

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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# The Love Parade (1929)

Ernst Lubitsch (1892-1947)

## OVERVIEW

**Auteur:** Ernst Lubitsch was a German-American film director, producer, writer, and actor. He is famous for urbane comedies of manners. With the growth of his prestige, his films came to be known as having *the Lubitsch touch*. Lubitsch was born in 1892 in Berlin, as the son of Simon Lubitsch, a tailor, and Anna (née) Lindenstaedt. His family was Ashkenazi Jewish. He did not enter his father's tailoring business, and by 1911, he was a member of Max Reinhardt's Deutsches Theater. Lubitsch was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director three times for *The Patriot* (1928), *The Love Parade* (1929), and *Heaven Can Wait* (1943). In 1946, he received an Honorary Academy Award for his contributions to the art of motion pictures. His best-known works are *Trouble in Paradise* (1932), *Design for Living* (1933), *Ninotchka* (1939), *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), *To Be or Not to Be* (1942) and *Heaven Can Wait* (1943). Lubitsch died of a heart attack on November 30, 1947, in Hollywood at the age of 55.

**Film:** *The Love Parade* is a 1929 American musical comedy film. It stars Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald. The supporting cast features Lupino Lane, Lillian Roth, and Eugene Pallette. The screenplay is by Guy Bolton and Ernest Vajda and is based on the 1919 French play *Le Prince Consort* by Leon Xanrof and Jules Chancel. The cinematography is by Victor Milner. All songs are by Victor Schertzinger (music) and Clifford Grey (lyrics). *The Love Parade* is about the marital difficulties of Queen Louise of Sylvania and her consort, Count Alfred Renard. Despite his love for Louise and his promise to be an obedient husband, Count Alfred finds his role as a figurehead unbearable.

**Historical background:** *The Love Parade* is notable for being the first sound film made by Ernst Lubitsch. The film was also released in a French-language version called *Parade d'amour*. Initially hesitant to portray a Royal courtier, Chevalier required persuasion from Lubitsch. Despite debuting amidst the aftermath of the Wall Street crash, this blockbuster proved instrumental in bolstering Paramount's financial stability. Guy Bolton (1884- 1979) is the writer of the libretto of the film. He was an Anglo-American playwright and writer of musical comedies. The film story is written by Ernest Vajda (1886-1954) who was a Hungarian actor, playwright, and novelist but is more famous today for his screenplays.

## CHARACTERS

**Count Alfred Renard:** The Count who serves as the military attaché at the Sylvania Embassy in Paris  
**Queen Louise:** Queen of Sylvania who is frustrated with her subjects' fixation on her potential marriage  
**Jacques:** Count Alfred's servant who looks up to his master  
**Lulu:** One of the Queen's servants who wants to get married to Jacques  
**War minister:** One of the ministers of Queen Louise  
**Ambassador:** The ambassador of Sylvania whose wife has an affair with Count Alfred Renard  
**Master of ceremonies:** The person who determines the forms to be observed on public occasions  
**Prime minister:** One of the ministers of Sylvania

## SYNOPSIS

Count Alfred who serves as the military attaché at the Sylvania Embassy in Paris, receives orders to return to Sylvania to face Queen Louise's reprimand due to a series of scandals, notably involving an affair with the ambassador's wife. Meanwhile, Queen Louise, who reigns over Sylvania independently, is growing increasingly frustrated with her subjects' fixation on her potential marriage, given that any spouse would only hold the title of prince consort. Intrigued rather than angered by Alfred's problematic record, Queen Louise invites him for dinner, aiming to determine an appropriate punishment for him. Their

relationship deepens and they eventually marry, as Alfred, despite his initial reservations, agrees to submit to the Queen out of love for her. However, he soon becomes restless in his role as consort, facing a lack of meaningful tasks and opportunities to contribute to state affairs. This prompts him to take matters into his own hands. He tells Queen Louise that he is leaving for Paris when there is a gala performance that they have to attend at the opera which is crucial for Sylvania's diplomatic and financial relations with other countries. However, he shows up at the last minute as he does not want to destroy the reputation of the woman he once loved. After the opera is over and they return to the palace, Prince Alfred prepares to leave for Paris. Queen Louise, not wanting to leave his side, tells him that she will follow him wherever he goes. Prince Alfred changes his mind and decides to stay but now he has to find a punishment for the Queen. Queen makes a suggestion and says that Prince Alfred shall take command from now on not only in the affairs of the state but also at home. And he will also be King Alfred. This resolution reunites the couple.

## SCENES

### **A husband witnesses his wife's infidelity with Count Alfred Renard**

The film begins with a song by Jacques who is the servant of Count Alfred Renard. Jacques prepares the evening table with joy. Next, we hear Count Alfred Renard and a woman called Paulette speaking in French. Then she takes out a gun from her small bag. As she is about to shoot him, voices come from behind the walls of the room. It is the woman's husband. Paulette shoots herself with the gun. Paulette's husband decides to shoot Alfred as an act of revenge. However, nothing happens. It turns out that the gun was not loaded in the first place. The woman wakes up and she and her husband leave the place.



**The ambassador talks to Count Alfred** In the next scene, the ambassador comes to talk to Count Alfred: 'This scandal will be your last. As the ambassador of Sylvania, I do not allow the military attaché to disgrace the name of our country with these adventures.' He commands the Count to leave immediately for Sylvania and appear before the Queen. Count Alfred says that the stories the ambassador has heard about him must be exaggerated. The ambassador responds that he has followed him personally for a week. He also adds that his wife had told him everything about him. This shows us that Count Alfred also had an affair with the ambassador's wife.



### **Count Alfred sings about his love for Paris**

Count Alfred sings a song about Paris: 'Paris, you won't miss me anymore. But I will miss you. Why must we say goodbye? I have known your peaceful days and some of the stormy ones. You taught me the meaning of a kiss. Your lessons did me good. I owe my happiness to you. I have seen your blond girls, sweet Paris daughters in all of your quarters. I met brunettes here and dressmakers. I have lost my position and my reputation.' Next, Jacques starts singing: 'I abandon you like my master. I try to follow in his footsteps too. Some may not forget. I have met your crazy maids.' Next, the Count's dog starts barking with the same melody.



**A tourist group sees the castle of Sylvania** Next, we see a tourist group visiting Sylvania. Nobody seems to be interested in the historical facts that the guide talks about until he mentions that the castle of Sylvania is valued at 110 million dollars. Then everyone gets up from their seats and starts to look at the castle.



**A troop unit performs in the castle** We see a troop unit performing in the castle of Sylvania. Soon, an official comes to inform the tenant that the Majesty is still asleep and demands the soldiers to be quiet. The soldiers march on their tiptoes.



**'Queen Louise sings a song about her dream of finding love** The Queen's maids gather around the beautiful room of the Majesty and they greet her. The Queen says that she had a wonderful dream but is afraid that her dream will always have to remain as a dream. Then she begins singing: 'I know a dream place, a land of love where I love to travel. Someone is waiting for me there, someone affectionate like a lover. Every night I whisper when I close my eyes in my dream. Love of my dreams, surround me with your arms, your love has found me. We can both forget about the world. I will share my secrets with you. Dear, I long to find love. No one can find us....' The Queen seems to be enchanted with her dreams.



**Everybody expects the Queen to get married** Later, as the Queen takes a bath, her maids ask her if she could tell them more about her dream. She responds that she can't as it is not a dream fit for a queen. An old maid tells the Queen that she dreamt that the Majesty got married. Queen Louise is not content with this dream. However, the maid tells her that they all hope and wait for the day the Majesty will get married. The Queen is frustrated with the expectations of everyone that she should get married. Next, the sound of the Wedding March comes to the room. The Queen finds out that a new conductor started to work in the palace as the old one got married.



**The one who marries the Queen would only be a prince consort** Queen Louise talks with her ministers. She asks them who they are proposing today as her husband. The prime minister says that they have given the matter up as it is a difficult subject. The Queen is startled because she didn't expect that the ministers would think that it is difficult to find a husband for her. The ministers respond that the field of selection is limited. Because the one who marries the Queen would only be a prince consort who would merely be 'a gentleman with a thousand duties and no rights'. Meanwhile, Count Alfred asks the Master of Ceremonies about how he should behave. Master of Ceremonies tells him to say as little as possible as his French accent will not please the Queen.



**Ministers talk about the Queen and Count Alfred** It is eight o'clock and the time for dining has come. Meanwhile, the ministers talk about whether Count Alfred could be eligible to become the prince consort. The prime minister thinks he is eligible. After all, his great-grandfather was the illegitimate son of a king. The prime minister also believes the Queen is absolutely serious as she has invited Count Alfred to dinner the first time she saw him.



**The Queen is impressed by Count Alfred's scandalous background** Count Alfred enters the Queen's room. He introduces himself as the military attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris. When the Queen sits, she sees a confidential report of the scandalous conduct of Count Alfred. As the Queen reads the report, she is intrigued rather than offended by Count Alfred's dossier. She says she has to punish the Count severely. But she doesn't know what his punishment should be. So, Count Alfred makes a suggestion. He says the Queen shouldn't let him return to Paris. Then she announces that they will dine together that night.



**Count Alfred sings how he sees everything he has loved mixed in the Queen** Queen Louise and Count Alfred dine together. We do not get to listen to their conversations but we witness the comments of the maids and the ministers. The Queen tells the Count that this is the first time she has ever dined with a man alone. Count Alfred says this is the first time he has ever dined with a Queen. Next, he starts to sing: 'My old loves are buried. They have not been able to survive you. No one could hold me so firmly in the way you do. Even so, their memories remain with me. You bring something from each one to me...Eyes of Lizette, the smile of Mignonette, the sweetness of Suzette, the grace of Delphine, the charm of Josephine, the cuteness of Pauline. Other charms cannot surpass yours...You are my ideal, my love parade.' The Queen sings: 'In the shadow of my throne, I have lived in solitude. But I have a love that I hope to give one day. I like knowing that in me you see everything you have loved mixed in me.' Then they embrace and kiss each other.



**Queen Louise sings in happiness** After Count Alfred is gone, the Queen starts singing on her own: 'We can forget the world. No prying eyes can find us. Love of my dreams. I will share my secrets with you. Your spell captivates me. I know that we will never betray each other.'



**Queen Louise and Count Alfred get married** Next, we see the wedding scene of Queen Louise and Count Alfred. The marriage officiant says: 'Her Majesty has granted, by extraordinary decree, the title of prince to Count Alfred. With such a generous act, she elevates him to such a position that allows this marriage.' Then he asks whether it is Her Majesty's wish to choose Prince Alfred as her husband and whether she will protect him from all danger. She answers these questions in the affirmative. Then it is Prince Alfred's turn. The marriage officiant asks him whether he will always love Her Majesty and always be an obedient and docile husband. Prince Alfred hesitates at first as he is not content with the words 'obedient' and 'docile'. But he looks at Queen Louise's face and—because of his love for her—accepts to be her husband.



**Queen Louise leads and sings with the royal army** In the next scene, we see Queen Louise commanding the soldiers: 'Grenadiers, be alert and obey the bugles.' She starts singing a military song: 'My heart is moved by your loyalty. Advance with firmness and strength. Firm in war, ready for love, you live only for your country. Your uniform steals our hearts. Who is as loyal as the Grenadiers?'



**Prince Alfred is discontent as Queen Louise is always busy with the army or other royal duties**

Four weeks pass after the Queen has gotten married. Prince Alfred wakes up to see that Queen Louise is not near him. When he looks out the window, he sees that Queen Louise has joined the soldiers in their march. Next, he notices the note she left him on which it is written: 'My darling, I shall be very busy until dinner, but I have tried to arrange a happy day for you—tennis this morning, and bridge this afternoon.' Prince Alfred looks discontent. After the ceremony is over, Queen Louise goes to the room where Prince Alfred stays. She is surprised to see him awake. However, Prince Alfred is in a bad mood and says that he might as well lie in bed all day as he has nothing to get up for. He says that he has already shaved himself and had his haircut the day before such that there is nothing for him to do now. Queen Louise tells him that ever since they have been married she has never left her husband alone at night and that she never will: 'And when the international treaty is ready, I will take you to Vienna and buy you lots of new uniforms.' However, Prince Alfred feels offended at her suggestion: 'I am sick of being treated as if I were a sort of plaything.'



**Prince Alfred cannot have his breakfast** Prince Alfred sits at his breakfast table. However, breakfast is not served to him because Queen Louise is not present. Prince Alfred gets impatient and angry. One of the maids comes to tell that Her Majesty will not have breakfast that morning. He sits on a bank near a tree and eats an apple. He sees a dog and talks to him that he is the only one in the palace who looks up to him. Then he starts singing about his broken heart: 'Nobody seems to take me seriously. I am just as lonely as a man can be. The days mean nothing at all.'

**Prince Alfred is not permitted to interfere in affairs of state** There is a grand gala performance of the Royal Sylvania Opera. This event is the first opportunity to display the marital happiness of Queen Louise and Prince Alfred. If Wall Street suspects a crack in Her Majesty's marital happiness, it would deny Sylvania credit and they would be left without a loan and the country would be broke. At that moment, Prince Alfred comes in and says that the country can be saved without a loan and that he has prepared a national budget. However, he is not permitted to interfere in the affairs of the state so, his proposal is declined.

**Prince Alfred decides to leave the Queen** He tells Queen Louise that he will travel to Paris. Prince Alfred says that she has gone too far as she thought she could manage the former military attaché and give orders to her husband. He also says that she forgot that Prince Alfred is a man first and foremost. Then he leaves the room.

**Prince Alfred wants a divorce** While the performance continues, Queen Louise and Prince Alfred begin to talk. Prince Alfred explains that he came to the opera because he didn't want to destroy the woman he once loved. He says that he is flying to Paris the next day and as soon as the loan is signed, he will apply for a divorce.



**Prince Alfred decides to stay with Queen Louise and he will be made the King**

After the opera is over, and Queen Louise and Prince Alfred go back to the palace; they both stay in their separate rooms. Queen Louise cries constantly and is very sad that Prince Alfred will leave her. Finally, she goes to talk to him and asks him where they will stay in Paris. She says she will follow him wherever he goes. Prince Alfred changes his mind and says that he might as well stay in Sylvania. But now he has to punish her severely. Queen Louise makes a suggestion for the punishment. From now on, Prince Alfred shall take command not only in the affairs of the state but also at home. And he will also be King Alfred. Then the Queen and the King hug each other and start singing 'The Love Parade'.



## CHARACTER ANALYSIS

### Count Alfred Renard:

Count Alfred Renard is the protagonist of the film. He serves as the military attaché at the Sylvanian Embassy in Paris. After he is called to Sylvania because of his scandalous affairs in Paris, Queen Louise becomes intrigued by his background. Soon, they develop feelings for each other and decide to marry. Thus, Count Alfred becomes Prince Alfred.

*Mischievous:* Mischievousness is causing or showing a fondness for playfully causing trouble. Count Alfred is a playful person as can be seen in his countless affairs with Parisian women. In the first scene of the film, we see Paulette who shows a leg accessory to the Count as proof of his unfaithfulness. The ironic thing is that Paulette is also being unfaithful to his husband as she has an affair with the Count. Later, we find out that Count Alfred also has had an affair with the ambassador's wife. All these affairs show us the mischievous and roguish side of Count Alfred.

*Disobedient:* Even though Count Alfred accepts to be a docile and obedient husband to Queen Louise out of love for her, he soon realizes that the life of a prince consort is not fit for him. He tries to carve out his own place in royal affairs such as when he prepares a national budget and presents it to Queen Louise and the ministers. However, his proposal is declined as the prince consort has no right to interfere in the affairs of the state. In another scene, the Queen commands him to come to the opera with her and that he should be in the best of humor. However, he disobeys and prepares to leave for Paris (even though at the last minute, he decides that he wouldn't want to ruin the woman he once loved). Thus, we can say that he does not live up to the expectation of being an obedient prince consort.

*Loving:* Despite being mischievous, roguish, and disobedient; Prince Alfred loves Queen Louise. As he sings in *The Love Parade*, he sees in her all the good characteristics of the women he knew. He agrees to be a Prince Consort not for status or prestige but because he is in love with her. He also agrees to be a docile and obedient husband out of his love for her. We also witness the love of Prince Alfred for the Queen when he changes his mind about leaving for Paris and decides to stay with the Queen when she says that she will follow him wherever he goes.

### Queen Louise:

Queen Louise is the Queen of the mythical land of Sylvania. She is frustrated with her subjects' fixation on her potential marriage. When she learns about the scandalous affairs of Count Alfred, she is intrigued and wishes to get to know him more. Their relationship eventually develops and they end up marrying. Queen Louise is used to ruling her land independently so, she does not look favorably upon Prince Alfred's interference in the affairs of the state. However, certain series of events make her empathize with the situation of Prince Alfred and she ultimately makes him king.

*Independent:* Queen Louise is an independent ruler. She rules Sylvania without the support of a husband or king. She rules the ministers and the army all by herself. She thinks that not much will change

when she marries Count Alfred. However, we soon witness the conflicts within their marriage as the independent nature of Queen Louise and the disobedience of Prince Alfred clash.

**Bossy:** Bossy refers to being fond of giving people orders or being domineering. As Queen Louise is used to ruling her country independently, she is used to giving orders to everyone around her. This makes her a bossy personality. She also believes that she can give commands to Prince Alfred and that her commands will be obeyed without much questioning. However, Prince Alfred is also an independent character who is not willing to be docile and obedient and who cannot stand being a mere figurehead. Thus, the individual characteristics of these two people cause marital conflicts.

**Patriotic:** Queen Louise loves her country. Her love for her country can be best seen in the scene where she sings together with the royal army. She sings: 'My heart is moved by your loyalty. Advance with firmness and strength. Firm in war, ready for love, you live only for your country. Your uniform steals our hearts. Who is as loyal as the Grenadiers?' As can be inferred from these lines, she leads her country with strength, faith, and passion.

**Loving:** Despite being an independent, bossy, and patriotic ruler; Queen Louise is filled with love for Prince Alfred. After all, she invites him to dinner on the first day when she meets him. Moreover, in the very last scene of the film, we see that she is even ready to give up for role as the Queen and follow Prince Alfred to Paris as she cannot imagine a life without him. The willingness to give up her role as the Queen shows us the greatness of her love for Prince Alfred.

### **Jacques:**

Jacques is the personal servant of Count Alfred. He plays a supporting and minor role in the film. Nevertheless, the film becomes richer in comedy because of the role Jacques plays in it. He is a loyal servant who is always ready to serve his master and looks up to him. We see that he and Lulu, one of the subjects of Queen Louise, plan to marry each other, too.

**Loyal:** Jacques' distinguishing characteristic is that he is a very loyal servant. At the beginning of the film, we learn that Jacques is very good at making excuses for Count Alfred. He can even imitate his master's voice on the telephone. Thus, he helps his master in his scandalous affairs. After Count Alfred marries Queen Louise and certain conflicts begin to erupt in their marriage, Jacques always believes that his master is right and the Queen is wrong. Thus, his unwavering faith in his master is very noticeable.

**Lulu:** Lulu is one of the subjects (servants/maids) of Queen Louise. She, like Jacques, plays a supporting and minor role in the film. Her fights with Jacques make the film richer in terms of its comical aspects. She also enjoys being common as being common gives her an opportunity to act naturally and freely which the royalty cannot afford to do.

**Loyal:** Like Jacques, Lulu is also very loyal to her Queen and cannot stand Jacques' critical remarks about her. She believes that the Queen is not a mere lady but the head of the state and she always does the right thing. She is ready to fight Jacques if he keeps on making critical statements about the Queen. Her love for the Queen not only shows Lulu's admiration for the royalty but also her patriotism.

## THEMES

### **SOCIETY**

**Gender** Gender roles and how these assigned roles have an impact on the relationships between people are one of the major themes of the film. Gender roles seem to be reversed in *The Love Parade*. Queen Louise is an independent ruler, domineering and powerful. She is a true leader of the army and her country. She is not someone who can accept to be in a submissive role. Therefore, she deviates from the typical women roles where we expect women to be rather docile, obedient, and submissive to men. Count Alfred is also not a particularly domineering character as we usually expect men to be. However, when he becomes the prince consort, he becomes a character with almost no rights as he does not have

a right to speak about the state affairs. He has to play the role of the submissive, docile, and obedient partner which he ultimately cannot accept as a man. Therefore, he protests in his own way and decides to leave Queen Louise and go back to Paris. His protest results in Queen Louise understanding his point of view and agreeing to make him King Alfred instead of a mere prince consort. This resolution reunites the couple at the end of the film. But one question that could perhaps arise for the viewers of the film is what would happen if it was not a man marrying a queen but a woman marrying a king. Whether we would expect a different storyline in such a case might be a question that the viewers would like to ponder.

**Class** In the film, we see two distinct classes at work. One of the classes is the higher class: the royalty. These are represented by Queen Louise and the prince consort. The other class is the commoners who are represented by subjects such as Jacques and Lulu. The royal class has more status, prestige, power, and wealth. However, they also have more weighty duties and responsibilities. Moreover, they have to act according to a certain etiquette under most, if not all, circumstances. Commoners such as Jacques and Lulu certainly do not have the same power and wealth as the royal people. But they also do not have to behave according to reestablished standards. As Jacques says: 'We commoners can take life easy. We can act natural and nobody will care.' Thus, the viewers can see that both the royalty and the common class have their advantages and disadvantages.

**Language** The official language of Sylvania is English. Count Alfred, on the other hand, speaks with a heavy French accent. According to the story he tells the Master of Ceremonies, he acquired his French accent in Paris. This language issue does not create any communication difficulties in any part of the film. On the contrary, we see Count Alfred using his French knowledge to his advantage. For instance; when the Master of Ceremonies does not want to serve breakfast for him because Queen Louise is not present, Count Alfred gets frustrated and talks to him in French. Except for the viewers who know French, we do not get to learn what he says but we can simply guess that he is complaining about the rules of Sylvania royalty. Thus, Count Alfred's speaking a second language gives him an advantage or even a mental space where he can express his frustrations, worries, and issues more freely than he would in English, the language that he has in common with the other characters of the film.

## **POLITICS**

**Power** Queen Louise has legitimate authority as the head of the state and therefore has power. Moreover, she is an independent ruler which means that she is not used to sharing her individual power with anyone else. When Count Alfred marries Queen Louise and becomes prince consort, the equations of power change too. Prince Alfred sees that he has no political power and therefore is not different from the common people when it comes to exercising authority. After all, he has no right to interfere in the affairs of the state and so on. Prince Alfred is not content with his situation and therefore decides to take the matter into his own hands. He decides to leave his wife and go back to Paris. Queen Louise, because she loves her husband so much, is ready to give up her political and royal power so that she can be with Prince Alfred. When Prince Alfred sees how much she is willing to give up for him, he decides to stay with her in Sylvania. Then Queen Louise also bestows political power on him by promising to make him the King of Sylvania. Thus, we the viewers witness how a man gets immense political power and authority by marrying the Queen of the land.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

**Sadness** There are only a few scenes in the film where the emotion of sadness is present. One of these scenes is when Prince Alfred is not dressed for the occasion of the royal opera performance and tells Queen Louise that he will travel to Paris. He says to Queen Louise that she has gone too far as she thought she could manage the former military attaché and give orders to her husband. He also says that she forgot that Prince Alfred is a man first and foremost. Then he leaves the room. This confrontation makes Queen Louise distressed and disheartened. She does not know what to do out of despair. Another scene where we witness Queen Louise's sadness is when she and Prince Alfred go back to the palace; they both stay in their separate rooms. Prince Alfred sings to himself and does not seem to have any regrets about leaving his wife. Queen Louise, on the other hand, cries constantly and is very sad that Prince Alfred will leave her. Afterward, she goes to Prince Alfred and tells him that she will follow him



wherever he goes. Thus, these two scenes confront the viewers with the reality of the emotion of sadness.

**Isolation/Boredom** Prince Alfred experiences isolation and boredom after he marries Queen Louise. The reason for that is Queen Louise has her duties as the ruler of the land. However, Prince Alfred—being the prince consort—has neither duties nor responsibilities. He even says to Queen Louise that he may stay in bed all day as he has nothing to get up for. Queen Louise tries to arrange certain events for him such as tennis and bridge lessons. Yet, being the former military attaché, Prince Alfred has no interest in these kinds of hobbies. He feels that Queen Louise is using him as if he were a plaything. Therefore, his ego is hurt and he feels useless. These feelings negatively affect him and make his isolation and boredom even more impactful on his psyche.

## FLAW

**Pride** Pride refers to a high especially an excessively high, opinion of one's own worth or importance which gives rise to a feeling or attitude of superiority over others. Queen Louise's flaw is her feelings of superiority and pride. She is an individual who is used to ruling the country independently. She is at first also not willing to share her power. We can see her unwillingness to share her power in the scene where Prince Alfred presents a budget plan that he has prepared. She does not read his plan and the ministers also do not read the plan as they are not permitted to take orders from the prince consort regarding the affairs of the state. Thus, Queen Louise does not empathize with Prince Alfred's situation. As a result of her uncaring attitude and pride, she almost loses Prince Alfred as a husband. Prince Alfred decides to leave Sylvania for Paris as he is frustrated with his situation. Only when Queen Louise realizes how serious Prince Alfred is does she realize the gravity of her mistakes and tries to make up for her previous behavior. She puts her pride aside and tells Prince Alfred that she will follow him wherever he goes which shows the greatness of her love and how she chooses love over her ego and pride.

## QUEST

**Explore** Count Alfred explores his environment throughout the film. We see him first of all as a military attaché, discovering what Paris has to offer. Later, he goes back to Sylvania where he explores the palace and the life of royalty. Throughout his explorations, his cheerful and positive attitude accompany him. After marrying Queen Louise, he also experiences what it means to be a prince consort and the advantages and disadvantages of this position. Even though he soon becomes frustrated with boredom and isolation, he does not become depressed. He decides to take the matter into his own hands and leave the palace for his well-being. This act shows us that he has respect for himself as an individual. At the end of the film, he is reunited with Queen Louise and will be King Alfred which we as viewers do not get to see the development of.

## RELATIONSHIP

**Marriage** Marriage is a major theme of *The Love Parade*. We witness the marriage of Queen Louise and Prince Alfred which is a love marriage before all else. Their marriage has its own twists and turns and conflicts which eventually get resolved by the end of the film. As I have written in the section on 'Power', most of the problems that occur in the marriage of Queen Louise and Prince Alfred are about power inequalities between husband and wife. Queen Louise is a domineering individual with a lot of power and authority. She has rights, duties, and responsibilities. On the other hand, Prince Alfred has neither rights nor responsibilities. In his own words, he is merely perceived as a 'plaything' by the Queen which frustrates and angers him. Because he is ultimately an individual who has self-respect, he decides to leave Queen Louise. However, Queen Louise cannot imagine a life without Prince Alfred and is therefore ready to follow him wherever he goes. Fortunately, the big conflict of their marriage gets resolved as Queen Louise is ready to bestow on Prince Alfred the title of king. All in all, the film makes us question the relationships we have in our lives and how the power inequalities affect the quality of those relationships.

**Love** Love is another major theme of the film as the marriage between Queen Louise and Prince Alfred is characterized by love. As they both sing in *The Love Parade*, Queen Louise brings something from

each of Count Alfred's past loves: 'The eyes of Lizette, the smile of Mignonette, the sweetness of Suzette, the grace of Delphine, the charm of Josephine, the cuteness of Pauline. Other charms cannot surpass yours...You are my ideal, *my love parade*.' The Queen also sings: 'In the shadow of my throne, I have lived in solitude. But I have a love that I hope to give one day. I like knowing that in me you see everything you have loved mixed in me.' Thus, Queen Louise is happy that Count Alfred sees in her everything he has loved mixed in her. The love of their marriage continues throughout the film. However, as I have written in the previous sections, their marriage has certain conflicts because of power inequalities between husband and wife. These conflicts get resolved when Queen Louise decides to put her pride aside and be with her husband no matter where he goes. In the end, we see how love saves their marriage from a catastrophe.