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LM

GERMANY, 1930, 99 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: Fritz Lang

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Nero Film

SCREENPLAY: Thea von Harbou

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Fritz Arno Wagner

EDITOR: Paul Falkenberg

PRINCIPAL CAST: Peter Lorre, Otto
Wernicke, Gustaf Grundgens, Inge Landgut



Fritz Lang's first sound film features a small, fat man sweating in his uncomfortable clothes — a sexual psychopath who murders little girls — interpreted with genius by Peter Lorre. The movie is both a satire and a social melodrama centered on two converging chase sequences. The police seek out this desperate killer as the underground tracks him down at the same time, his crimes tarnishing their territory. Identification with Lorre, the murderer, is uncanny as he utters the cry, "I can't help myself!" It is his triumph that he makes us understand this terrified, suffering human being who kills.

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