

## Two Movies

Current paper compares two movies, which are, no doubt, both masterpieces of film industries, and analyzing them is a hard task. The emotions and impressions left by watching any one of them are very deep. Both masterpieces have something in common, but at the same time, many aspects are very different. Almost a century separates them from each other.

In the year 1930, *The Blue Angel* was shot, starring Marlene Dietrich and Emil Jannings. However, this movie should not be confused with its remake, shot in the year 1959, and starring May Britt and Curt Jurgens. The 1930 version had both its German and English versions, and the director of the film was Josef von Sternberg. The producer was Erich Pommer, the music for the picture was written by Friedrich Hollaender. On April 1, 1930, this picture was released in Germany, while the American première was dated on December 5, 1930. This film is the first significant sound film of Germany (Bordwell and Thompson). Interestingly enough, both English and German versions were shot at the same time. However, the English one was believed to be lost for a number of years.

The main character of the movie, Immanuel Rath, is a teacher at a gymnasium, which prepares high school children to enter colleges. He catches a few of his students at exchanging photos of a beautiful girl - Lola-Lola, a headline singer at a local cabaret. He punishes them, and one day he thinks that it may not be a bad idea to catch them in the act of watching her. Immanuel Rath goes to the cabaret and, without meeting his students, he meets Lola herself and becomes obsessed with desire for her. He comes back next evening and they spend that night together.

After that wonderful night, he is, of course, late for his classes and comes back to school to find his class in chaos and his principal furious and angry with his behavior. He gets fired and

leaves his work happily, since he is about to marry Lola. His savings last them for a short, and then he has to look for job, and ends up being a clown in Lola's troupe. Besides, he becomes jealous of Lola, he hates the idea of her being a woman for everyone. Therefore, soon, the main character finds his wife in the arms of a big man, and sees them kissing. He is out of his mind with anger and frustration, and that is when he tries to take her away from her new love, but is beaten up. Beaten up and unhappy, during the night, he returns to this classroom to meet death near the desk, at which he used to teach not so long before.

It is important to know, that Nazi Germany forbid the movie three years after its release in 1933. That was, probably, because all the works of Heinrich Mann and Carl Zuckmayer were banned at that time. Besides, there were numerous stages of adaptation.

The movie is a brilliant example of a tragedy, since we find the main character experience a personal disaster in the end of the picture. What makes this movie even more outstanding is the fact, that it was the first Germany's sound movie. In the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, little was known about the techniques of shooting films; the equipment was not all that great, the options, provided by editing were very limited, and that is why the talent of the main characters and other people involved was extremely important. In fact, Milene Dietrich was indeed a talented person, an outstanding actress, who walked ahead of her time, showing example for the others.

Although *Charlie St. Cloud* is also a tragedy, but it is quite a different story. This movie was shot 80 years later, with much more professional equipment, in the world, where cinematograph was already fully developed. The movie, directed by Bur Steers and starring Zac Efron had yet another advantage: it was shot based on the bestselling novel, written by Ben Sherwood. Universal Pictures were distributing the movie and a number of brilliant and well-known actors were involved in the picture, and that alone could guarantee the success to the

picture. Of course, there was a disadvantage, when comparing with *The Blue Angel* - the competition in the film industry of Germany in 1930 cannot be compared to the competition in the film industry of global market in 2010. The categories are so different, that even the thought of such a comparison is ridiculous.

Despite the competition, the film did make its way up the Olympus of cinematographic glory. The movie is a typical melodrama, where the life of the major character changes from the good to worse and then to good again. The story starts with Charlie (the main character) being a sailor. He is a promising guy, he finishes educational establishments with honors and his career seems to be quite promising. However, one night Charlie has to stay with his junior brother Sam to look after him, while his mother is busy working. Charlie wants to go to a party, which is held that very day, and he wants it badly. Nonetheless, there is no way to escape. Then, Sam starts asking him to bring him over to one of his friends, makes complements about Charlie's car, and he gives in and takes his little brother for a ride. On their way, they get into a horrible accident. It is worthwhile mentioning, that a tad earlier Charlie had promised to Sam that they would practice basketball every day. The death of his brother makes Charlie almost insane. At his brother's funeral, he runs away to the forest, until he finds out, that he in some way got in touch with Sam's spirit. And one way or another, but they can interact on the physical level. That is a great relief for Charlie. Now he practices basketball every day with his little brother. He leaves his studies and becomes a caretaker at the cemetery. He later meets a girl, her name is Tess, and she is set to travel around the world. Some time later he meets her again. That is at the cemetery. The girl is all upset at her father's grave. Charlie takes her home and they start dating. Due to that, Charlie becomes more engaged with his new girl friend, and Sam feels, that he is being taken away from the reality, since he begins to disappear from Charlie's memory. Tess gets to

know about Charlie's story and that the more he is in her world, the less he is in Sam's world. She sails away one night, and it is believed that she experiences a crash and dies. Charlie sees an image of him playing with her, just the way they did with his brother. He realizes that it is not the other world, that she is alive and sends him a message to come save her. Charlie travels to search for Tess, and Sam, having become a star, showing him the way. At the end, he does find her lying on a rock, and he holds her in his arms, keeping her warm, until a coastguard finds them both and they are taken to the hospital.

The two reunite, Charlie goes back to the forest to say good bye to his brother, and Sam does set him free. Charlie and Tess are now happy together. They both take off for a round-the-world sail.

The movie was negatively accepted by the critics, and it had a 24 rating on the review source named "Rotten Tomatoes". However, there were positive feedbacks as well. It was Aaron Hills who gave quite positive appraisal. The movie, maybe, lacks some complexity, it does not deal with very important and serious issues, as well as it is naïve in a way. From another perspective, it is childishly nice and frank; it is played honestly. That is the movie's biggest value. It leaves warm feelings and thus makes the whole world better.

In general, both movies are worthwhile watching and without any doubt, they belong to the number of movies, which can be recommended to everybody to watch.