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Versois, Odile (1930-1980), Paris, France

Film Subjects Herrscher ohne Krone (King in shadow), Braun, Harald, 1957

International Stars in a Drama of Passion & Intrigue! ODILE VERSOIS O.W. FISCHER HORST BUCHHOLZ IN EASTMAN COLOUR A BAVARIA FILMKUNST PRODUCTION Distributed by BRITISH LION FILMS **BRITISH LION** CAMPAIGN BOOK



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Pictured above are international stars (from left) O. W. Fischer, Horst Buchholz and lovely Odile Versois in a scene from the exciting and dramatic "KING IN SHADOW" currently playing at the cinema. The film is in Eastman Colour.

THE PLAYERS

Friedrich Struensee	O. W. Fischer
Queen Mathilde	Odile Versois
King Christian	
State-Minister Graf Bernstorff	
General Count Rantzau	Fritz Tillman
Queen Mother Juliane Elisa	beth Flickenschildt
Chamberlain Guldberg	Siegfried Lowitz
Gertrud von Eyben	. Ingeborg Schöner
Baron Enevied Brandt	Wilfried-Jan Heyn
Count Holck, Chamberlain	Helmuth Lohner
Court Physician Dr. Berger	Gerhard Ritter
Court Chaplain Munter	Peter Esser

TECHNICIANS

Produced by	GEORG RICHTER
Directed by	HARALD BRAUN
Adapted from the novel "The Queen's	
Favourite" by	ROBERT NEUMANN
	GORAN STRINDBERG
	WALTER HAAG
	WERNER EISBRENNER
Colour Consultant ALV	ORD ESTERSON EISEMAN
	HERBERT PLOBERGER
English Adaptation by	WILLIAM DE LANE LEA
Dialogue	NINA MAGUIRE
	MARIA MORUZZI
	R.C.A.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Length 7,027 feet
Certificate 'A'. Reg. No. F.24864
Running Time 78 minutes

KING IN SHADOW

THE STORY

The Danish coast was grey and murky when Dr. Struensee, a renowned brain specialist, reached Friederiksborg Castle, Copenhagen, to give his opinion on King Christian's mental condition.

Christian had been a degenerate and spiritually weak child. Since ascending the Danish throne his step-mother, Queen Juliane, had endeavoured to pronounce him incapable of reigning so as to put her own son in his place.

Struensee's opinion was to be the deciding factor.

When Struensee met him, Christian was 19, a lonely, characterless man. Because of his brutal nature his English wife, Mathilde, had left him soon after their marriage.

Struensee's verdict was a shock to the court. King Christian, he said, was in the best of health, and only excess sensitivity disturbed his spiritual well-being and caused his mental depression.

Under Struensee's psychological treatment Christian's condition improved and his self-reliance and sense of royalty strengthened. Struensee's final success was to bring the Queen back to Christian.

A new, happy era began, and Struensee became the most powerful man in Denmark. But at the climax of his career adultery with the Queen led to his downfall.

For Struensee and Queen Mathilde it had been love at first sight.

Only the King, among members of the court, had been unaware of the adulterous relationship, until his wife bore a daughter with Struensee's birthmark—like a cat's claw.

Christian was persuaded by Struensee's enemies to sign an order for the doctor's arrest. But, having done so, the King broke down and became incurably mad.

The end came swiftly. Mathilde and Dr. Struensee were sentenced to

Mathilde, given a chance to save her life by leaving the country, would agree only if Struensee were allowed to go with her.

Lying to save her life, Struensee promised to meet the Queen next

morning on the frigate which would take them to England.

At dawn, however, whilst the unsuspecting Mathilde boarded the ship, tolling bells announced her lover's execution.

Alone, the Queen sailed into the unfriendly cold morning towards her native country.

K.S.2 8',A moment of fear for Odile Versois
and O. W. Fischer in this scene
from the powerful drama 'KING
IN SHADOW' which is in Eastman Colour and also stars Horst
Buchholz.

BIG INTERNATIONAL STARS IN "KING IN SHADOW"

(Advance Review)

Vivid historical events of the mid-18th century are romantically brought to pulsating life in the new release "KING IN SHADOW," coming to the Cinema fordays. The young King Christian VII of Denmark is said to be mad by his scheming stepmother, Queen Juliane, but a renowned brain specialist, Doctor Struensee, causes consternation at court by pronouncing Christian fit to rule. Struensee becomes the youthful monarch's friend and adviser, later being appointed Prime Minister. With his new rights, Struensee becomes the most powerful man in Denmark but, by carrying on an adulterous affair with Queen Mathilde, Christian's wife, the monarch gives way to court

pressure and has his erstwhile friend arrested. At dawn, Mathilde sails into exile for her native England, tricked into leaving her lover, Struensee, to die.

One of the most sparkling galaxies of international box-office stars ever assembled in a motion picture interpret this poignant real-life drama. O. W. Fischer will assuredly win many new followers as the dashing Doctor Friedrich Struensee, with lovely French star Odile Versois as the woman he loves, Queen Mathilde. The European idol, 25-year-old Horst Buchholz, who has a tremendous following among the youth of the Continent, gains sympathy as the perplexed young King Christian. For Horst, an equally large legion of British admirers will be guaranteed by this big-scale romance, photographed in attractive Eastman Colour. A resourceful supporting cast, and magnificent settings make "KING IN SHADOW" an historical treat which you simply cannot afford to miss.



K.S.3

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ODILE VERSOIS

(Biography)

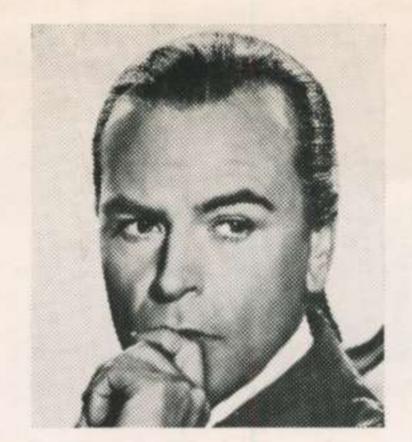
Lovely Odile Versois, now in real life a French Comtesse, has one of the most colourful backgrounds of any international cinema star. Of Russian-Swedish parentage, her real name is Katiana de Poliakoff-Baidaroff, and she was born in Paris, France, on 14th June, 1930. Her opera-singer father was married to a former ballet star known as Madame de Poliakoff. Odile is the second child of a family of four. Her sisters, Olga and Militza, are also connected with the stage, using the names of Olga Vernay and Helene Vallier. A younger sister, Marina Vlady, is a screen star in her own right. married to the famous French writer-director Robert ("Rififi") Hossein. Together, these two famous sisters recently made the French picture, "C'est toi le Venin" (The Night Is Not For Sleep).

Odile spent ten years of her young life dancing with the ballet of the Paris Opera. She found film fame at sixteen when Roger Leenhardt picked her to appear in "Les Dernieres Vacances" (Last Holidays), a rewarding role which won her the coveted Suzanne-Bianchetti Award as the best young actress of that year. Since then, the talented Odile has gone on from film to film in France, Italy, Spain, Britain and Germany with amazing success.

Her films include: "Into The Blue"; "A Day to Remember"; "The Young Lovers"; "To Paris With Love"; "Checkpoint" and "Passport to Shame."

In private life, Odile, who has venetian blonde hair with light grey-green eyes, numbers dancing, riding and swimming foremost of her hobbies. She married French producer Jacques Dacqmine in March, 1951, but this marriage ended in divorce. In 1953, she wed Francois Pozzo di Borgo, a Corsican nobleman. She has three children: daughter Barbara, born October, 1953; and two sons, Charles Andre, born 1955, and a second boy, born in 1957. Odile and her engineer-Count husband have a magnificent mansion in Paris; a chateau in the country and a villa in Corsica.

Now Odile Versois can be seen by British cinemagoers in "KING IN SHADOW" in which she plays history's "Queen of Tears," Caroline Mathilde, German-born Princess of Britain, Queen of Denmark and Norway.



K.S.4

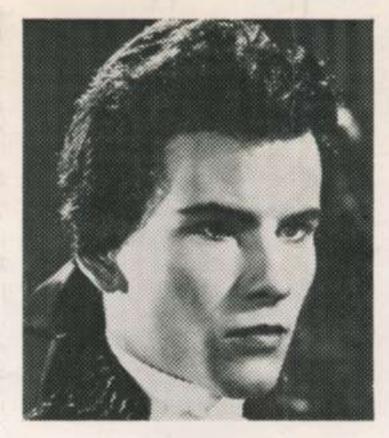
O. W. FISCHER

(Biography)

Top German screen star O. W. Fischer (the initials are for Otto Wilhelm), was born in Vienna on April 1st, 1915. As a young man he studied philosophy; then came the "about turn" in his career when he became a pupil at the famous acting school Reinhardt-Seminar, Vienna, His tremendous talent was soon recognised and the following year he made an impressive debut on the stage of the Wiener Theatre de Josefstadt. Then he transferred to Falckenberg, in Munich, later going to the Vienna Volkstheater and, in 1946, he reached the heights of the Burgtheater, Vienna. He was by now a truly established stage actor. He entered into a film career in 1938 and since 1945 his popularity has increased with each new film. Starting with comparatively minor screen roles, he is now a top idol of the Continental screen. He left the Burgtheater in 1952, and his cinematic portrayals have included "Heidelberger Romanze" (Love Stories from Heidelberg); "Der Träumende Mund" (The Dreaming Lips); "Tagebuch einer Verliebten" (The Diary of a Lover); "Ein Herz Spielt Falsch" (A Heart Plays False); "So Lange Du da Bist" (As Long As You Are Here); "Ludwig II"; "Hanussen"; "Ich suche Dich" (I Seek Thee); "Mein Vater, der Schauspieler" (My Father, the Actor); "Scandal in Ischl"; "El Hakim"; "Peter Voss — der Millionen Dieb " (Peter Voss - the Millionaire Thief). Last year he made "Whirlpool" in Britain.

He has been seen in more than thirty important films and was invited to go to Hollywood to play in Universal-International's "My Man Godfrey," but he rejected the offer and the film was made by David Niven. "O.W.," as he is known to his acquaintances, is passionately fond of cats, and it is not therefore surprising to learn that his large mansion near Munich is known as "Katzenschloss" ("Cat's Castle").

O. W. Fischer masterfully interprets the leading role of the Danish reformer, Doctor Friedrich Struenseen, in "KING IN SHADOW," an intriguing drama in Eastman Colour.



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HORST BUCHHOLZ

(Biography)

The son of a shoemaker in East Berlin, Horst Buchholz, currently appearing in "KING IN SHADOW," was born on December 4th, 1933. He attended High School in East Berlin. His stage debut came in Berlin in 1950. when he was a student at Marliesa Ludwig's Actors' Studios. started as an "extra," then graduated to bigger roles, and he has now played on practically all the Berlin stages. Following four years' experience in the theatre, he was discovered for films by Julien Duvivier, who starred him in "Marianne, meine Jugendliebe" (Marianne, My First Love). His second picture won for Horst the coveted German "Oscar." His next films were: "Himmel ohne Sterne" (Sky Without Stars); "Regine"; "Die Halbstarken" (Teddy Boys); "Robinson soll night Sterben" (Robinson Shall Not Die); "Hochstapler Krull" (Confessions of Felix Krull, the Swindler); "Monpti"; "Wet Asphalt"; "Resurrection" and "Endstation Liebe" (Terminus Love), shown so successfully at the 1958 Edinburgh International Film Festival.

On the personal side, handsome Horst is dark, stands 5ft. 10in. in height, weighs 140lbs., and is a lover of jazz music. He revealed, during his stay in Britain, that he would very much like to appear in a film musical, in addition to his ambitions to play not only "Romeo," but also "Don Carlos." It has taken him only the short space of three-and-a-half years to reach his present elevated position as a screen heart-throb.

Horst, a Sagittarian, regards December, his birthday month, as being lucky for him, so it is hardly surprising to learn that in December, 1958, he married lovely French actress Miriam Bru at Caxton Hall.

He has appeared in only one British film, "Tiger Bay", made in 1958. His latest German production is entitled "The Death Ship".

Horst Buchholz recently starred on Broadway opposite famous American actress Kim Stanley in "Cherie". He has made 12 German movies and one English since his screen debut in 1955. He will soon make his first Hollywood film.

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