

A Royal Night Out (12)

Five members didn't really enjoy this somewhat ludicrous take on a real event. On VE Day in 1945, the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret did go out among the crowds, to get a sense of how ordinary people felt following the victory over Germany. But they weren't chaperoned only by two incompetent army officers as in the film, but by 16 ladies-in-waiting and other highly trusted members of the Royal Household (see the Tatler article at <https://www.tatler.com/article/the-queens-night-out-ve-day> for the true story).

So the film took the basic premise (that's what "inspired by" means) and made up a farcical story that had shades of a Benny Hill chase (Princess Elizabeth running around London with a young airman trying to find Princess Margaret), taking in such places as the Ritz, a brothel and the Chelsea Barracks. The few potentially interesting moments — for example, when Princess Elizabeth admits that she has never even made a cup of tea for herself — which could have made a meaningful comment on privilege and aristocracy, got lost in the totally implausible plot.

The humour as it was came from the stupidity of the two army officers and the other ridiculously stage managed situations. A shame that what could have been an interesting and meaningful film was turned into a poor imitation of a "Carry On".