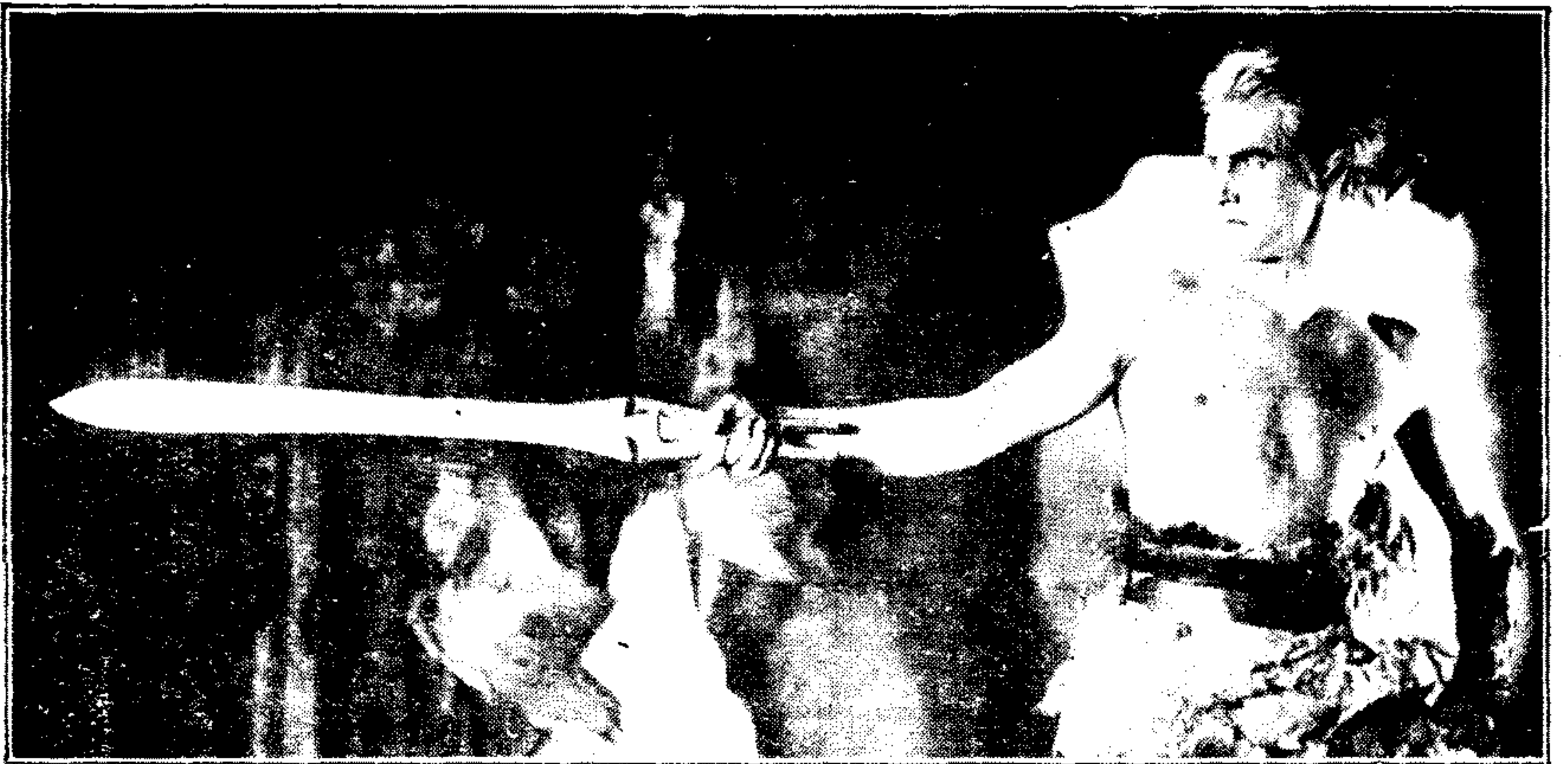


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"SIEGFRIED"

A MUSIC-PHOTOGRAMMA

WITH WAGNER'S IMMORTAL SCORE

PAUL STEINDORFF, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Produced by

Universum-Film Aktien-Gesellschaft



CAPITOL THEATRE

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

C O A S T M A N A G E M E N T :

CONTINENTAL FEATURE FILM CORPORATION

HENRY F. BUDDE, PRES. AND GEN'L MANAGER


SIEGFRIED

Directed by Fritz Lang

Photographed by Carl Hoffmann

THE CAST

Siegfried	Paul Richter
Kriemhild	Margarete Schoen
Brunhilde	Hanna Ralph
King Gunther	Theodor Loos
Hagen Tronje	Hans Schlettow

 DEEP in Woden Wood in a cave, overshadowed by trees centuries old, is Mime's blacksmith shop. Mime, past master in the craft of forging swords, is renowned in all the kingdoms of Europe. Siegfried, the only son of King Siegmund of the Netherlands, has been entrusted to him, to learn the trade of an armorer and, during his boyhood years, Mime and his uncouth helpers are his only companions.

Ere long the boy has grown into a youth. With an envious eye Mime watches the tall and powerful young man hammering a sword for himself. So powerful is the blade that it cleaves the anvil on which it was fashioned. So sharp is young Siegfried's sword that a feather wafted in air is cut in two as it descends. Mime, the master, dismisses his young pupil: "Fare thee well, Siegfried, son of King Siegmund. No more can I teach thee."

Eagerly Siegfried girds on his sword and leaves the blacksmith's cave to mount his horse and return home. Just then, one of Mime's helpers is telling his comrades a story which proves of interest to the young hero. The man, while preparing fish for dinner, tells of Kriemhild, princess of Burgundy, of her brother, King Gunther in towering castle on the Rhine. He praises the chastity and the beauty of Kriemhild and the rigid ceremony at the King's castle. When the uncouth blacksmith mentions Kriemhild's name his entire expression changes and he appears to be speaking of a living saint.

"I shall go to Burgundy to win Kriemhild," Siegfried, the eagerly listening youth, exclaims. A volley of laughter on the part of Mime's men is the answer. Siegfried, in a fury, would choke the worst of his tormentors but Mime interferes. Mime declares he will show Siegfried the road to Burgundy, and he leads the young adventurer to a shorter path through the old forest. The ground is still damp after a thunderstorm. Mime shows Siegfried the road to Burgundy and the latter takes his departure, joyfully stroking the mane of his white horse.

When Siegfried is out of sight, Mime, jealous old master, sneers: "Farewell, Siegfried. Never will you arrive at Burgundy." For Mime, the personification of envy, knows only too well, that Siegfried, in pursuing the road shown him, must encounter the fearful Fafnir, giant in the guise of a tremendous and terrible fire-spitting dragon.

In the evening Siegfried comes upon the dragon who is discovered lazily swaying his huge head quenching his thirst in a shaded pool. Siegfried stealthily approaches the dragon and without sense of fear valiantly attacks the fiery beast with his invincible sword. A great battle ensues and the dragon is finally struck to death. A drop of the beast's blood falls on Siegfried's hand. The young warrior puts it to his lips and at once understands the language of the birds which in the trees above him advise him to bathe his body in the blood of the slain dragon, so that he will become invulnerable.

Siegfried follows the advice of the small songsters and leaps into the pool. With a last twitch of his tail the dying dragon shakes a tree, dislodging a trembling leaf, which flutters to rest on Siegfried's left shoulder. The blood fails to touch this spot. It is the "Achilles heel" of Siegfried, the vulnerable spot.

Volker, poet and minstrel, comes to the court and sings the song of Siegfried and the dragon. In his audience are Ute, mother of King Gunther, and Kriemhild, her enchanting daughter. Volker, wizard of minstrelsy sings of how Siegfried, after slaying the dragon, captured the treasure of the Nibelungen from Alberich, king of the dwarfs, and overpowered twelve kings, making them vassals.

While still singing Siegfried's praises, the warders at the drawbridge announce the arrival of the very hero of Volker's song; Siegfried is at the portals of Burgundy. Hagen Tronje, uncle and most faithful of King Gunther's men warns the latter not to admit the young hero. Hagen knows but battle and strife. He is the only one at court who still wears the costume of his forefathers. Siegfried, the invincible, he says, would be a dangerous man to have as guest.

But gallant Volker gives different advice and King Gunther bids welcome to Siegfried in the name of the Kings of Burgundy.

Standing behind the curtains, Kriemhild watches the entry of Siegfried and his followers. She finds him fair and bold. Kriemhild adorns herself with crown and regal purple to bid welcome to the young king and adventurer.

The reception, however, is all but peaceful. Siegfried frankly and openly states that he came to make Kriemhild his wife. The answer, given by King Gunther after considerable meditation, is that Kriemhild is to become Siegfried's consort only under one condition: Siegfried is to become a vassal of Gunther and accompany the latter to Iceland, to the castle of Brunhilde. This castle is guarded against intruders by a lake of flames. Brunhilde, strongest woman on earth, has announced that she will not marry unless her suitor proves superior to her in arms.

Scornfully Siegfried, the hero who has made twelve kings his vassals, refuses to become a servant of another king. The blades are flying from their scabbards when Kriemhild, surrounded by her women, enters to offer a cup as welcome to Siegfried. When Siegfried sees the beautiful Kriemhild, his pride leaves him and he declares himself ready to go to Iceland to overpower Brunhilde and win Kriemhild for himself.

Siegfried is in possession of Alberich's magic cap. This cap makes him invisible and empowers him to appear in any form he chooses. He appears as King Gunther and, in this form, Siegfried overpowers Brunhilde. King Gunther brings the conquered maiden to Burgundy as his bride. A double wedding takes place between Gunther and Brunhilde and Siegfried and Kriemhild. But Brunhilde is suffering mental agonies. She is in despair to think that she has been conquered and is also in despair at Gunther, the man she believes has conquered her. Hagen knows very well that Brunhilde will never acknowledge Gunther as her husband unless she is subdued.

Knowing that in the meantime Siegfried and Gunther have sworn brotherhood in blood, Hagen persuades Siegfried to once again make himself invisible and subdue Gunther's young queen. But during the struggle a golden armlet remains in Siegfried's hands. Siegfried conceals the armlet in his cloak and, happy to be united with Kriemhild, gives no more thought to the matter.

On the very day when the Nibelungen treasure—Siegfried's gift to his bride—arrives, Kriemhild finds the armlet, places it on her arm and, when she extends her hand to greet Siegfried, he recognizes the armlet. Dreading the worst, Siegfried tells his wife the entire history of the bracelet and asks her to swear never to tell any living being what she has just heard.

Brunhilde, who secretly hates Kriemhild as much as she loves Siegfried, through jealousy of Kriemhild, provokes a controversy when they are entering

the portal of the cathedral. She demands as Burgundy's queen to enter the cathedral before Kriemhild since, as she sneers, Kriemhild's husband is but a vassal of King Gunther. Kriemhild, losing her reason, hastily draws Brunhilde's bracelet from her dress and shows it to her adversary, thus proving that it was Siegfried, Kriemhild's husband, who overpowered the haughty Brunhilde three times, only to make her a present to the weak King Gunther.

Raving with ire and shame, Brunhilde rushes to Gunther demanding Siegfried's death. But King Gunther refuses her the life of his brother-by-blood. Then Brunhilde takes refuge in a lie; she claims that while taking the bracelet from her arm Siegfried took from her the sacred privilege that should have been reserved for her husband. Gunther believes her and, in despondency, orders Siegfried to be killed during the forthcoming hunt. Hagen undertakes to gain from Kriemhild the secret of Siegfried's only vulnerable spot. Kriemhild in happy ignorance, sews a silken cross in the very spot on her husband's garment. Hagen's spear pierces Siegfried's back.

When Gunther carries the news of Siegfried's death to Brunhilde, the woman, with an insane laugh, admits that she has been lying and that Siegfried went to his early grave an innocent man. Gunther flees from his wife and hurries to Kriemhild, who has found her husband dead in the palace. When Hagen enters the room Siegfried's wound commences to bleed again. Thus Kriemhild learns who killed her husband. She demands from her brother Gunther the head of Hagen as revenge for the death of her husband. But Gunther and his entire clan protect Hagen. Then Kriemhild severs connections with her family, saying: "Even if thou hidest behind thy clansmen, even if thou hidest on God's altars, Hagen Tronje, even if thou hidest at the end of the world, thou shalt not escape the arm of my vengeance."

Kriemhild turns back on her brother and goes to the cathedral where Siegfried's body is lying in state. At the feet of Siegfried, Kriemhild finds the lifeless form of Brunhilde, who has killed herself at the bier of her victim. Like two stone figures of a monument, two women, one dark, one fair, hold the death watch over the earthly remains of the man they both loved.

In Valhalla the Gods prepare for Siegfried's arrival and make room for him in their midst.

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