nowalska<u>Marika Rokk</u>: Bronislawa Nowalska</div></div>

Meanwhile, in Kraków, a mysterious man has appeared who is being hunted by the soldiers. The Pole Jan Janicki gives him shelter. The stranger introduces himself as Symon Rymanowicz. They soon realize that both of them care about the freedom of Poland, so Jan takes Symon to a gathering of loyal Poles who are planning the revolution. When the secret gathering of soldiers is broken up, Jan and Symon flee in a wagon that turns out to be the prison's supply wagon and is parked in the prison yard. Jan and Symon, who pretend to be beggar students, are arrested and sing the satirical song "Oh, I just kissed her on the shoulder" in prison for Colonel Ollendorf. He appears in prison and offers both of them a deal: they will help him with a masquerade and in return they will both be set free.

Symon now becomes the rich world traveler Prince Wybicki and Jan pretends to be his secretary. Symon is to get engaged to Laura, according to Ollendorf's plan, and then expose her as a beggar student after the engagement. In fact, however, Symon and Laura fall in love with each other and Bronislawa and Jan also become a couple. Meanwhile, Jan promises Ollendorf that he will unmask an important revolutionary if he receives a large sum of money for it. Jan uses the money that Ollendorf pays him to arm the revolutionaries. Symon and Laura's engagement takes place and Ollendorf triumphantly resolves the identities of Symon and Jan. However, both reveal that they are actually Duke Kasimir and Count Opalinski - the Nowalska sisters have married befitting their status. At the same time, the armed Poles stormed Ollendorf's palace, and Elector August informed him that he was going to give back the Polish royal dignity. At the same time, Symon/Duke Kasimir is informed by the rebel leader that he will apply for the royal crown. Poland is free and the Nowalska sisters have found their great love in Symon and Jan.

- Berthold Ebbecke : Jan Janicki / Count Opalinski
- Ida Wüst : Palmatica Countess Nowalska
- Fritz Kampers : Governor Colonel Ollendorf
- Ernst Behmer : Prison Warden Drake
- Harry Hardt : Rittmeister
- Hans Joachim Schaufuss : Ensign Henrici
- Wilhelm Bendow : Hairdresser
- Gerhard Bienert : animal stall owner Kinsky
- Karl Platen : Servant Stefan
- Paul Schwed : Corporal
- Reinhold Bernt : Caretaker
- Herbert Ebel : Polish student
- Carl Iban : prisoner
- Max Vierlinger : Adjutant to the Colonel
- Ernst Deitermann : 1st Polish student
- Walter Kunkel : 2nd Polish student
- Heinz Piper : 3rd Polish student
- Victor von Zitzewitz : 4th Polish student
- Isolde Laugs : Polish trader

Production

Johannes Heesters played the role of Symon Rymanowicz for the first time in September 1934 at the Vienna Volksoper and significantly improved his school German for this role. ^[1] When he first came to UFA in 1936, a lead role cast for a film adaptation of the *beggar student* was being sought. Heesters was cast in the role of Symon Rymanowicz; Although it was his first role in a UFA film, the makers were convinced not only by Heesters' operetta experience but also by his appearance in the Austrian spy film *The Candlesticks of the Emperor* . ^[2]

In addition to Heesters, whose first name Johan was changed to Johannes for the first time in *Der Bettelstudent* for the German market , Marika Röck only came to UFA in 1936. *The beggar student* became the first in a series of collaborative films by Heesters and Röck. The shooting, which began in mid-March in the UFA studio in Babelsberg, turned out to be difficult. At that time, Marika

Rökk had already started an affair with director Jacoby, her later husband, and behaved like a diva on the set. "Before I was safe with Jacoby, I did a lot. [...] I allowed myself whims, extravagances and a completely unjustified arrogance. In the morning I rose comfortably from my feathers and strolled late into the studio. I didn't bother too much with studying the German language," says Rökk in retrospect. ^[3]Rökk's pronunciation problems and missed assignments created excitement on set. Criticism from director Jacoby led in part to Rökk leaving the studio. Rökk's appearance caused a delay in filming, which was nevertheless completed after a month in mid-April 1936.

The premiere took place on August 20, 1936 in The Hague . On August 29, *The Beggar Student* ran at the Venice International Film Festival and had its Berlin premiere on November 23, 1936 in the Ufa - Palast am Zoo . As early as 1937, *Gasparone* was followed by another Millöcker film with Rökk and Heesters in the leading roles.

The beggar student contains various songs by Millöcker sung by Johannes Heesters, including "Oh, I just kissed her on the shoulder" and "I tied some tender bonds". The text "Take my heart in your hands" was written especially for the film, to the melody of the duet Jan - Bronislawa: "With love, let me bind you intimately. You should feel that it is firm, but it should not press you!"

Criticism

The Catholic *Film Service* praised the film in its 1950 review:

"To anticipate it: a great operetta film with all the good qualities of the recognized German film production of old. The book is flawless in every respect, the operetta-like is interwoven with an interesting, exciting plot and pleasantly loosened up by humorous scenes as well as song and dance interludes. Above all, one is surprised today that a well-done parody of narrow-minded militarism was dared at that time. Cut and image are top notch; the same applies to a greater extent to the director responsible for everything, which reflects Jacoby's light hand in every phase. [...] Even if the happy ending is quite operetta-like, that doesn't detract from the whole thing. Temperamental exhilaration, overflowing cheerfulness and soothing cleanliness recommend the film by itself."

– FILM SERVICE 1950 ^[4]

Jürgen Trimborn called *The Beggar Student* a "typical Ufa film, reveling in lavish costumes and great equipment". ^[5]

Award

The beggar student received the title "artistically valuable" from the National Socialist film inspection agency .

See also

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

Web Links

- (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0027351/>)The *Beggar Student* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0027351/>) at the Internet Movie Database

- *The beggar student* (<https://www.filmportal.de/ee7f0baba5eb417fb6f8a52d7b4d6eda>) at [filmportal.de](https://www.filmportal.de)

Itemizations

1. Jürgen Trimborn: *Johannes Heesters - The gentleman in tails. biography* . Aufbau-Verlag, Berlin 2003, p. 150.
 2. Jürgen Trimborn: *Johannes Heesters - The gentleman in tails. biography* . Aufbau-Verlag, Berlin 2003, p. 205.
 3. Marika Röck: *Heart with paprika. memories* . Ullstein, Frankfurt am Main 1991, p. 24.
 4. F.: *The beggar student* . In: *Film Dienst* , No. 8, 1950.
 5. Jürgen Trimborn: *Johannes Heesters - The gentleman in tails. biography* . Aufbau-Verlag, Berlin 2003, p. 207.
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