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The Old Song (1945)

The Old Song is a 1944 German feature film directed by Fritz Peter Buch based on literary works by Theodor Fontane . The main roles are played by Winnie Markus and Ernst von Klipstein .

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Plot

Berlin, in the 1880s. The young Count Erwin von Haldern meets the shy flower arranger Stine at a party. He quickly falls in love with the modest girl, who in turn is tentatively courted by gardener Franke, and pays his respects to her a short time later. Stine begins to respond to the Count's advances, and they both approach each other cautiously. They spend a nice time together, but Erwin has a problem, and that is Uncle Richard. He is very class-conscious and expects Erwin to marry Käthe von Sellenthin, who is of equal social status.

When Erwin attends an end-of-year ball with Stine on New Year's Eve, an acquaintance from Erwin's aristocratic environment approaches Stine. This Alf von Rexin compromises Stine, so that Erwin feels compelled to challenge the brazen Rexin to a duel. Erwin is seriously injured. Stine knows nothing about the events and only finds out about Erwin's wounding

Movie

Original title	<u>The old song</u>
Country of production	<u>Germany</u>
Publishing year	<u>1945</u>
<u>length</u>	94 minutes
	<u>Rod</u>
<u>Direction</u>	<u>Fritz Peter Buch</u>
<u>script</u>	<u>Gerhard T. Buchholz</u> , <u>Fritz Peter Buch</u>
<u>production</u>	<u>Franz Tapper</u> for Berlin Film (Potsdam)
<u>Music</u>	<u>Werner Bochmann</u>
<u>camera</u>	<u>Oskar Schnirch</u>
<u>cut</u>	<u>Elisabeth Neumann</u>
	<u>occupation</u>

- Winnie Markus : Stine, flower arranger
- Ernst von Klipstein : Count Erwin von Haldern
- Grethe Weiser : Pauline, Stine's sister
- Walther Suessenguth : Count Richard von Haldern, Erwin's uncle
- Hannes Keppler : Gardener Franke
- Lotte Koch : Käthe von Sellenthin
- Hilde Sessak : Wanda, dancer
- Heinz Salfner : Baron Hausfeld
- Olga Engl : The general
- Heinz Graf : von Sellenthin, Käthe's father
- Ali Ghito : wife of Sellenthin
- Karl Martell : Alf von Rexin
- Franz Reichert : von Schwielow

when Franke tells her about it. When she goes to visit Erwin, he is already on the mend. However, the count's servant does not allow the girl from the people to see him, and so Stine has to leave without having achieved anything. Käthe sees this and speaks to Stine about it.

Completely caught up in class consciousness, Erwin's aristocratic friend makes it clear to the flower arranger that the lovers' differences in class would make a future connection impossible. Stine admits defeat and doesn't want to pressure Erwin any further. However, when he has fully recovered, the first thing he

is drawn to is his true love. Erwin proposes marriage to Stine, but the deeply insecure young woman explains to him that the two of them can never be happy together because their backgrounds are too different, especially since his aristocratic relatives will in no way approve of this connection. They then separate. Stine marries her old admirer Franke, and Erwin finally marries Käthe von Sellenthin.

- Jakob Tiedtke : Father Dörr
- Hedwig Wangel : Mother Dörr, his wife
- Margarete Kupfer : Ms. Nimtsch
- Gert Witt : Fritz, her grandson
- Albert Probeck : Servant Franz
- Anny Dobra : Margot, dancer
- Wolf Harro : von Schönaich
- Katja Nieborg : Lisa
- Waltraud Kogel : her blonde friend
- Hans Waschatko : Servant at Sellenthin

Production notes

Filming took place from May 18th to the end of July 1944 in film studios in Amsterdam and The Hague as well as in the Althoff studio in Potsdam- Babelsberg . Censorship took place on January 30, 1945, and a ban on young people was issued. The premiere took place exactly two months later, on March 30, 1945, in the BTL-Lichtspiele on Berlin's Potsdamer Straße. This made *The Old Song* one of the last films to premiere in the German Reich.

The buildings were designed by Hans Ledersteger and Ernst Richter , and the costumes were designed by Ludwig Hornsteiner. Manufacturing group leader (producer) Franz Tapper was also in charge of production.

The film's two songs, *That can't happen to me anymore* and *Hach, Waldemar* , were performed by Grethe Weiser, who plays a chanson singer here.

The script was loosely based on the novellas *Stine* (1890) and *Irrungen, Wirrungen* (1888) by Theodor Fontane based on a draft by Georg C. Klaren .

Criticism

“Melodrama based on motifs from Fontane novellas about insurmountable class differences, shot as a German war production in Dutch studios.”

– [Lexicon of International Film](#) ^[1]

See also

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

Web links

- *The old song* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0037511/>) in the [Internet Movie Database](#) (English)
- *The old song* (<https://www.filmportal.de/f13681709fec45958e4b1c45cd9cdd6d>) at [filmportal.de](#)

Individual evidence

1. *The old song*. (<https://www.filmdienst.de/film/details/51447>)In: *Lexicon of international film* . [Film Service](#) , accessed November 11, 2015 .

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