



Film

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THE PRESIDENT

Carl Th. Dreyer, Denmark, 1919

89 min. | DK/Feature | Drama, Melodrama, Historical drama | Silent films



An eminent judge is brought face to face with a youthful peccadillo when he recognises as none other than his illegitimate daughter a young woman accused of murdering her illegitimate child, fruit of a similar lapse with a young squire of the manor. The girl does not deny responsibility for the child's death (though there are extenuating circumstances), and since the judge's family motto is "The majesty of justice is the most holy thing on Earth", she is duly condemned to death. After much heart-searching however - he has just been honoured with promotion and faces ruin if he interferes - the judge helps his daughter to escape after all official appeals fail. Three years later, after travelling abroad, he marries her off to a nice young man who loves her; attempts to expiate his sin against justice by confessing his part in the escape, but is told to keep quiet or his daughter will suffer; and chooses the only way out by retiring to the ruins of his ancestral mansion to commit suicide. (Excerpt from "The Cinema of Carl Dreyer", 1971, by Tom Milne).

Basic information

Credits

Materials

Original title	Præsidenten
Danish title	Præsidenten
International titles	Der Präsident, Le président, El presidente, Presidenten, Vaterherz
Director	Carl Th. Dreyer
Screenplay	Carl Th. Dreyer
Based on	Efter roman af Karl Emil Franzos, udgivet på dansk i 1883.
Director of Photography	Hans Waagø
Production designer	Jens G. Lind
Appearance	Halvard Hoff , Elith Pio , Carl Meyer , Jacoba Jessen
Production country	Denmark
Domestic distribution	Fotorama
Technical info	1673 meter, 35 mm, 1,33:1, Black/white, Silent
Danish theatrical release	09.02.1920
Cinemas	Panoptikon Urpremiere i Sverige 3. februar 1919.
Danish rating	Allowed for all



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