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THE VALLEY OF THE BEES

FILM BY FRANTIŠEK VLÁČIL

BACK ON SCREENS

Director František Vláčil concluded his loose historical trilogy with a dramatically tight film that instead of spectacular narrative scenes depicts the internal conflicts of the characters. The protagonists of the narrative are two Crusaders – Armin von Heide and his Czech protégé Ondřej. The young nobleman, entrusted to the order by his father as a child, escapes from the Crusader castle where he grew up in asceticism and prayer. However, the religious zealot Armin pursues his companion to his native Vlkov and thwarts his attempts at a normal, happy life alongside the beautiful Lenora. This timeless story of the clash of fanaticism and personal freedom excels with a black-and-white camera work by František Uldrich, predominantly the vocal compositions by Zdeněk Liška, and acting performances by Jan Kačer with Petr Čepek in the leading roles.

Czechoslovakia 1967 • 101 min. • drama, historically • DCP, MP4 • accessible

Director František Vláčil
Screenplay Vladimír Körner, František Vláčil
Photography František Uldrich
Set designer Jindřich Goetz
Editing Miroslav Hájek
Cast Petr Čepek, Jan Kačer, Věra Galatíková, Josef Somr, Miroslav Macháček, Zdeněk Kryzánek and others

The new digitization of this film was funded by Milada Kučerová and Eduard Kučera.

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