

REF: 329

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS

Title: **The African Queen** (1951)

1 Disc

Library Image



ISBN: - 5037115013736 (2001)

Information

Release Title: **The African Queen** 0th January 1952 (United Kingdom)
(London)

From:

Origin: United Kingdom, United States

Release Date: United States: 21st March 1952

Genres: Adventure, Drama, Romance, War

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: U

Duration: 1h 45m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English, German, Swahili,

Filming locations: Lake Albert, Uganda

Sound mix: Stereo

Colour: PAL Colour

Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

The African Queen



US theatrical release poster

Directed by John Huston

Screenplay by John Huston
James Agee
Peter Viertel
John Collier

Based on *The African Queen*
1935 novel
by C. S. Forester

Produced by Sam Spiegel
John Woolf (*uncredited*)

Starring Humphrey Bogart
Katharine Hepburn
Robert Morley

Cinematography Jack Cardiff

Edited by Ralph Kemplen

Music by Allan Gray

Production companies Horizon Pictures
Romulus Films^[1]

Distributed by United Artists (US)
Independent Film
Distributors (UK)

Release date December 26, 1951 (Fox
Wilshire Theatre)^[2]

Running time 105 minutes

Countries United States
United Kingdom

Languages English
German
Swahili

Budget \$1 million^[3]

Box office \$10.75 million^[4]

Storyline

Samuel Sayer and his sister Rose are English Methodist missionaries in German East Africa in August 1914. Their post and supplies are delivered by a small steamboat named the African Queen, helmed by the rough-and-ready Canadian mechanic Charlie Allnut, whose coarse behaviour they stiffly tolerate.

When Charlie warns the Sayers that war has broken out between Germany and Britain, they choose to remain in Kungdu, only to witness German colonial troops burn down the village and herd the villagers away to be pressed into service. When Samuel protests, he is struck by a soldier and soon becomes delirious with fever, dying shortly afterward. Charlie helps Rose bury her brother and they escape in the African Queen.

Charlie mentions to Rose that the British are unable to attack the Germans because of the presence of a large gunboat, the Königin Luise, patrolling a large lake downriver. Rose comes up with a plan to convert the African Queen into a torpedo boat and sink the Königin Luise. After some persuasion, Charlie goes along with the plan.

Charlie encourages Rose to navigate the river by rudder while he tends the engine, and she is emboldened after they pass the first set of rapids with minimal flooding in the boat. When they pass the German fortress, the soldiers begin shooting at them, damaging the boiler. Charlie manages to reattach a pressure hose just as they are about to enter the second set of rapids. The boat rolls and pitches as it goes down the rapids, leading to more severe flooding on the deck. While celebrating their success, Charlie and Rose find themselves in an embrace and kiss. The third set of rapids damages the boat's propeller shaft. They rig up a primitive forge on shore and Charlie straightens the shaft and welds a new blade onto the propeller, allowing the two to set off again.

All appears lost when the boat becomes mired in the mud and dense reeds near the mouth of the river. With no supplies left and short of potable water, Rose and a feverish Charlie pass out, both accepting that they will soon die. Rose says a quiet prayer. As they sleep, torrential rains raise the river's level and float the African Queen into the lake.

Over the next two days, Charlie and Rose prepare for their attack. The Königin Luise returns and Charlie and Rose steam the African Queen out onto the lake in darkness, intending to set her on a collision course. A strong storm strikes, causing water to pour into the African Queen through the torpedo holes. Eventually the boat capsizes, throwing Charlie and Rose into the water. Charlie loses sight of Rose in the storm.

Charlie is captured and taken aboard the Königin Luise, where he is interrogated by German officers. Believing that Rose has drowned, he makes no attempt to defend himself against accusations of spying and the German captain sentences him to death by hanging. Rose is brought aboard the ship just after Charlie's sentence is pronounced. The captain questions her, and Rose proudly confesses the plot to sink the Königin Luise, deciding that they have nothing to lose. The captain sentences her to be executed with Charlie, both as British spies. Charlie asks the German captain to marry them before they are executed. The captain agrees, and after conducting the briefest of marriage ceremonies, is about to carry out the execution when the Königin Luise is rocked by a series of explosions, quickly capsizing. The ship has struck the overturned submerged hull of the African Queen and detonated the torpedoes. The newly married couple is able to escape the sinking ship and swim to safety together. [Wiki](#)

September 1914, news reaches the colony in German East Africa that war has broken out across Europe making British Reverend Samuel Sayer a hostile foreigner. German imperial troops burn down his mission; he is beaten and dies of fever. His well-educated, snobbish sister Rose Sayer buries him and leaves by the only available transport, the dilapidated river steamboat 'African Queen' of grumpy Charlie Allnut. As if a long difficult journey without any comfort weren't bad enough for such odd companions, she is determined to find a way to do their part for the British war effort while avenging her brother and aims high, as God is obviously on their side: construct their own torpedo and use the converted steamboat to take out a huge German warship, the Louisa, which is hard to find or reach on the giant lake. She presses till Charlie accepts to steam up the Ulanga, brave a German fort, raging rapids, bloodthirsty parasites, and the endlessly branching river which seems to go nowhere but impenetrable swamps. Despite fierce rows and moral antagonism between a bossy devout abstentionist and a free-spirited libertine drunken loner, the two grow closer to each-other as their quest drags on.—KGF Viissers (corrected by Adds) [IMDb](#)

Cast

Humphrey Bogart as Charlie Allnut
Katharine Hepburn as Rose Sayer
Robert Morley as Reverend Samuel Sayer, "The Brother"
Peter Bull as the Captain of the Königin Luise
Theodore Bikel as the First Officer of the Königin Luise
Walter Gotell as the Second Officer of the Königin Luise
Peter Swanwick as the First Officer of Fort Shona
Richard Marner as the Second Officer of Fort Shona
Gerald Onn as Petty Officer of the Königin Luise
(uncredited)

Parents Guide

Certification

Argentina-Atp, Australia-GOriginal RatingPG2010, Re-rating, Belgium-KT/EA, Brazil-1012DVD rating, Canada-GManitoba/No,va Scotia/QuebecPGOntario, Denmark-11TV rating, Finland-S, France-Tous publics, Iceland-L, India-U, Italy-T, Japan-G2015, Netherlands-9DVD, 2010141952, Original Rating, New Zealand-G, Norway-AStreaming rating71975A1952, Poland-12TV rating, Singapore-PG, South Korea-152002, Spain-AICAA, Sweden-15111978, Re-rating, United Kingdom-UDVD ratingUOriginal RatingUtv ratingPGre-release, 2011, Re-ratingUvideo rating, 2001 United States-TV-PGVPG2012, certificate #47927PassedNational Board of Review, 1951Approved1951, certificate 15611 West Germany-12

Sex & Nudity – None, **Violence & Gore** - Mild , **Profanity** – None, **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Mild, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** - Mild

