

THE SCARLET LETTER



Puritan America in the 17th century: A small village on the East Coast surrounded by nothing but wilderness. A woman, Hester Prynne (Senta Berger), is pilloried because she is bearing an illegitimate child and refuses to reveal the father's (Lou Castel) name. As a punishment, she is forced to wear a scarlet "A" (for "adulteress") on her chest. Her pride and her love let her endure the contempt of the puritan townspeople. She raises her daughter (for the first time: Yella Rottländer) on her own.

When an old stranger comes to the village, Hester recognizes him as her long lost husband Chillingworth (Hans-Christian Blech). He pretends to be a doctor, lives in the town unrecognized and sets about uncovering the identity of Hester's lover.

Originally planned in Salem, Massachusetts, this second larger production of the Filmverlag der Autoren was shot in Spain at the Galician coast and in a Western village near Madrid.

THE SCARLET LETTER

West Germany 1972

FORMAT

Length:
93 min, 2539 m

Format:
35mm Kodachrome

Language:
German (partly dubbed)

CREDITS

Production:
Produktion I in Filmverlag der Autoren (Munich)

Director:
Wim Wenders

Producer:
Thomas Schamoni, Wim Wenders

Screenplay:
Wim Wenders, Bernardo Fernandez, based on the novel *The Scarlet Letter* from Nathaniel Hawthorne and based on the Scenario *Der Herr klagt über sein Volk in der Wildnis Amerika* from Tankred Dorst and Ursula Ehler

Director of Photography:
Robby Müller

Editor:
Peter Przygodda

Sound:
Christian Schubert

Cast:
Senta Berger (Hester Prynne), Lou Castel (Rev. Dimmesdale), Hans-Christian Blech (Roger Chillingworth), Yelena Samarina (Mistress Hibbins), Rüdiger Vogler (Sailor), Yella Rottländer (Pearl), William Layton (Gov. Bellingham), Alfredo Mayo (Gov. Fuller), Angel Alvarez (Rev. Wilson), Rafael Albaicin (Indian), Laura Currie (Sarah)

Assistant Camera:
Martin Schäfer

Still Photographer:
Heide M. Weis

Assistant Editor:
Barbara von Weitershausen

Music:
Jürgen Knieper

Script:
Astrid Gauke

Set Design:
Manfred Lütz

Wardrobe:
Adolfo Cofino

Make-up/Hairstyle:
Ingrid Thier

Editorial Office:
Volker Canaris

Line Producer:
Thomas Schamoni

Production Manager:
Peter Genée, Primitivo Alvaro

Production Assistant:
Pablo Martinez

In Cooperation with:
Elias Querejeta P.C. (Madrid), Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Cologne)

First Release (DE):
13.03.1973, ARD