

# SISI



BETA

STORYHOUSE  
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**Facts**

<b>Original Title</b>	Sisi	<b>Production Company</b>	Story House Pictures in co-production with Satel Film and Beta Film for TVnow
<b>Genre</b>	Historical Drama	<b>World Sales</b>	Beta Film
<b>Directed by</b>	Sven Bohse	<b>Format</b>	6 x 50 min
<b>Written by</b>	Robert Krause Andreas Gutzeit Elena Hell	<b>Release date</b>	2021
<b>Starring</b>	Dominique Devenport Jannik Schümann Désirée Nosbusch Fritz Karl		



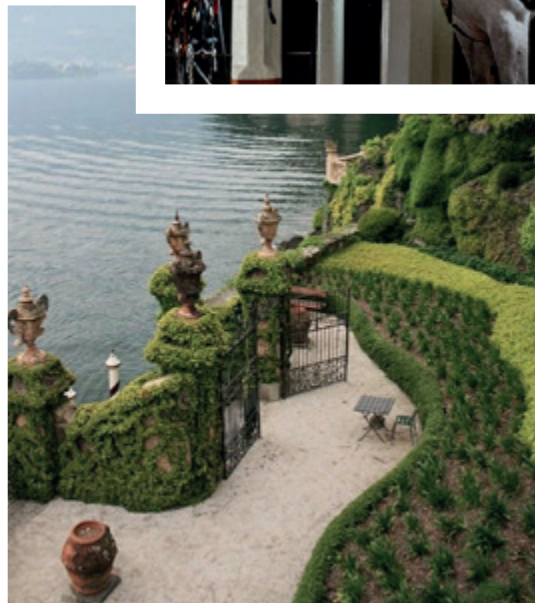
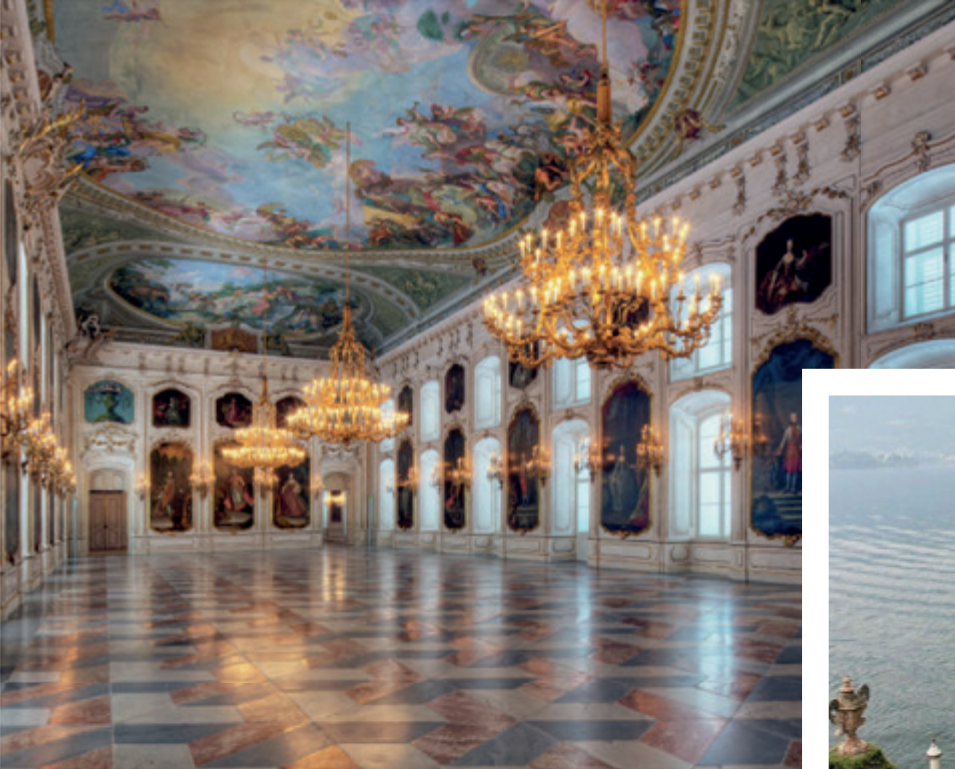
BETA

**Cast:**

Dominique Devenport,  
Jannik Schühmann









# SISI

She is an icon, Empress, legendary beauty: Sisi, Europe's first super star. A 19th-century Lady Di, her unconditional love of freedom and the promise to give the Habsburg monarchy an equal, gentler face, has captivated all of Europe, and for more than half a century, an audience of millions.

But now, she will enter into a new era.

"Sisi" is a story full of intrigue and desires. Initially, Sisi is a carefree teenager who falls head over heels in love with a man who is powerful, attractive, and desirable, but has an unspoken dark and dangerous side. It is love that was not meant to be.

Sisi has to choose, and she accepts the challenge.

A coming-of-age story, the tomboy becomes a self-confident woman. She will be able to make difficult decisions, to deal with loss and ultimately to fill an independent role as Empress.

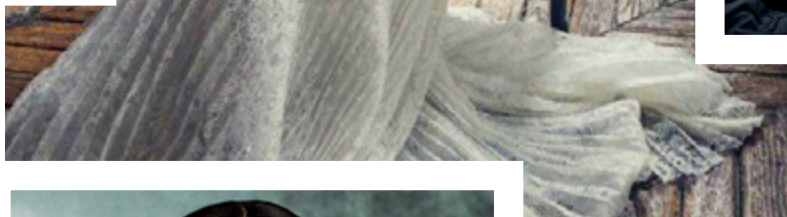
In short: A modern woman.

This is not a historical costume epic, but a series in which universal and timelessly relevant topics such as love, freedom, family, self-determination and duty play the decisive role – albeit dressed in the glamor of 19th century Habsburg court fashion.

But the themes are nakedly honest.

"Sisi" is a brand; the wide appeal of this legendary wild and freedom-loving beauty has long fascinated audiences. Now, it is her time to conquer a new generation's hearts and minds with a large, opulent and, above all, captivating and relevant series.







# SISI

## Synopsis

### EPISODE 1

Tearaway, tomboy, duchess and teenager. That's Sisi, alright. Plus, she's just fallen in love. Although Sisi's mother Ludovica soon puts the kibosh on her daughter's infatuation with Count Richard – according to her, low nobility will no longer cut it. After all, Sisi's sister Néné is soon about to become the Empress of Austria. Against her will, Sisi travels to Bad Ischl, where Néné's engagement to Emperor Franz Joseph is to be made official. And yet, there's an undeniable connection and erotic tension between Sisi and Franz when they first meet. In spite of this fascination, Franz moves ahead with his engagement plans with Néné; he's convinced that he's cursed, and that the woman he truly loves will be plagued by unhappiness. However, Sisi, never one to back down from a challenge, follows her irrepressible feelings for Franz. On an adrenalin-spiking horse ride, the two push each other to the edge of their passions, eventually landing themselves in a perilous ambush led by rebel Hungarians out for revenge against the Emperor. Sisi and Franz get the better of them though, and the terrifying experience has only fanned the flames of their love. At a huge birthday ball, Franz surprises the whole court of Vienna, his mother (Archduchess Sophie) and himself by choosing Sisi as the future Empress at his side.

### EPISODE 2

Engagement to Franz changes Sisi's life forever, and her already difficult family relationship endures further strain. What's more, the future Empress must undergo a crash course in preparation for life at the Viennese court. As Sisi's love for Franz grows, so too does her list of responsibilities. Sisi can't seem to overcome the barriers that Franz has erected for her protection, or so he claims. Her despair makes her fearless, and she finds an unlikely friend in Fanny, who becomes her lady-in-waiting and close confidante, attempting to prepare her for her marital duties. As wedding preparations get underway, Franz is forced to send his soldiers to war. But try as he might, he can never completely suppress his powerful enemies: Napoleon III is becoming increasingly involved on the European stage and is fast becoming Franz's main adversary. Still, the wedding takes place as planned and is the event of the century. Sisi is now the Empress of Austria. Tradition dictates that the marriage must be consummated in the nuptial bed – but is Sisi ready?

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## EPISODE 3

The consummation of the wedding turns out to be a damp squib, but the Emperor shows his affection for Sisi by pretending to his mother, the strict Archduchess Sophie, that it's all gone smoothly. Sisi knows that this excuse will only hold for a short while – for her own good and the good of the Empire, an heir will eventually be expected. Fanny is exposed as a swindler by the cruel countess Esterhazy and is banned from court. Sisi has lost her confidante and now even her family are returning home. She breaks down under the stress. During their honeymoon, the imperial couple gradually grow closer. But their relationship is tested when Franz punishes Grünne for his misconduct and Sisi gets caught between the two sides. As Sisi closes in on Franz's secret, she senses that she'll have to accept his dark side if she really wants to support him. At their first official reception, it is Sisi who helps Franz calm the protesting Hungarians. Even an Emperor can't resist this allure and, in an evening of passion, the couple make love for the first time.

## EPISODE 4

Just as the happiness of the imperial couple seems absolute, an assassination attempt is carried out in secret among their closest circle. At the same time, Franz's political warmongering reaches its peak: now he's got to fight in Lombardy and Napoleon himself is involved this time around. Many lives are lost; the prospect of victory and peace recede fast. Franz keeps the bad news from Sisi. The young Empress amuses herself by continually giving her ladies-in-waiting the slip and stealing herself away to Fanny. Eventually Countess Esterhazy places Sisi under house arrest. The reason? Sisi is pregnant. But surprisingly, Esterhazy also reveals herself to be an ally of Sisi. To protect the Empire she organizes a meeting between the (now heavily pregnant) Empress and the number one enemy of the state, Count Andrassy, leader of the Hungarian rebellion. The plan is for Sisi's charm to calm the tensions between the nations. The outcome remains uncertain: will Franz heed her advice? A short while later the imperial couple welcome their first child into the world. As the girl is being given the name Sophie at her baptism, the assassin seizes their chance and gravely wounds Franz.



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## EPISODE 5

Franz only just survives the attack. He's barely recovered from his injuries when he hurries back to his troops, hungry for revenge. The war is an unmitigated disaster for Austria; Napoleon III seems to have won the upper hand. At the same time Sisi, abandoned at home, rails against the court's strict rules. She helps out as a nurse in a field hospital in Laxenberg where she treats Count Grünne, who's been badly wounded in battle. Later, Sisi travels with Grünne to meet Franz and tries to convince her husband to meet with Count Andrassy. But even the news of Sisi's second pregnancy can't appease the Emperor, who carries on with his costly war until he's forced to pull back. On his return home, Franz is willing to hear his Empress's suggestions for reconciliation with the Hungarians. Franz does indeed meet with Count Andrassy in Hungary, but the lines remain unmoved. At a large state reception in Budapest, Sisi manages to get Franz and Andrassy to make peace, winning the hearts of the Hungarian people in the process. In the midst of joyous celebrations, the assassin attacks the Emperor once again. At the last moment, Count Grünne manages to hunt down the assailant and save the lives of the imperial couple. But terrible news follows: Sisi's daughter Sophie has a high fever.

## EPISODE 6

Sophie dies that very night. Sisi and Franz travel back to Vienna with their dead daughter, where they are met by Sisi's family, who have come to offer their support. Filled with grief and despair, it takes enormous strength from Sisi to eventually accept the death of her daughter. Fanny is her rock through this, but now, however, she turns out to be the secret assistant of the assassin. The young Empress is deeply shaken by this betrayal from her supposed friend; she has no choice but to bring Fanny to justice. Even though relations are improving with Hungary, Franz sees war as his only viable option. Peace negotiations with Hungary and Napoleon III ought to rule out the worst outcomes, but they end up being a complete capitulation. Once again, Sisi must be the one to skilfully prop up her husband, put Napoleon in his place and strike peace between nations. She also brings Marie, Fanny's daughter, into her court. Finally, she has grown into the role of the upstanding Empress. She has won the hearts of Austria, Hungary and Germany – and even the Emperor's too.



Beta Film

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