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THE FILMS OF FRITZ LANG
October 3, 1969 at 8:30

Presented by Educational Programs
Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(LILIOM) (1934)

Film critics and historians have been wrestling with the films of Fritz Lang for fifty years now, trying to seize upon his philosophy, themes of life and death, visual style, technique, and other filmic concerns. But unlike the Angel with Jacob, Fritz Lang refuses to bless them. Perhaps he just doesn't like to wrestle.

On the other hand, it may be that treating more than one Lang film at a time is impossible. Before anything else, Lang's work is characterized by immense diversity. Rather than bringing a pre-conceived approach to the filming of any given project, Lang gives evidence of studying his projects carefully to see what approach is suggested by the nature of the material to be filmed. How else can one account for the vast difference between, say, the serene beauty of DESTINY and the fierce dynamism of METROPOLIS?

Concentrate on the films of Fritz Lang one at a time, irrespective of the period, and the whole language of film art will be revealed to you.

_____ Philip Chamberlin

CREDITS: Directed by Fritz Lang. Screenplay by Robert Liebman. Dialogue by Bernard Zimmer. Based on the play by: Ferenc Molnar. Photography by Rudolph Maté, Louis Née. Music by Jean Lenoir, Franz Waxman. Art direction by Paul Colin, René Renoux. Produced by Erich Pommer. Produced by Erich Pommer-Fox Europa. Running time: 120 minutes.

CAST: Charles Boyer (Liliom), Madeleine Ozeray (Julie), Pedro Alcover (Alfred), Odette Florelle (Mme. Muscat), Henri Richard (Commissioner), Mimi Funès (Marie), Mme. Maximilienne (Mme. Menoux), Robert Arnoux (Strong Arm), Roland Toutain (Sailor), Alexandre Rignault (Hollinger), Richard Barenco (Purgatory Cop), Antonin Artaud (Knife Grinder) Raoul Marco (Detective), Leon Arvel (Clerk), Rene Stern (Cashier).

The installation of photos in the Bing Theater Foyer illustrates the work of Fritz Lang and Lang at work. We wish to thank Fritz Lang, Herbert Luft, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, David Bradley and Forrest J. Ackerman for making the display possible. Mr. Ackerman also kindly loaned the artifacts in the lobby display case.

Guests are asked to smoke only in the upstairs lounge or in the outside lobby. Fire laws prohibit smoking in the auditorium. (See Liliom for verification).

The task of making sub-titles especially for tonight's showing has been enormous, even by our informal standards. The result is rough, but we trust that our titles will render the film's continuity for you. Thank you.