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Water for Canitoga

Water for Canitoga is a 1939 German adventure film directed by Herbert Selpin and starring Hans Albers .

Table of contents

Plot

production notes

reviews

See also

web links

itemizations

Storyline

In the spring of 1905, a long-planned water pipeline project in Canitoga, Canada , is to be brought to a successful conclusion. In the past, acts of sabotage had repeatedly prevented completion. Engineer Captain Oliver Montstuart gives the order for the final blast. But this time, too, someone seems to want to obstruct the work. An explosive charge that is too large sabotages further construction. When Montstuart confronted the foreman Westbrook, he threatened him with a drawn knife. Oliver has to shoot the man in self-defense. In a moment of headlessness, the engineer immediately decides to flee.

One day, the wanted man returns to Canitoga. This time he calls himself NicholSEN and introduces himself to the chief engineer Ingram as a new employee at the construction site. Montstuart alias NicholSEN finally wants to find out who is behind the acts of sabotage that have been committed for years and which did not stop with his escape. He finds out that Ingram is playing a double game and initiating

Movie

original title Water for Canitoga



production country Germany

original language German

Publishing year 1939

length 119 minutes

age rating FSK 16

Rod

directing Herbert Selpin

script Walter Zerlett-Olfenius
edited by Emil Burri and Peter Francke

production Carl W. Tetting for Bavaria Film
, Munich

Music Peter Kreuder

camera Franz Koch
Josef Illig

cut Lena Neumann

occupation

- Hans Albers : Engineer Captain Oliver Montstuart / Civil Engineer NicholSEN

the destructive activities. But Ingram has not been idle either. He has long since found out NicholSEN's true identity. He has NicholSEN's friend Reechy shot as an accomplice and incites the workers against the unwelcome newcomer.

Contrary to expectations, NicholSEN is able to quickly defuse the situation, which is becoming dangerous for him, especially since a new catastrophe threatens to destroy the water pipe. This time, a leak threatens to destroy the entire construction project. Risking his life, NicholSEN closes it, preventing an impending explosion. Montstuart / NicholSEN is finally able to uncover Ingram's conspiracy with the last of his strength. Badly marked by his commitment, Oliver Montstuart achieves his rehabilitation and can complete his life's work, the completion of the water pipe. Then he dies.

Production Notes

The template for this film was a 1936 written stage play by G(eorg). Turner Cancer. The writer Hans José Rehfisch hid behind this pseudonym . The "true, Jewish identity of the original author of this lively adventure story, who was meanwhile ostracized in the Third Reich and officially expatriated on June 16, 1939, was kept secret, as expected." [1]

Filming of *Water for Canitoga* took place between October 1938 and February 1939. Filming locations were Carrara in Italy and Rüdersdorf near Berlin .

With production costs of 1,385,000 Reichsmarks, *Wasser für Canitoga* was one of the most expensive film productions in the German Reich during the National Socialist period .

Wasser für Canitoga premiered in Munich on March 10, 1939 and was rated 'artistically valuable'. The Berlin premiere took place on March 17, 1939 in the Ufa-Palast am Zoo . The film was released for young people aged 14 and over.

Even before the outbreak of war in 1939, the film was also shown in the Netherlands , where it ran continuously from April 1939 into 1940, and in Hungary . In October 1940, *Wasser für Canitoga* had its premiere in German-occupied Denmark .

The Peter Kreuder song *Goodbye Johnny* performed by Hans Albers became a veritable hit, one of the most popular hit films up to 1945. Due to the unmistakable similarities between the GDR national anthem composed by Hanns Eisler and the first bars of the Kreuder hit, its creator spread the

- Charlotte Susa : Lilly
- Josef Sieber : engineer Ingram
- Peter Voss : Chief Engineer Captain Gilbert Trafford
- Hilde Sessak : secretary to Winifred Gardener
- Andrews Engelmann : Ruski
- Karl Dannemann : Dyke
- Hans Mierendorff : Old Shatterhand
- Heinrich Schroth : governor
- Ernst Fritz Fürbringer : Sheriff of Canitoga
- Beppo Brem : demolition expert at the sabotage
- Willy Rösner : Construction worker Reeve
- Carl Wery : Foreman Westbrook
- Heinrich Kalnberg : Demolitionist Reechy
- Katja Bennefeld : street girl on New Year's Eve
- Peter Busse : New Year's Eve party
- Henry Pleß : Foreman at the compressed air center
- Fritz Reiff : Ormand, aide-de-camp to the governor
- Arthur Reinhardt : site worker
- Ernst Rotmund : Director
- Herta de Salvador : barmaid
- Arnulf Schröder : camp doctor
- Bruno Ziener : Professor German
- Louis Brody : Johnny

accusation as early as the 1950s that the GDR and Eisler were guilty of intellectual theft .^[2] The lyrics to Kreuder's *Goodbye Johnny* wrote Hans Fritz Beckmann .

Ludwig Reiber designed the buildings, Willi Depenau and Artur Schwarz executed them. Rudolf Pfenninger was responsible for the technical film tricks.

Reviews

In *Der deutsche Film 1938–1945* one can read: “Water for Canitoga was a typical Hans Albers film. The 'blonde Hans' came Canadian this time. He embodied honest tramp heroism with sloppy self-mockery (sometimes a bit 'too theatrical'): he sacrificed himself for a good cause”.^[3]

The Lexikon des Internationales Films called *Wasser for Canitoga* a "sometimes simplistic sentimental[n] adventure film".^[4]

Kay Weniger's *Between Stage and Baracke* found that *Wasser für Canitoga* , like the *Selpin-Albers collaboration* *Sergeant Berry* that had come out immediately before , was “turbulent and at times ironic, but always exciting action cinema that was clearly based on American models .”^[5]

See also

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

Web Links

- *Water for Canitoga* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032111/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- *Water for Canitoga* (<https://www.filmportal.de/3eb106cbc74a4058b3629b6ba8212545>) at filmportal.de
- *Water for Canitoga* in Murnau-Stiftung.de (<https://web.archive.org/web/20050114192059/http://www.murnau-stiftung.de/de/suchergebnis.asp?ID=971>) (Memento from January 14, 2005 in the Internet Archive)

Itemizations

1. Kay less : *"In life more is taken from you than given..."*. *Encyclopedia of filmmakers who emigrated from Germany and Austria from 1933 to 1945. A general overview*. ACABUS Verlag, Hamburg 2011, ISBN 978-3-86282-049-8 , p. 411.
2. Kay less : *The large person dictionary of the film* . *The actors, directors, cinematographers, producers, composers, screenwriters, film architects, set designers, costume designers, cutters, sound engineers, make-up artists and special effects designers of the 20th century*. Volume 4: *H - L. Botho Höfer - Richard Lester*. Schwarzkopf & Schwarzkopf, Berlin 2001, ISBN 3-89602-340-3 , p. 489.
3. Bogusław Drewniak: *The German Film 1938-1945. A general overview*. Düsseldorf 1987, p. 532.
4. Klaus Brüne (ed.): *Lexicon of International Film*, Volume 9, p. 4204. Reinbek near Hamburg 1987.
5. Less: *Between stage and barracks*. *Encyclopedia of persecuted theatre, film and music artists 1933-1945*, p. 432. Berlin 2008.

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