



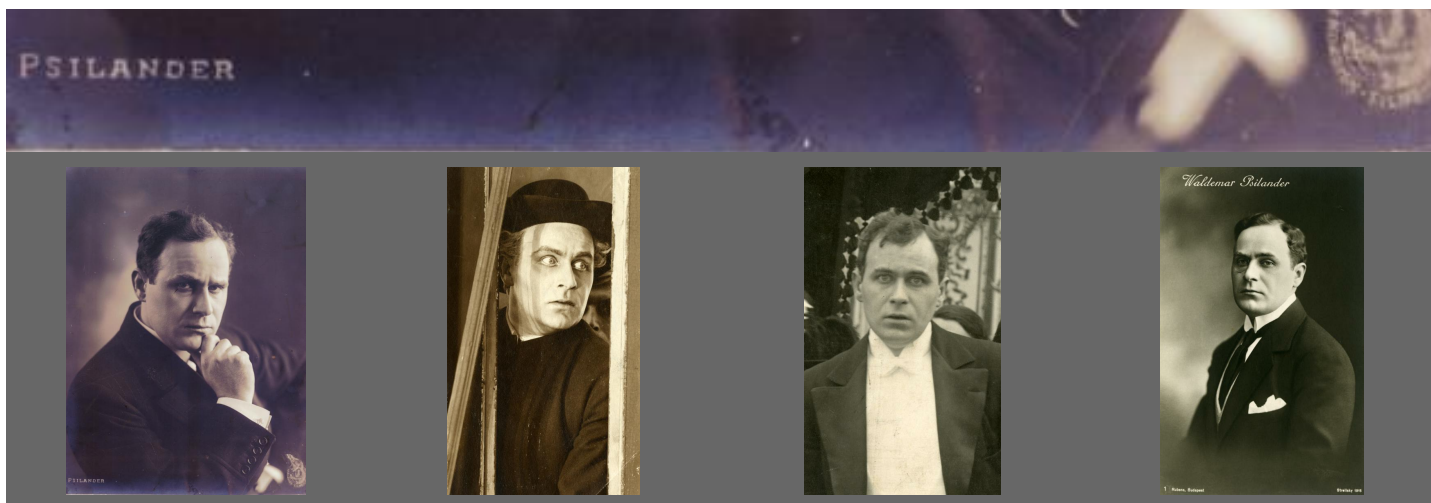
Person

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VALDEMAR PSILANDER

(1884 - 1917)





Actor. Born 9 May 1884. Died 6 March 1917, at age 32. Married to the actress Edith Buemann (1879-1968).

Psilander was taken on as a student actor at Copenhagen's Casino theatre in 1901. From engagements with small touring companies, he soon moved up to major stages in the Copenhagen area. Though he never had a real breakthrough onstage, he did enjoy some success as Bill Sikes in "Oliver Twist" at the theatre Frederiksberg Teater. From 1907-1909, he was with the Dagmar theatre, where he ended his stage career.

Psilander became Denmark's biggest silent-film star. Debuting in autumn 1910 with the small Regia Kunst Film company, he was hired shortly after by Nordisk Film. In his six years at Nordisk, he made 83 films. Already after his first film, "Ved fængslets port" / "Temptations of the Great City" (August Blom, 1911), he was the studio's highest paid actor. Nordisk had a good reputation abroad at the time and a widely ramified distribution network, but the studio still needed a spearhead and Psilander's films largely filled that need. In particular, he took German, Russian and Hungarian audiences by storm. Even a mediocre script became - at least to Psilander lovers - a must-see film solely by virtue of his charisma.

Psilander starred in innumerable assembly-line productions turned out by the well-oiled Nordisk Film machine, while he also demonstrated his acting talent in films that today are considered major works of the period, including "Evangelieemandens Liv" / "The Candle and the Moth" (Holger-Madsen, 1914) and "Klovnen" / "The Clown" (A.W. Sandberg, 1916). At year-end 1916, Psilander broke with Nordisk to found his own production company, "Psilander-Film." The company never really got off the ground, before Psilander died on 6 March 1917, just 32 years old, at the pinnacle of his career.

Why was he so popular? There are several reasons. Personally, he said: "We often see fine actors become nothing in a film, because they don't understand that here concentration counts. The interesting thing about film is that we play to every social class and on every continent. Hence, we must, in our means of expression, be primitively, thoroughly authentic. (...) One can learn how to become an actor, but one can never learn to film - in film, acquired emotions become inauthentic and false. Film requires relentless veracity and authenticity." (Interview in the København newspaper, 4 March 1913.)

Bibliography: Arnold Hending: Valdemar Psilander (1942). Lisbeth Richter Larsen: Valdemar Psilander - A World Star in Danish Film (in Cinegrafie 17, 2004).

Filmography

Title	Year	Function	Category
Adrift	1920	Frank Carrel	DK/Feature
The prince's love	1920	Prins Harro, fyrstens nevø og tronfølger	DK/Feature
The Actor's Love-Story	1920	Ludvig Romay, berømt skuespiller	DK/Feature
Kærlighedsleg	1919	Sir Georges Wilton	DK/Feature

The mute Title	1919 Year	Silvio Gaetano Function	DK/Feature Category
Den Æreløse	1919	Robert Müller, en ung kontormand	DK/Feature
Hostile powers	1919	Frederik Storm, billedhugger	DK/Feature
The wages of virtue	1919	Jacob Arendt	DK/Feature
Love the conqueror	1918	William Sheldon, professor	DK/Feature
The Road to Happiness	1918	Peter Niemand, smed	DK/Feature
The Music-Hall Star	1918	Karl Fribert, prokurist	DK/Feature
The gentleman chauffeur	1918	Grev Alex Alexis	DK/Feature
For his country's honour	1918	Robert Carmilhan, løjtnant	DK/Feature
The secret of the desert	1918	Mr. Hunter, Annies forlovede	DK/Feature
Her knight	1918	Leon d'Ouchams, Claudes sekretær	DK/Feature
The Clown	1917	Klovnene Joe Higgins	DK/Feature
The wager	1917	Maurice Marshall	DK/Feature
The motor-car mystery	1917	Victor Lebrassier, automobilfabrikant	DK/Feature
The battle of hearts	1917	Axel von Lejon, løjtnant	DK/Feature
The munition conspiracy	1917	Johannes Acosta, dr. phil. og fysiker	DK/Feature
The poisonous arrow	1916	Edmond Vernon, undersøgelsesdommer	DK/Feature
The crossroads of life	1916	Hugo Dyhre	DK/Feature
The fatal necklace	1916	Robin Cray	DK/Feature
Misunderstood	1916	Jens Holck, professor, dr. med.	DK/Feature
In Defence of the Nation	1916	Løjtn. Erich von Wimpen, generalens søn	DK/Feature
The missing admiralty plans	1916	Georg, Jacobs søn, officer/James Howard	DK/Feature
A Marriage of Convenience	1916	Poul Bjerne, læge	DK/Feature
The Man Without a Future	1916	Percy Fancourt, cowboy på ranchen	DK/Feature
The samatarian	1916	Halfdan Borg, redaktør	DK/Feature
The Candle and the Moth	1915	John Redmond, Evangeliemanden	DK/Feature
A resurrection	1915	Konstantin Frübner	DK/Feature
The Nordisk Films Kompagni's Studios	1915	Appearance	Non-fiction footage
A Revolution Marriage	1915	Marc-Arron, oberstløjtnant	DK/Feature

Title	Year	Function	Category
A Romance of a will	1915	Jack Montford, grevindens søn	DK/Feature
The three caskets	1915	Walter Haldann	DK/Feature
Alone with the Devil	1914	Frédéric Nessières, fabrikant	DK/Feature
Love's Devotee	1914	Fritz Lobheimer	DK/Feature
A Golden Heart	1914	Poul Holck, kunstmaler	DK/Feature
A Daughter of Eve	1914	Dr. med. Anton Esmarck	DK/Feature
A master of men	1914	Kurt Rømer, skibsreder	DK/Feature
Count Dahlborg's Secret	1914	Appearance, Production	DK/Short fiction
Darkness and dawn	1914	Grev Joachim , stamhusbesidder	DK/Feature
The Convict's Son	1914	Poul, Helvigs søn	DK/Feature
The Reformation	1914	Cecil, Lady Thorns søn	DK/Feature
A Woman's Right	1913	Kurt Bornel, forfatter	DK/Feature
One Life One Love	1913	Frede Lund, ingeniør	DK/Short fiction
The Birthday Gift	1913	Boldt, polyteknisk kandidat	DK/Short fiction
A Court Intrigue	1913	Fyrst Balduin	DK/Feature
An old maid's love	1913	Kai Brummer, søn af professor	DK/Short fiction
The Fugitives	1913	Einer Bang	DK/Feature
Gold from the Gutter	1913	Egil Stevenson	DK/Feature
At the eleventh hour	1913	Otto Berg, detektiv	DK/Feature
A Dash for Liberty	1913	Winkel	DK/Feature
All the world's a stage	1913	Grev Franz von Ihlig	DK/Feature
A Shot in the Dark	1913	Overretssagfører Einar Jarl	DK/Short fiction
In the Bonds of Passion	1913	Alfons Dupont, læge	DK/Feature
The Sacrifice	1913	Hans, fabrikant Goldsteins søn	DK/Short fiction
Amerikansk Skoleskib	1913	Appearance	DK/Feature
Man's great adversary	1913	Fritz Bolm, skuespiller	DK/Feature
Dina's decision	1913	Hertugen af Portland	DK/Feature
An Orphan's Conquest	1913	Mr. Gerald	DK/Short fiction
The vicar's daughter	1913	Bøgh, godsinspektør	DK/Feature
A Modern Desdemona	1912	Ejnar Løwe, skuespiller	DK/Feature
The Little Railroad Queen	1912	Iwan Groblewsky, greve	DK/Feature
The Fire of Life	1912	Herbert Jyrtel, professor i kemi	DK/Feature

Title	Year	Function	Category
Love in the Tropics	1912	Mr. Cecil Brown	DK/Feature
Fire at Sea	1912	Frank Harvey, skuespiller	DK/Feature
When Bacchus reigns	1912	Løjtnant Victor	DK/Feature
The Great Circus Catastrophe (Fire)	1912	Grev Willy von Rosenörn	DK/Feature
The Convict	1912	Hutkinson, fuldmægtig/fange/politi	DK/Feature
Midsummer-time	1912	Aage, købmandssøn	DK/Feature
In the Hour of Need	1912	Rittmester Helmuth	DK/Feature
Vanquished	1912	Chas Burns	DK/Feature
The Modern Girl	1912	Hans v. Berner, Greve	DK/Feature
Uncle and Nephew	1912	Kai, professor Tarms nevø	DK/Short fiction
The Black Chancellor	1912	Løjtnant Parlow	DK/Feature
Love and Money	1911	Hans von Bremer, premierlieutenant	DK/Feature
The Aviator's Generosity	1911	Journalist Warren	DK/Feature
A Fatal Lie	1911	Willy Prager, læge	DK/Feature
A Victim of the Mormons	1911	Andrew Larsson, mormonpræst	DK/Feature
The Rights of Youth	1911	Hofjægermester Søtoft	DK/Feature
The Ballet Dancer	1911	Poul Rich, maler	DK/Feature
The Black Dream	1911	Johan Waldberg, greve	DK/Feature
Temptations of a Great City	1911	Aage Hellertz, bankassistent, Methas søn	DK/Feature
Annie Bell	1911	Owen Kildare, vagabond	DK/Feature
The Price of Beauty	1911	Leopold von Würzen, Lisas forlovede	DK/Feature
Lady Mary's Love	1911	Poul, skovfoged	DK/Feature
Dorian Grays Portræt	1910	Appearance	DK/Short fiction



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