

Trailer for *Die grosse Liebe* (1942)

Abstract

This feature film, directed by Rolf Hansen and starring the singer/actor Zarah Leander, opened in 1942 and was the National Socialist period's most popular movie, with an estimated 27 million tickets sold. As can be gleaned from the movie's trailer, shown here, the story follows two star-crossed lovers during the war. Hannah Holberg, played by Leander, is an entertainer who meets the German fighter pilot, Paul Wendlandt; it is love at first sight. But his duty to country and Führer, and her need to bring joy to audiences during the war, means that the two are continually thwarted in their attempts to be together. Eventually, after he is shot down on the eastern front, they reunite, and the film ends on a hopeful note, as they dream of their future together. For audiences, the film was an escape that offered a vision of love triumphing over adversity. Perseverance and steadfast loyalty were virtues that would sustain the nation through crisis. The beautiful sets, romantic music, and dramatic story made for great entertainment, including the two famous songs performed by Zarah Leander, "Davon geht die Welt nicht unter" [This is not the end of the world] and "Ich weiß es wird einmal ein Wunder geschehn" [I know a miracle will happen]. Film production in Nazi Germany continued throughout most of the war, and audiences eagerly attended the more than 8,000 movie theaters across Germany and its occupied territories.

Source

Source: *Die grosse Liebe*, 1942. Trailer, b/w, dir. Rolf Hansen. Internet Archive

Recommended Citation: Trailer for *Die grosse Liebe* (1942), published in: German History in Documents and Images,
<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/nazi-germany-1933-1945/ghdi:video-5021>> [May 18, 2024].