

Brennendes Geheimnis

("Burning Secret")

Germany : 1933 : dir. Robert Siodmak

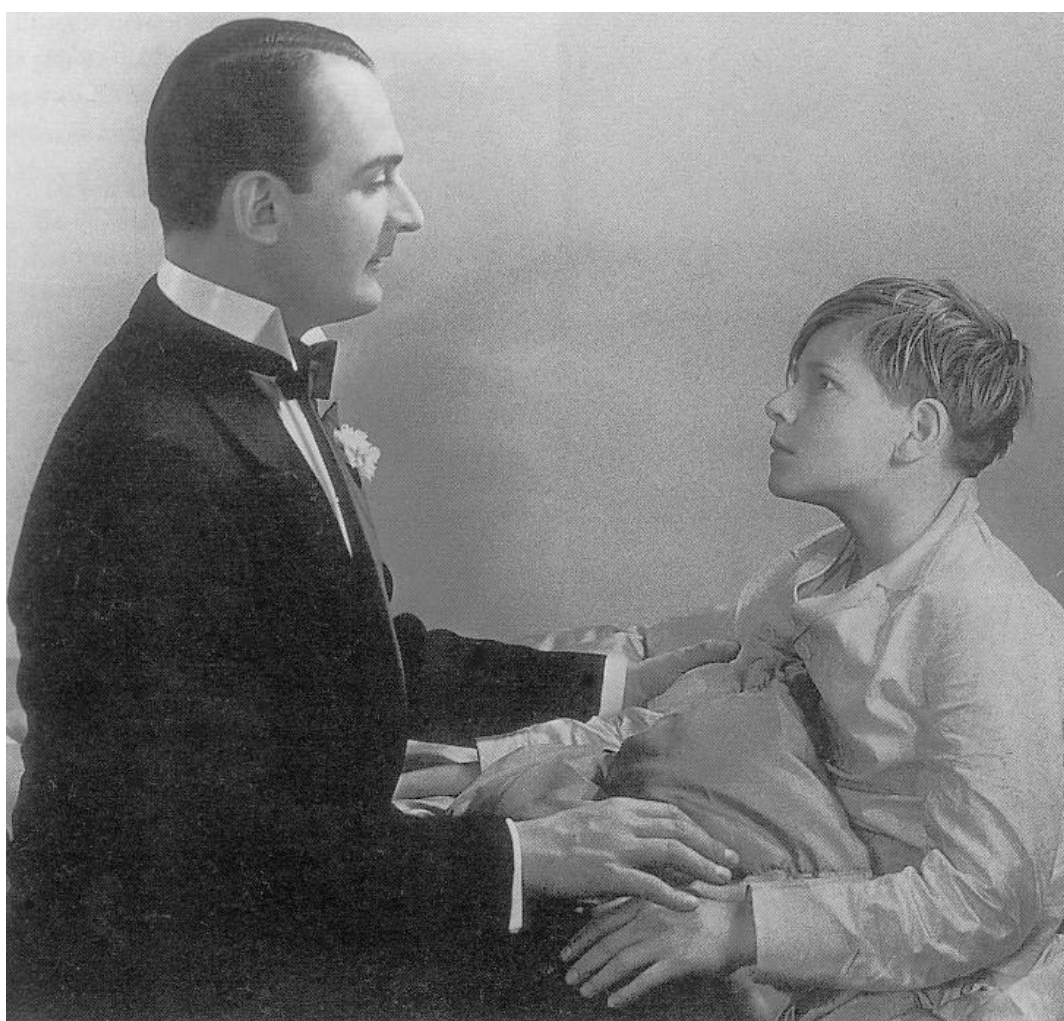
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[Hans Joachim Schaufuss](#); [Hans Richter](#).....

Willi Forst; Hilde Wagner; Alfred Abel; Lucie Höflich

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Willi Forst and Hans Joachim Schaufuss – Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“A mother threatens to succumb to the charms of a baron, but her thirteen-year old son saves her marriage. A delicate adaptation of a novella by Stefan Zweig with a splendid performance by Forst as the baron. *** ”

NFT Bulletin – December 82 – review:

“A valuable discovery from Siodmak's first German period, this is a beautifully-crafted marital drama, atmospherically set in an off-season Swiss hotel, concerning the elegant wife of a lawyer who is pursued by a randy

racing driver (Willi Forst), but the real emphasis is on the troubled reactions of the wife's young son. Adapted from a Stefan Zweig story, its psychological fusion of story and setting is effortlessly achieved; if you missed it first time, catch it now. Germany 1933. Dir Robert Siodmak”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Schaufuss:

“Three months before the charming hero of the 1931 **“EMIL UND DIE DETEKTIVE“** was shot down over Ireland, Emil's ally and fixer, Gustav with the hom, had fallen on the Eastern front. Hitler was proving an effective Herod for these innocents.

Hans Joachim was the son of the well-known actor Hans Hermann Schaufuss (1893-1982): both of them appear in *Die Tochter Ihrer Exzellenz*. The boy, small for his age, had an earnest, intelligent, faintly dishevelled air which was very endearing. He could play comedy and quite intense drama. (He's superb as the son used by a seducer to approach his mother in *Brennendes Geheimnis*.) And he could bustle and organise as he did in *Emil*.

Schaufuss continued to act until 1939, and would surely have made a fine career. Like poor Rolf Wenkhaus, he deserved better than such a useless death.”



Source: NFT Bulletin

No further information currently available.

Schaufuss was 14. His other films included **“WAS SAGT ONKEL EMIL DAZU”** ('32 = “What Does Uncle Emil Say About it?”), **“DER WEISSE DÄMON”** ('32 = “White Demon”) and **“DER ZAREWITSCH”** ('33 = “The Tsarevitch”). He was killed 27/10/41 at Mikhailovska, aged 22. Whether by that stage he was quite the “innocent” Holmstrom assumes we shall never know. Not all of Hitler's armies were dragooned into fighting, and not all of the atrocities committed in Russia were at the behest of the high command. Hans Richter, also 14, survived the war to become a comedian. Holmstrom lists 18 films for him, chief among them **“EMIL UND DIE DETEKTIVE”** in 1931, again with Schaufuss, and **“HITLERJUNGE QUEX”** – among the most strident of Nazi propaganda features – in 1933, where he played the despicable communist boy at odds with the valiant Hitlerjugend.

Stefan Zweig's short story had already been filmed as a silent – **“MUTTER, DEIN KIND RUFT”** – in '23, was remade for TV in '75 with Tommy Ohrner, and again as **“BURNING SECRET”** IN '88, with David Eberts. The plot, not surprisingly, failed to resonate with audiences (or critics) in the eighties.

See subject index under **MATCHMAKERS / MATCHBREAKERS** and possibly **HOSPITALS / SICK CHILDREN**.