

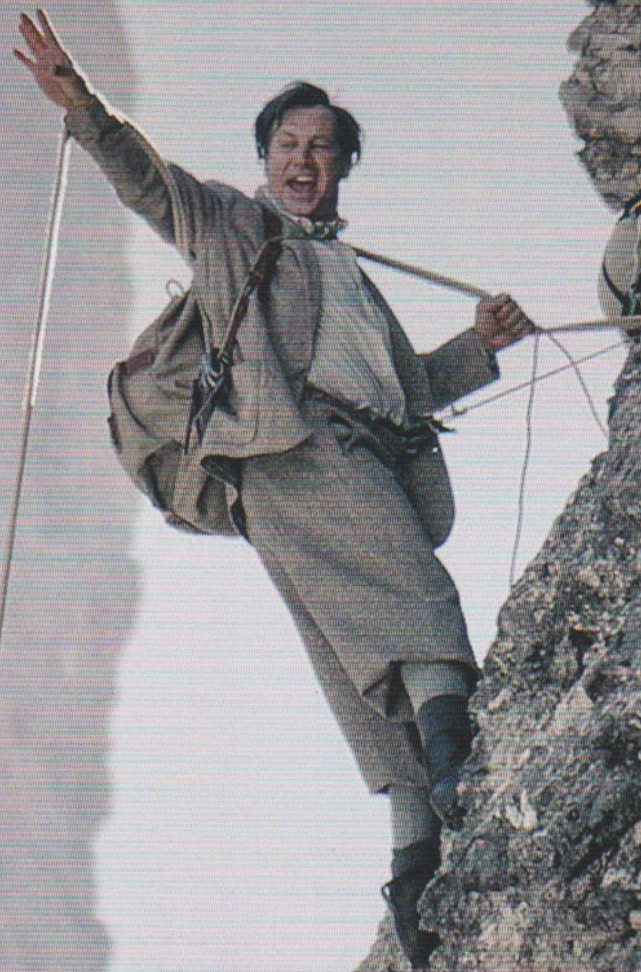
UNIVERSUM HISTORY

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# LUIS TRENKER

52 min. | HD

## HITLER'S MOUNTAIN HERO



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## HITLER'S MOUNTAIN HERO

Luis Trenker is a legend – a self-made one. In the 1930s he became internationally known for the "Mountain Films" he directed and starred in, some with co-star Leni Riefenstahl. After his 1932 mountain war film "The Lost Battalion", Hollywood beckoned, but Luis Trenker could never stray too far from his beloved South Tyrol.

It was his inspiration but also his undoing. His films celebrated the free spirit of life in the mountains, but their themes – war, fatherland, obedience, loyalty or comradeship – could too easily be distorted to support Nazi ideology and propaganda. Joseph Goebbels himself took a keen interest in Trenker's career and his fame continued to grow, while Trenker's Jewish producer and friend, Paul Kohner, was forced to quit Germany.

Trenker himself held an Italian passport after his South Tyrol homeland was annexed by Italy after WWI. For years he played off Italian Fascists against German Nazis until, by the end of WWII, he had few friends left in either country.

But he was nothing if not resourceful. He triggered one of the biggest media scandals in post-war Germany by trying to sell Eva Braun's diary – a crude forgery (it portrayed his old co-star/rival Leni Riefenstahl as Hitler's mistress!). He sank as low as peddling (rather good) forgeries of medieval sacred statues before he was suddenly rediscovered and gained new, enduring fame, at the age of seventy, telling stories of his life on German television.

Karin Duregger's documentary shows the highs and lows of a long life, the delicate balance between Hitler and Mussolini, adaptation and resistance, box office success and cinematic art. Was he a Nazi collaborator, an opportunist or an opponent of the regime? Or simply an amoral survivor who never ceased moulding his own image?

Duration: 52 min.

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Directed by Karin Duregger

Produced by epo-film

A co-production by ORF, epo-film and BR in association with BMBF and BLS

Executive Producer Tom Matzek

Available worldwide

