



Krambambuli (1940)

Krambambuli (subtitle: "The Story of a Dog") is a German ^[1] feature film directed by Karl Köstlin in 1940, filmed in black and white. The main roles were played by Viktoria von Ballasko , Rudolf Prack , and Sepp Rist . The screenplay was written by Josef Friedrich Perkonig and Rudo Ritter . It is based on the novella of the same name by Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach . The film was first released in German-speaking countries on May 10, 1940.

Plot

The young vagrant Thomas Werndl encounters a stray dog. He names it "Krambambuli" and takes it with him on his travels. Some time later, Werndl finds work on a farm run by the widow Crescentia Sonnleitner. She lives there with her daughter Anna and her brother Adam Holzapfel, a retired postman. Gradually, Werndl and his employer's daughter fall in love, even though Anna Sonnleitner is betrothed to the hunter Barthel Raunegger. One Sunday, after church, Anna finds her lover drunk, and a fight almost breaks out between him and the hunter. She intervenes and stands up for the hunter. Thomas leaves the farm. Shortly afterward, a brawl breaks out between him and a farmhand at the inn. Thomas seriously injures the farmhand, and the policeman who is called takes him into custody.

With a heavy heart, Thomas must part with his companion Krambambuli. He entrusts him to Adam's care. When Anna eventually marries the hunter, she takes Krambambuli with her to the hunter's lodge. Initially, Barthel is bothered by the animal because it reminds him of his former rival, but after some time he trains it into a capable hunting dog.

	film
<u>title</u>	<u>Krambambuli</u>
<u>Country of production</u>	<u>Germany</u>
<u>Original language</u>	<u>German</u>
<u>Year of publication</u>	<u>1940</u>
<u>length</u>	<u>80 minutes</u>
	rod
<u>Director</u>	<u>Karl Köstlin</u>
<u>script</u>	<u>Josef Friedrich Perkonig</u> <u>Rudo Ritter</u>
<u>production</u>	<u>Karl Künzel</u> <u>Erich von Neusser</u>
<u>Music</u>	<u>Willy Schmidt-Gentner</u>
<u>camera</u>	<u>Karl Löb</u> <u>Josef Ketterer</u>
<u>cut</u>	<u>Klaus Stapenhorst</u>
	occupation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Rudolf Prack</u> : Thomas Werndl ▪ <u>Sepp Rist</u> : Barthel Raunegger, hunter ▪ <u>Elise Aulinger</u> : Crescentia Sonnleitner ▪ <u>Viktoria von Ballasko</u> : Anna, her daughter ▪ <u>Paula Pfluger</u> : Kathrein, waitress ▪ <u>Eduard Köck</u> : Adam, retired postman ▪ <u>Karl Skraup</u> : Fabian Zirbel, gunsmith ▪ <u>Wilhelm Schich</u> : Village Innkeeper ▪ <u>Oskar Wegrostek</u> : Innkeeper ▪ <u>Maria Schnorppfeil</u> : Waitress ▪ <u>Felix Dombrowsky</u> : 1st Prison Guard ▪ <u>Robert Horky</u> : 2nd Prison Guard ▪ <u>Leo Reiter</u> : 1st Gendarme

Thomas escapes from prison. His first stop is Adam Holzapfel's house to ask for some money and to pick up Krambambuli. After learning what happened to the animal, he storms off in a rage. At the fairground, a waitress named Kathrein admires his marksmanship at a shooting gallery. She takes him back to her apartment, and the next day she persuades him to poach.

- [August Keilholz](#) : 2nd Gendarme
- [Josef Wichart](#) : Farm boy

Thomas finds work with the alcoholic gunsmith Zirbel, who desperately needs a steady hand to sight in his rifles. One day, Thomas runs into his former lover in Zirbel's shop. She suspects that Thomas is the poacher her husband has been searching for for some time. She implores him to leave the area, which Thomas promises to do. However, Kathrein puts pressure on him, causing him to break his promise and go poaching again.

In the high forest, Thomas and the hunter encounter each other. The dog recognizes his former master. When both call him, he doesn't know whom to obey. Ultimately, Krambambuli chooses Thomas and charges towards him. The hunter seizes this moment; he shoots the poacher. He then abandons Krambambuli, believing him to be disloyal.

The dog initially stayed with the body and accompanied the pallbearers to the cemetery gate. After some time, he went to the hunter's house, whined at the door, but was not taken in. In the following weeks, the dog roamed the woods and repeatedly lingered at the cemetery gate. Barthel had changed his mind and searched for the dog without success. Because Krambambuli no longer received any care, he deteriorated rapidly. During a snowfall, he again visited the hunter's house and lay down on the doorstep – after some time, he lay there dead in the snow.

criticism

The [Encyclopedia of International Film](#) succinctly notes that it is a very emotional film adaptation of Ebner-Eschenbach's novella. ^[2]

See also

- [List of German feature films premiered in the German Reich during the Nazi era](#)

source

- Program for the film: *Today's program* , published by the publishing house of the same name in Berlin, No. 560

External links

- *Krambambuli* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032678/>) at IMDb
- *Krambambuli* (<https://www.filmportal.de/b497ffcaa2db4e928879a28b2d7dc06f>) at filmportal.de

References and footnotes

1. was produced by Wien-Film GmbH. In today's terms, it would be considered an Austrian feature film. However, Austria was part of Germany when the film was made.
 2. Lexikon des internationalen Films, rororo paperback no. 6322 (1988), p. 2104
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