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Harvard Film Archive
Live Piano Accompaniment
by Martin Marks

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Metropolis

(Das Schicksal einer Menschheit im Jahre 2000)

Directed by Fritz Lang

Germany 1926, 35mm, b/w, silent, 130 min.

With Brigitte Helm, Alfred Abel,

Gustav Fröhlich

THE GREATEST science-fiction film of the silent cinema, *Metropolis* was made by Lang at Berlin's UFA studio with an unprecedented budget for its huge sets, inspired by the New York skyline. Set in the twenty-first century, the story is derived partly from medieval legends, partly from the dystopic vision of a future of intensified conflict between capital and labor. Photographed in Expressionist style and designed to display powerful geometric symmetries, many of the film's sequences are unforgettable, especially the dramatic laboratory creation of the robot-woman.