

Film - Sissi Trilogy

More Illusion Than Reality

Empress Elisabeth of Austria-Hungary is considered well-read and beautiful. In the films of the "Sissi" trilogy in the 1950s, her life seems like a fairytale. Little attention is paid to historical reality.

Throughout her life, Empress Elisabeth was unpopular with the Austrian population. She was resented for trying to escape the constraints of the Viennese court. However, this is not mentioned in the "Sissi" films. Her depressive moods, her distorted body image and the suicide of her son are also omitted.

Today, "Sissi" is considered the most famous love story in the trilingual area. Romy Schneider embodies a sweet and predominantly optimistic version of the young empress. This fuels the narrative of an "ideal world". Numerous film critics have therefore labelled the trilogy as kitsch.