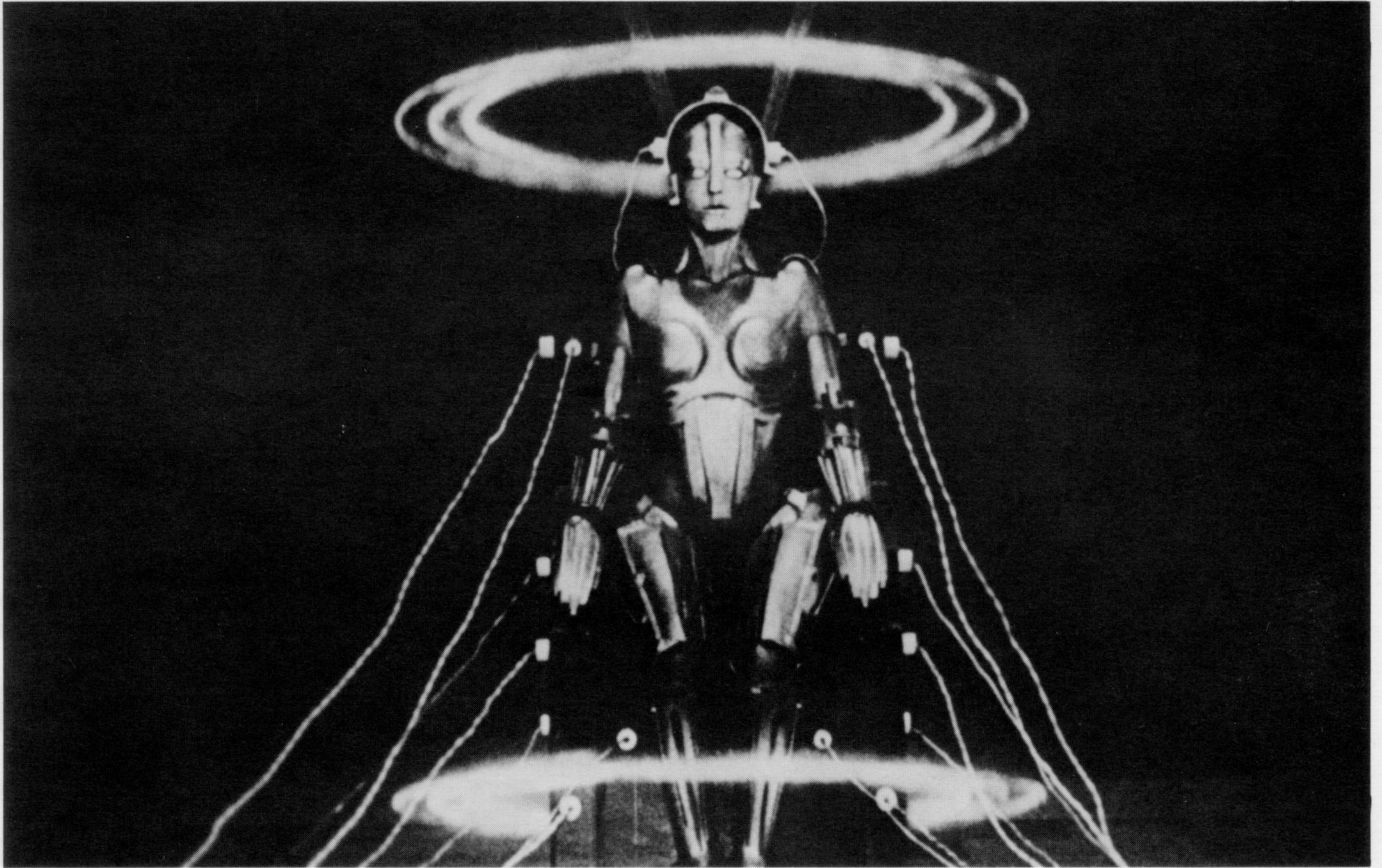


## Document Citation

Title	<b>Metropolis</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Toronto International Film Festival</i>
Date	1991
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Lang, Fritz (1890-1976), Vienna, Austria
Film Subjects	Metropolis, Lang, Fritz, 1926



# Metropolis

## Fritz Lang

Germany, 1926, 140 minutes  
Black and White/35mm/Silent

Production Company: UFA

Screenplay: Thea von Harbou

Cinematography: Karl Freund, Günter Rittau

Art Director: Otto Hunte, Erich Kettelhut,

Carl Vollbrecht

Music: Gottfried Huppertz, performed by Frank Strobel and Pierre Oser

Principal Cast: Brigitte Helm, Alfred Abel, Gustav Fröhlich, Rudolph Klein-Rogge, Heinrich George, Fritz Rasp

Print Source: Bundesarchiv/Filmarchiv Berlin, Hausvogta, Platz 3-4, 0-1080 Berlin, Germany. Tel: 203-3262. Fax: 200-4816.

Foreign Sales Agent: Deutsches Institut für Filmkunde, Wiesbaden, Germany. Tel: 611-370162. Fax: 611-172739.

Frankfurt am Main, an official partner city of Toronto, celebrates the friendship between our two cities by presenting a special outdoor screening of Fritz Lang's futuristic masterpiece *Metropolis*. Before *Terminator 2*, before *Robocop*, before *Blade Runner*, *Star Wars*, and *2001: A Space Odyssey*, there was *Metropolis*. One of the most influential films of all time, it was also one of the most expensive. With 370 shooting days, 800 actors, and 30,000 extras, *Metropolis* cost well over 200 million in today's dollars. The year is 2020 and society is divided into two classes: an elite of idle socialites who live only for pleasure, and the workers, the hopeless, faceless mass who are doomed to serve from birth to death as slaves to the monstrous machines they tend. When the son of the master of the great city Metropolis falls in love with a girl from the worker class, the stage is set for one of the most thrilling — and visionary — films ever made. *Metropolis* strikes with a force almost unknown in science fiction films. The images resonate as though Lang had seen some new vision of hell in the vast machines and their even more mechanized armies of men. But the film is more than a collection of stunning special effects. Lang, armed with a Marxist viewpoint and a genuine talent for visual melodrama, attacks the machine age head-on, thrusting at us the spectre of machines that in effect become the true masters of men. An exhilarating story combined with breathtaking visuals, *Metropolis* just gets better every year.



**Fritz Lang** was one of the indisputable creative giants of both German and American cinema. He was born in Vienna, Austria in 1890 and began his film career as a reader and story editor for the Decla company

in Berlin. In 1919, he made *Halbblut*, his first film as a director. He died in 1976. Feature films include: *The Spiders* (20), *Der müde Tod* (21), *Dr. Mabuse* (22), *Die Nibelungen* (24), *Metropolis* (26), *Spies* (28), *By Rocket to the Moon* (29), *M* (30), *The Testament of Dr. Mabuse* (33), *Fury* (36), *Ministry of Fear* (44), *Cloak and Dagger* (45), *Rancho Notorious* (52), *The Blue Gardenia* (53), *The Big Heat* (53), *Human Desire* (54), *Moonfleet* (55), *While the City Sleeps* (56), *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt* (56), *The 1000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse* (60).

This film will be presented in Nathan Phillips Square on September 6 with live piano accompaniment by Frank Strobel and Pierre Oser from the Deutsches Filmmuseum in Frankfurt, Germany. They will play the original piano score by Gottfried Huppertz that Frank Strobel has synchronized to the film. This is the original international version of the film with English intertitles, and it has been restored by the Staatliches Filmarchiv with the support of various international film archives.

Sponsored by