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Kriemhild's Revenge

(GERMAN MADE)

UFA production with all-German cast. Fritz Lang, director. Photography by Carl Hoffman and Gunther Rittau. At 15th St. Playhouse, New York, week Oct. 12. Running time about 90 minutes.

This sequel to "Siegfried," also German-made and shown in this country in 1925, probably will stand as an artistic success and b.o. zero. "Siegfried" made no money and "Kriemhild" is not even as good a picture.

The former was based on the Nibelungenlied, the ancient German folk legend of how young Siegfried, son of Siegmund, the Wise, won the beautiful Kriemhild, and was then murdered at the wish of the designing Brunhilde. "Kriemhild's Revenge" is a partial rehash and follow-up.

In the latter the formerly beautiful Kriemhild is not so comely, ~~physically~~ as well as mentally overcome with the desire for vengeance. To advance her purpose Kriemhild weds the distorted Attila, King of the Huns. As queen of that domain she avenges the death of her beloved Siegfried, but not without herself meeting death in the end.

Another reason why Kriemhild is not so nice to look at as previously is that she is played by another and not so pretty a blond-wigged lady. The Kriemhild of "Kriemhild's Revenge" is appallingly masculine and not at all the beautiful maiden of the Siegfried picture.

In this film there is little or no action until Kriemhild departs for the land of the Huns. Opening sequences are the closing portions of "Siegfried," from the death scene in that film on. Out of all that comes nothing but a remembrance of much mugging, and all the same kind of mugging.

In the later battle scene there are more men slain than, perhaps, in any motion picture ever produced.

The typical fantastic settings are notable and look like a lot of money. If getting over on this side, it will be a miracle, but if the picture does, all credit should go to the scenery.

A rather bothersome contribution by its U. S. importers is the double set of titles, English and German. Both occupy the screen at once, one on top of the other with a line dividing. Where the titles are lengthy the two translations are flashed individually, German first. Little reason for this at the 55th St., but where shown to Germans exclusively the picture may sell itself with German titles only.

Running time of an hour and a half would make necessary cutting "Kriemhild" in about half for average program use. With its present overabundance of slow motion and overly written sub-titles it would be a better picture than now if cut to 15 or 20 minutes. The battle stuff, in short subject form, would make it playable.

Nothing in it for exhibitors in its present shape. Bigo.