

August Blom, Denmark, 1922
DK/Feature | Silent films



In 1625, the vicar of Vejlbj is convicted for the murder of his stable-hand, Niels Bruus. Circumstantial evidence turns the scales of justice against the vicar. The magistrate, who was going to marry the vicar's daughter, must reluctantly pass the death-sentence. Only many years after the execution does the lonely and unhappy magistrate discover the truth. The vicar was innocent, the crime having been carefully staged by Niels Bruus's brother Morten, who wanted revenge after having been rejected by Mette. This is the final blow for the magistrate, but before he dies, he learns that Mette still loves him.

After the First World War, Nordisk tried desperately to recapture their lost markets. Clearly inspired by the international success of Swedish cinema, they tried making a number of "national" films, costume pictures inspired by Danish literary classics. Præsten i Vejlbj is a good example, based on a well-known 1829 short story by Steen Steensen Blicher, which in turn was inspired by historical events. The film cannot equal the dramatic intensity of the great Swedish films, but it is handsomely made, partly shot on the actual locations referred to Blicher, and elaborately tinted in a variety of colors. Soon after this film, Nordisk adopted a much simpler tinting scheme, using light amber for most scenes except nighttime scenes, which were tinted blue.

Basic information

Credits

Festivals & awards

Materials

Original title	Præsten i Vejlbj
Danish title	Præsten i Vejlbj
Other titles	Der Pfarrer zu Vejlbj, The hand of fate, Prästen i Vejlbj, Le pasteur de Veilby
Director	August Blom
Screenplay	Valdemar Andersen
Based on	Steen Steensen Blichers novelle 'Præsten i Vejlbj. En Criminalhistorie', offentliggjort 1829 i tidsskriftet 'Nordlyset'.
Director of Photography	Louis Larsen
Appearances	Gunnar Tolnæs , Viggo Wiehe , Ingeborg Spangsfeldt , Peter Nielsen
Production country	Denmark
Production companies	Nordisk Films Kompagni
Domestic distribution	Fotorama
Technical info	2303 meter, 35 mm, Normal, Black/white, Silent
Danish theatrical release	20.03.1922
Cinemas	World Cinema

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