

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Pandora's box</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Denver International Film Festival</i>
Date	1981
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Die büchse der Pandora (Pandora's box), Pabst, Georg Wilhelm, 1929



# SPECIAL

Denver I.F.F. '81



## Pandora's Box (Die Buchse der Pandora)

MAY 81

DIRECTOR: G.W. Pabst

PRODUCER: Seymour Nebenzal.

George Horsetzky/Nero Film

SCREENPLAY: Ladislaus Vajda, from two plays by Frank Wedekind: *Erdegeist* and *Die Buchse der Pandora*

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Gunther Krampf

CAST: Louise Brooks, Gustav Diessl, Fritz Kortner,

Franz Lederer, Carl Goetz, Alice Roberts

RUNNING TIME: 120 min. (silent, with music track)

PRINT SOURCE: Films Inc./Janus

*Pandora's Box*, justifiably the most famous of the late German silent films (it was released early in 1929), is an intensely erotic, almost unbearably beautiful culmination point in the Golden Age of the German Cinema and features one of the most famous performances in all cinema: Louise Brooks' Lulu. She was an American dancer and actress, of great talent and beauty but little ambition and with a very cavalier attitude to Hollywood sacred cows. Her appearance in this film, and in Pabst's subsequent *Diary of a Lost Girl*, is one of the miracles of the screen, and it is now impossible to imagine anyone else in the role of Wedekind's tragic heroine. As she later wrote, "Frank Wedekind's play *Pandora's Box* opens with a prologue. Out of a circus tent steps the Animal Trainer, carrying in his left hand a whip and in his right hand a loaded revolver. 'Walk in,' he says to the audience, 'walk into my menagerie.' The finest job of casting G.W. Pabst ever did was casting himself as the Animal Trainer of his film of Wedekind's, *Tragedy of Monsters*. Never a sentimental trick did this whip hand permit the actors assembled to play his beasts. The revolver he shot straight into the heart of the audience."—Louise Brooks

Tuesday, May 5, 9:30 p.m., Guild (G10)  
Thursday, May 14, 7 p.m., Guild (G27)