

The Robber Symphony

UK : 1936 : dir. Friedrich Feher : Concordia : 109 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Hans Feher](#)
 Webster Booth

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

NFT bulletin - May 1978 - review:

“ **"THE ROBBER SYMPHONY"** was the first (and only) feature to emanate from Concordia Films, which had been formed by Friedrich Feher, an emigré Austrian, specifically to make "composed" films.

This experiment in interpreting action via music and sound with a minimum of dialogue proved unsuccessful at the time and Feher moved on to Hollywood, but the film has since found many admirers in Europe. We therefore feel a re-assessment in Britain is long overdue.”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Fehér:

"Hans's mother was the actress Magda Sonja, his father the director Friedrich Fehér. (Fehér's real name was Weiss. He was born in 1889, studied in Vienna, acted in Germany, was director of Vienna's Renaissance-Theater 1924-25, and emigrated to Britain in 1933.)

The boy's three films were all directed by his father, the first two being triple co-productions. (In the Czech versions he was billed as "Jeníček Fehér". His actual name was Johann Anton Weiss.) He was a dumpy, agreeably ordinary-looking child with no great histrionic pretensions, but was fluent in Czech, German, French and English, and was said to have learned to walk the tightrope in less than a week.

In "**THE ROBBER SYMPHONY**", a whimsical extravaganza based on a story by Anton Kuh, Hans played Giannino, the child of a family of strolling players who fall in with some picturesque and not-too-frightening robbers. His mother played his mother, and his father, as well as directing, conducted the "Concordia Symphony Orchestra" in his own score. "**ROBBER SYMPHONY**" - some of it filmed 15,000 feet up Mont Blanc - is a weird period piece which deserves an occasional airing.

After three unrewarding years in Britain, the Fehérs moved on to the USA, arriving in Los Angeles in December 1936. Friedrich eventually found paltry work directing "soundies" - tiny cinema samplers of pop-video length, featuring bands and soloists of the time. After the war he returned to Germany, and died in Stuttgart in 1950. Young Hans, who became a Las Vegas croupier, didn't long outlive his father."



Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Fehér was 14. His two previous films for his father had been "**KDYZ STRUNY IKAJÍ**" (30, aka "When Strings Weep", "Her Boy") and "**ŠTVANÍ LIDÉ**" (32, aka "Hunted Men", "Gehetzte Menschen"). He died in Los Angeles at the age of 35, but we're not told how.

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