

The Daughters of Her Excellency

The Daughters of Her Excellency is a German feature film by Reinhold Schünzel from 1934 with Käthe von Nagy and Willy Fritsch in the leading roles. The title role of "Excellency" was played by the Viennese popular actress Hansi Niese , who died in the final phase of filming. The story is based on the Hungarian comedy "The Little Trafik" by Laszlo Bus-Fekete .

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Plot

The old, corpulent widow of a general, Henriette von Petrin, who runs a small tobacconist's shop with an attached kiosk in Vienna, is worried about her older daughter, Leonie. While the younger of the two sisters, Gerti, has just successfully passed her high school diploma, the older one, Leonie, is married to a staid and unattractive civil servant called Anton and is bored with life. In her dreams, Leonie would rather be the wife of the chic, sophisticated and nonchalant Count Marenzi, who she would like to have show her the world. She had recently met the attractive nobleman and was immediately smitten by him. This dream world has already overwhelmed Leonie to such an extent that she even buys an expensive fur coat and has it billed to her "husband", Count Marenzi. Her Excellency, as the general's widow is

film	
title	The Daughters of Her Excellency
country of production	<u>Germany</u>
original language	<u>German</u>
year of publication	<u>1934</u>
length	85 minutes
rod	
director	<u>Reinhold Schünzel</u>
script	<u>Emil Burri</u>
production	<u>Günther Stapenhorst</u> (production group)
Music	Albert Fischer
camera	<u>Werner Brandes</u>
cut	<u>Willy Zeyn junior</u>
occupation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>Käthe von Nagy</u> : Gerti▪ <u>Willy Fritsch</u> : Count Marenzi, the Younger▪ <u>Hansi Niese</u> : Henriette von Petrin, the General's widow▪ <u>Adele Sandrock</u> : Virginia Marenzi▪ <u>Dagny Servaes</u> : Leonie▪ <u>Hans Moser</u> : Anton▪ <u>Gustav Waldau</u> : Count Marenzi, the Elder▪ <u>Lizzi Holzschuh</u> : Mizzi, saleswoman▪ <u>Fritz Imhoff</u> : Toniczek, owner of the fur shop▪ <u>Tine Schneider</u> : Rosl, employee▪ <u>Julius Brandt</u> : Leopold, servant at Marenzi▪ <u>Anton Pointner</u> : Doorman▪ <u>Hans Joachim Schaufuß</u> : Gustl▪ <u>Willi Schur</u> : Customer in the tobacconist	

respectfully called by those around her, thinks this is clearly going too far, and so she and Gerti, the more down-to-earth and sensible of the two Petrin daughters, plan to speak to the count to make it clear to him that he should finally get Leonie to stop thinking like this. While Mrs. von

- Betty Sedlmayr : cook
- Hans Adolphi : Head Chef
- Ewald Wenck : police officer
- Erwin Fichtner : Waiter

Petrin makes her way to the count's house, Gerti looks after the small tobacconist's shop. When a young, attractive man suddenly enters the shop, Gerti has no idea that it is the same count who is considered Leonie's "seducer" in the family. The apprentice Gustl tells Gerti what's going on, and the young woman decides not to let the fine gentleman leave the shop again in order to sabotage another rendezvous with Leonie. Gerti talks and talks and talks to prevent the man from leaving the shop; yes, she even goes so far as to offer to be his evening companion instead of Leonie. Amused by this encounter, the young count, who was initially rather annoyed, finally agrees.

This rendezvous for supper almost ended in disaster, because Leonie is having dinner right next door with Count Marenzi senior, the old father of her sweetheart. Gerti is just able to prevent Leonie from discovering her and her companions. She then steals her sister's "bought" fur coat, which Marenzi, as expected, has not paid for, and takes it to the young count. She wants to stay by his side all night, hoping that Marenzi junior will miss the train that is supposed to take him and his sister Leonie to the sunny south. Gerti's plan threatens to fail when Mr. Toniczek, the owner of the fur shop, suddenly appears at the count's and asks for payment of the bill. According to the fur trader, a fraudster has posed as Marenzi's wife. Since Toniczek recognizes his fur coat in Marenzi's apartment, the young count assumes that Gerti had posed as his wife in the shop and that she is the crook. However, all the turbulence has not been able to prevent the two young people from falling in love, even though the count's head of the household, the matronly Virginia Marenzi, the young count's formidable old aunt, has some objections to this union, which she considers inappropriate. Eventually, however, things turn out for the better: Leonie returns to her boring husband, with whom she at least knows what she has, because old Count Marenzi has not turned out to be as generous as she had hoped. And Count Marenzi junior finally accompanies his Gerti to "her Excellency's" tobacconist's shop and asks her mother for her daughter Gerti's hand in marriage.

production notes

Her Excellency's Daughters was created between mid-February and mid-April 1934 in the UFA studios in Neubabelsberg near Berlin and premiered on May 17, 1934 in Berlin's Gloria-Palast .

Producer Günther Stapenhorst was also production manager, Erich von Neusser production manager. Erich Kettelhut and Max Mellin designed the film sets. Fritz Thiery was chief sound engineer, Kurt Hoffmann assisted director Schünzel. Otto Lehmann served as production manager.

A French-language version of this film was also shot at the same time under the title *La jeune fille d'une nuit* . Käthe von Nagy was the only German-speaking actor to reprise her role. Roger Le Bon was Schünzel's (fluent in French) co-director.

reviews

Oskar Kalbus 's *The Making of German Film Art* said: "This is not a film with the usual cute and rather worn-out Grinzing magic and the wistful silent film romanticism of the old imperial city of Vienna, it is rather a clean, clear, light-flowing chamber play full of drastic situational comedy. (...) Käthe von Nagy and Willy Fritsch are magnificent, as in their best films, wonderfully relaxed and natural in their acting." ^[1]

The Lexicon of International Films called the film a “cheerfully staged comedy”. ^[2]

On film.at it says: “THE DAUGHTERS OF HER EXCELLENCE is bursting with irony and shameless trivia. One cannot help but get the feeling that the director in this film takes particular pleasure in using Ufa’s money to satirize his “breadwinner” in all its variations and with a great cast – Adele Sandrock as the “strict” Countess Virginia and Hans Moser, who demonstrates his power by “barking” in felt slippers.” ^[3]

CineGraph said of Schünzel's comedies of the early years of sound film: "From 1931 onwards , he directed a series of comedies, especially at UFA, which were characterized by their ironic attitude and musical verve. Their stars were Renate Müller ... and Käthe von Nagy (RONNY, 1931; THE BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE, 1932; THE DAUGHTERS OF YOUR EXCELLENCE, 1934)." ^[4]

individual references

1. Oskar Kalbus: The Development of German Film Art. Part 2: The Sound Film. Berlin 1935. p. 63
2. *The Daughters of Her Excellency*. (<https://www.filmdienst.de/film/details/15087>) In: Lexicon of International Films . Filmdienst , accessed on February 14, 2021 .
3. *Her Excellency's Daughters* (https://www.film.at/die_tochter_ihrer_exzellenz) on film.at
4. CineGraph: Reinhold Schünzel, Delivery 6, B 3

web links

- *Her Excellency's Daughters* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0025927/>) at IMDb
- *The Daughters of Her Excellency* (<https://www.filmportal.de/a390439f09fd4ce5b6c3cea570d9381d>) at filmportal.de

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