



Film

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# THE FLAMING SWORD

August Blom, Denmark, 1916



73 min. | DK/Feature | Drama, Melodrama, Action | Silent films



A mine foreman has two daughters, the fair Edith and the dark Dina. Edith falls in love with the ship's mate Reymers, while Dina runs away with the unscrupulous capitalist Stoll. When the rumor spreads that a comet is on a collision course with Earth, Stoll exploits the situation to make a killing on the stock market. On the eve of the comet's impact, Stoll gathers his friends for a great orgy, but enraged workers storm his grand villa, egged on by Dina's jilted ex-fiance. He, Stoll and Dina all perish. Fire rains down from the sky, and the seas flood the land. The Earth is laid waste. Only two survive: Edith and Reymers, and the film ends with their miraculous reunion. Inspired by the fear evoked by Halley's comet in 1910, this film was clearly addressed to a public in an age of war where the old order was collapsing. It carries great conviction, thanks to excellent acting and clever use of locations. The camerawork is first class; throughout, the film's images are carefully and elegantly composed. To create scenes of Earth-shattering disaster that would carry conviction must have been the greatest challenge for

Blom and his technicians. Special-effects technology was practically non-existent, and financial resources were not unlimited, but the scenes of the cataclysm are surprisingly effective. Fiery sparks rain down from above, quickly shrouding everything in a pall of smoke. While this is obviously an economical solution to the problem of showing the disaster, the effect is eerie, unsettling, and convincingly apocalyptic. Most important of all, the ending, which in summary may sound preposterously contrived, is in fact dramatically fitting and genuinely moving.

## Basic information

### Credits

### Materials

<b>Original title</b>	Verdens Undergang
<b>Danish title</b>	Verdens Undergang
<b>International titles</b>	Flammesværdet, Det flammande sværdet, A espada chamejante, La espada flamígera, L' épée flamboyante, The End of the World
<b>Other titles</b>	Flammesværdet
<b>Director</b>	<a href="#">August Blom</a>
<b>Screenplay</b>	<a href="#">Otto Rung</a>
<b>Director of Photography</b>	<a href="#">Louis Larsen</a>
<b>Production designer</b>	<a href="#">Axel Bruun</a>
<b>Appearance</b>	<a href="#">Olaf Fønss</a> , <a href="#">Carl Lauritzen</a> , <a href="#">Ebba Thomsen</a> , <a href="#">Johanne Fritz-Petersen</a>
<b>Production country</b>	Denmark
<b>Domestic distribution</b>	<a href="#">Fotorama</a>
<b>Technical info</b>	1650 meter, 35 mm, Normal, Black/white, Silent
<b>Danish theatrical release</b>	01.04.1916
<b>Cinemas</b>	Palads
<b>Danish rating</b>	Allowed for all

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