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The Vulture Wally (1940)

The Geierwally is a German literary adaptation by Hans Steinhoff from 1940. It is based on motifs from the novel of the same name by Wilhelmine von Hillern . The title role is occupied by Heidemarie Hatheyer . Sepp Rist , Eduard Köck and Winnie Markus can be seen in leading roles .

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Storyline

Wally Fender loves the hunter Josef, who knows nothing about it. One day when she hears that a vulture has built its nest on the steep slope and that the young animal has already hatched, but none of the men dare to dig out the nest, she ropes down and takes the young animal with her. When the mother bird attacks Wally, Josef shoots the bird, saving Wally's life. However, he despises her for her unfeminine behavior and mockingly calls her Geierwally, while he himself is only called Bärenjosef by the villagers after killing a bear.

Wally takes the fledgling and raises it. On the orders of her father - her mother died years ago - Wally is to marry the farmer Vinzenz, but refuses the instruction because she only wants to marry the penniless Josef. The father then

Movie

original title	<u>The Geierwally</u>
production country	<u>Germany</u>
original language	<u>German</u>
Publishing year	<u>1940</u>
length	104 minutes
age rating	<u>FSK 6</u>
	<u>Rod</u>
directing	<u>Hans Steinhoff</u>
script	<u>Jacob Geis</u> <u>Alexander Lix</u>
production	<u>Gerhard Staab</u> for <u>Tobis Filmkunst</u>
Music	<u>Nico Dostal</u>
camera	<u>Richard fear</u>
cut	<u>Ella Ensink</u>
	occupation

- Heidemarie Hatheyer : Wally Fender, called "Geierwally"
- Sepp Rist : Hunter Josef Brandl, called "Bear Joseph"
- Eduard Köck : fender builder
- Winnie Markus : Afra, Joseph's illegitimate child
- Leopold Esterle : Vincent, farmer
- Mimi Gstöttner-Auer : Luckard, maid
- Ludwig Auer : Klettenmeier
- Georg Vogelsang : Nicodemus Rosenbauer

banishes her to the mountain hut on a high pasture. Wally moves to the Hochalm with her vulture and the crazy Klettenmeier, where she lives in cold and misery for several months. At the same time, her father falls ill and Vinzenz comes to the Fender farmer's farm and enslaves the servants. Vinzenz has Wally sent to him. When she appears, he is just about to punish an old maid who would not carry out his orders. Wally hits Vinzenz with a club. Her father now wants her arrested and imprisoned for attempted manslaughter, but in her distress Wally sets fire to parts of the farm and is able to escape. She collapses in front of the hut of the rose farmers who take her in. However, when the farmers Nicodemus and Leander woo her after a few weeks and start fighting, Wally goes back to the high pasture. Over time she becomes so desperate about her fate that she wants to kill herself, but Klettenmeier is able to convince her of the beauty of the world.

Meanwhile, Joseph found out that he had an illegitimate child in a neighboring village in Afra. Afra's mother has died, so Josef takes the young woman to his village. However, Afra should never call him father because he wants to hide the fact that Afra is an illegitimate child. After an accident, they both stop at Wally's hut on the way to the village. Wally is upset when she sees Afra and sobered when she learns that the village thinks of her as a murderer and arsonist. She wants to know if Josef knows why she did all this, but he has no idea. She refuses to tell him. Wally reacts dismissively to his advice that she belongs among people. She confesses that she's just looking for someone to love her but Josef does not understand her and leaves Wally after a heated argument with Afra. Wally bursts into tears as soon as both of them have left.

A little later she learns that her father is dying and returns to the village. The fender builder dies and Wally becomes the new big farmer. She is cold-hearted towards the servants. When there is supposed to be a dance in the village, she dresses up for Josef, who, according to rumors in the village, has a lover in Afra. She meets him on the way to the village and he gives her flowers. Wally is happy, but Afra, who wanted to go to the dance with Josef, appears. Wally reacts jealously and, while dancing in front of everyone, insults Afra as an illegitimate person who should be driven out of the village. Joseph is outraged. He hears that Wally only wants to marry anyone who can kiss her against her will. He challenges her to the dance and wrestles a kiss from her in front of everyone present. When she then happily wants to dance with him, he leaves her, he just wanted the kiss. Full of revengeful thoughts, Wally promises marriage to the one who kills Josef for her. Vinzenz promises to kill Josef that same day. He now has a guilty conscience. Afra goes to Wally, who has made her way back to the high pasture, disappointed by the people, and reveals to her that she is Josef's daughter. Josef also follows Wally, who now rushes to meet Josef in order to thwart Vinzenz's assassination attempt. At the last second, Vinzenz can be prevented from shooting Josef. Josef and Wally hug each other. who, disappointed by the people, has made her way back to the high pasture and reveals to her that she is Josef's daughter. Josef also follows Wally, who now rushes to meet Josef in order to thwart Vinzenz's

- Hans Adalbert Schlettow : Leander Rosenbauer
- Maria Hofen : Mariann, sister of the rose farmers
- Marta Salm : Resi, maid
- Kate Merk : Resi
- Anna Exl : ox landlady
- Hans scratch : village messenger
- Gustav Waldau : Count
- Rolf Pinegger : Mayor
- Franz Ludwig: Chief Forester
- Hans Hanauer : teacher
- Hans Jamnig : 1st servant
- Luis Pedron : 2nd servant
- Thorby Wörndle : 3rd servant
- Sepp Kneisl : 4th servant
- Aloys Kneisl : 5th servant
- Marianne Stemberger : twin sister
- Elfriede Trebo : twin sister
- Franzl Grüner : Guardian Boy

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Production

The Geierwally was filmed from September 6, 1939 in Hafelekar near Innsbruck, at the Berghof Sölden and Längenfeld in Tyrol. On August 2, 1940, the censors issued a youth ban on the film. The film had its premiere on August 13, 1940 in the Rathaus-Lichtspiele in Munich. The premiere in Berlin took place on September 17, 1940 in the Gloria-Palast.

The film was very expensive for the time, costing more than 1.7 million Reichsmarks . The sum was approved because it was intended to honor the patriarchal customs of the mountain farmers. Special emphasis was placed on authenticity, everything had to be coherent. The costs rose rapidly as a result. The scene in which Wally fights the vulture alone, which takes about two minutes in the film, is based on 200 cuts. The vulture came from the Berlebeck eagle station in the Teutoburg Forest. The film was not only a great success in Germany, but also abroad. For Heidemarie Hatheyer, the role was her breakthrough, she became a star overnight, so to speak. The high production costs turned out to be a good investment, the film made a profit of 1.9 million Reichsmarks within 17 months. ^[1]



Berghof (Sölden) , location of the film, original location

Other film adaptations

Wilhelmine von Hillern's novel, written in 1875, was so successful at the time that a play was written based on it. The film also took up the material as early as 1921 and made a silent film with Henny Porten in the title role. In 1956 an Agfacolor film was made with Barbara Rütting as Geierwally. Further film adaptations exist from 1967 and 1988 . Christine Neubauer played Wally in a 2005 film adaptation .

Criticism

For *film-dienst*, *Die Geierwally* was a “mournful peasant drama. The film from 1940 shows traces of the ' blood and soil ' ideology, but with Heidemarie Hatheyer's character portrayal and Richard Angst's captivating landscape photography it has artistic format.” ^[2]

On the occasion of the television screening of a new film adaptation of Hiller's material, *Der Spiegel* wrote: "A woman's offended pride, a hard-hearted father, a maid's malicious cunning, a half-tame bird of prey as a symbol of freedom and coercion - the Nazi film took the novel material from Wilhelmine von Hillern , Published in 1875, don't miss it. Despite the prevailing ideology, the actress Heidemarie Hatheyer created the impressive portrait of a nonconformist woman in 1940.” ^[3]

Cinema also criticized the 'blood and soil' ideology, but praised "Heidemarie Hatheyer and the pictures of camera ace Richard Angst" as "great". The verdict was: "ideologically sensitive, artistically valuable".^[4]

Karlheinz Wendtland wrote in his remarks on this film that Georges Sadoul "in his well-known anti-public attitude described the film as exemplary for the mediocrity of German films under Hitler", "although it was also a great success in France". Wendtland went on to say that Herbert HolbaHeidemarie Hatheyer as follows: "Her harsh, male-active charisma and challenging eroticism made her an exception in German film." who write 'about the house cricket' or believe that at that time there were only films 'that only provided for women to renounce self-realization' ('according to Hembus').^[1]

Awards

Die Geierwally erhielt von der nationalsozialistischen Filmprüfstelle im August 1940 die Prädikate „Künstlerisch wertvoll“ sowie „volkstümlich wertvoll“.

Siehe auch

- Liste der während der NS-Zeit im Deutschen Reich uraufgeführten deutschen Spielfilme

Weblinks

- *Die Geierwally* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032515/>) in der Internet Movie Database (englisch)
- *Die Geierwally* (<https://www.filmportal.de/56f7a7357e834fb8bd7ce6d4756600d9>) bei filmportal.de
- Filmposter "Geierwally" von 1940 (<https://germanfilms.net/index.php/poster-gallery/die-geierwally-1/>) auf germanfilms.net

Einzelnachweise

1. Karlheinz Wendtland: *Geliebter Kintopp. Sämtliche deutsche Spielfilme von 1929–1945 mit zahlreichen Künstlerbiographien. Jahrgang 1939/1940*. 2. Auflage, Verlag Medium Film Karlheinz Wendtland, Berlin 1989, S. 152–153 (Film 48/1940).
2. *Die Geierwally*. (<https://www.filmdienst.de/film/details/14494>) In: *Lexikon des internationalen Films*. Filmdienst, abgerufen am 2. März 2017.
3. *TV-Vorschau: Die Geierwally*. In: *Der Spiegel*, Nr. 1, 2005, S. 64.
4. *The Geierwally*. (<https://www.cinema.de/88971>)In: *cinema* . Retrieved April 21, 2022 .

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