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# Gasparone (1937)

**Gasparone** is a 1937 German operetta film adaptation by Georg Jacoby. It is based on Carl Millöcker's operetta *Gasparone*.

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## Storyline

After years of hiatus, the robber Gasparone is up to mischief again in the state of Olivia. Even a stage play in which dancer Ita plays the leading role is dedicated to his deeds. It is Ita who, next to Gasparone, worries the chief of police Nasoni the most: the niece of the obscure Massaccio is the great love of his son Sindulfo. According to Nasoni's will, however, he should marry the Countess Carlotta Ambrat. Although she is still poor, Nasoni knows that the rich but missing relative Count Jucundus has since been declared dead. Countess Ambrat has therefore become a good match as heir, even if Nasoni does not want to announce the inheritance until after his son's wedding.

A charming stranger appears in Olivia, who introduces himself as Erminio and immediately falls in love with Carlotta. When Sindulfo is forced by his father to continue with the Ambrats, Erminio and Ita come to an agreement: she disguises herself as Gasparone with her dancers and takes Sindulfo prisoner. She whispers in his ear that Carlotta belongs to

### Movie

original title Gasparone



production Germany

country

original language German

Publishing year 1937

length 94 minutes

age rating FSK 12

Rod

directing George Jacoby

script Werner Eplinius ,  
Hans Leip ,  
Rudo Ritter

production UFA , Max Pfeiffer production group

Music Peter Kreuder

camera Konstantin Irmen Chet

cut Carl Otto Bartning

occupation

- Marika Röck : revue star Ita
- Johannes Heesters : Erminio Bondo
- Heinz Schorlemmer : Sindulfo

Gasparone and that he must never marry her. Meanwhile, Carlotta is “rescued” by Erminio, who is mistaken for Gasparone by the summoned police. Nevertheless, Erminio is allowed to spend the night at the Countess' castle. When he tries to sneak away at night, he is stopped by Sindulfo, who hopes that during the night Carlotta will finally fall in love with Erminio. Erminio knocks Sindulfo down and goes to Massaccio's bar, who is actually a coffee smuggler. To better cover up his crimes, he invented Gasparone heists to keep the police away from the actual crime scene during hours of smuggling activity. Erminio receives from Massaccio the confession that he is Gasparone and wants to confront him, but is overpowered by Massaccio's accomplices around the innkeeper Benozzo and locked in a dungeon. It is only later that he manages to escape and Benozzo explains to him that everyone is staying at Countess Carlotta Ambrat's engagement to Sindulfo.

Erminio rushes to the castle, where Ita can entertain the guests until he appears in tails and bow ties and foils the engagement speech. The entire event is shortly afterwards interrupted by the arrival of Count Jucundus, who has returned from the jungle. The rich inheritance Nasoni had hoped for is now gone and he urges his son to give up his engagement to Carlotta. Erminio and Ita are outraged. When Jucundus declares that he has enough money that he will leave the castle to Carlotta and her aunt Zenobia, Nasoni is again in favor of his son's association with the Countess. In the meantime, she has received a marriage proposal from Erminio, while Sindulfo has become engaged to Ita. Together they return to the party and present those present with a *fait accompli*.

- Edith Schollwer : Countess Carlotta Ambrat
- Oskar Sima : Massacci aka Gasparone
- Leo Slezak : governor Nasoni
- Rudolf Platte : innkeeper Benozzo
- Elsa Wagner : Aunt Zenobia
- Ursula Herking : Sora
- Ernst Behmer : coachman Socrates
- Arnim Sssenguth : Count Jucundus
- Erwin Biegel : Man with a white carnation
- Paul Schwed : Police Captain
- Erich Kestin : Adjutant
- Max Harry Ernst : guest in the revue theater
- Charles François : civil officer
- Egon Stief : 1st member of the Massaccio smuggling gang
- Walter Klam : 2nd member of the Massaccio smuggling gang
- Ferdinand Robert : guest at the planned engagement party
- Hildegard Busse : 1st guest at the wedding table
- Fritz Draeger : 2nd guest at the wedding table

## Production

*Gasparone* was shot from September 1 to November 1937 on the Neubabelsberg open-air site and on the islands of Korčula and Lokrum near Dubrovnik . The censors released the film on December 14, 1937 from the age of 14. *Gasparone* had its premiere on December 21, 1937 in Berlin's Ufa-Palast am Zoo .

*Gasparone* is based on the operetta of the same name by Carl Millöcker. Millöcker's melodies were edited by Peter Kreuder . In the film, the singing of Johannes Heesters dominates , who only came to Germany in 1935 and played one of his first film roles in German here. Marika Röck stood by his side; it was the second collaboration between the two actors after *The Beggar Student* from 1936. "Gasparone' was the last step to great success," Marika Röck said, looking back on her career. <sup>[1]</sup> Within a few weeks she learned to tap-dance for the film from an American and showed in *Gasparone*

for the first time in her film career tap dance number . Eleanor Powell 's tap series in *Broadway Melody* had previously made Rökk want to learn to tap. After the premiere, critics compared her to Powell for her dance number. <sup>[2]</sup>

## Criticism

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The *film-dienst* wrote: "Leo Slezak as the extensive police prefect and Marika Rökk at the peak of her fabulous dance technique bring momentum to the carefree rippling action on arias." <sup>[3]</sup>

*Cinema* found: "A nice music film based on the operetta by Carl Millöcker with the then dream couple Marika Rökk/Johannes Heesters. Conclusion: Smart back then, but dusty today". <sup>[4]</sup>

The *Evangelical Film Observer* came to the following conclusion: "Pre-war film adaptation of the well-known operetta with a bit of age patina. However, thanks to the good cast, it is overall weightless entertainment from the age of 14." <sup>[5]</sup>

## See also

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

## Web Links

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- *Gasparone* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0028920/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- *Gasparone* (<https://www.filmportal.de/736a6ba1330642c39e864d955b5b8cc0>) at filmportal.de (with photo gallery and film poster)

## Itemizations

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1. Marika Rökk: *Heart with paprika. memories* . Ullstein, Frankfurt am Main 1991, p. 119.
2. Marika Rökk: *Heart with paprika. memories* . Ullstein, Frankfurt am Main 1991, pp. 118–119.
3. EP, M.: *Gasparone* . In: *film-dienst* , No. 14, 1950.
4. *Gasparone*. (<https://www.cinema.de/1316123>)In: *cinema* . Retrieved April 14, 2022 .
5. Evangelischer Film-Observier , Evangelical Press Association Munich, Criticism No. 331/1962

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