

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Fritz Lang's M</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	
Film Subjects	M, Lang, Fritz, 1931



FRITZ  
LANG'S

# M

WITH PETER LORRE IN  
THE ORIGINAL UNCUT VERSION

*M* displays the consummate skill of Fritz Lang, who molded the desperate and negative qualities of early sound film into a tremendously evocative cinematic unity. Peter Lorre in a flawless performance recreates the claustrophobic, psychotic universe of a child-rapist who is hunted by the police as well as the criminal class. Based on the fiendish killings which spread terror among the inhabitants of Dusseldorf in 1929, the film served also as an important social statement.

*"Powerful pathological study."*  
NEW YORK TIMES

90 min.

*"One of the true classics of the cinema."*  
HERALD TRIBUNE

*"Ingenious cutting . . . Horrifying."*  
FROM CALIGARI TO HITLER





## STORY

Searching the city for a degenerate child-killer, the police paralyze the activities of the criminal underworld. "Business" is affected until at last the thieves themselves organize to trail the slayer.

Beggars are assigned territories, and a blind toy peddler recognizes the murderer in hearing him whistle a melody associated with a former crime.

A quick-witted ruffian scrawls a chalked "M" upon the killer's shoulder, and he is followed and cornered in a huge office building where, that night, expert house breakers and safe-crackers search and find him, carting him away to a trial before a "jury of his peers."

At the last moment, the police break up the kangaroo court, and the killer is rescued from mob vengeance to suffer legal justice.

## CAST

The Murderer	Peter Lorre
The Mother	Ellen Widmann
The Child	Inge Landgut
The Safebreaker	Gustaf Grundgens
The Burglar	Fritz Odemal
The Pickpocket	Paul Kemp
The Confidence Trickster	Theo Lingen
The President of Police	Ernst Stahl-Nachbaur
The Minister	Franz Stein
Superintendent Lohman	Otto Wernicke
Superintendent Groeber	Theodore Loos
The Blind Begger	George John
Counsel for the Defense	Rudolf Blumner
The Watchman	Karl Platen
The Criminal Chief	Gerhard Bienert
The Landlady	Rosa Valetti

## CREDITS

Director	Fritz Lang
Screenplay	Fritz Lang and Theo von Harbou, Paul Falkenberg
Photography	Fritz-Arno Wagner
Sets	Karl Wolbrecht, Emil Hasler

## COMMENT

"In a dozen years of movie-going there has been no more memorable crime thriller . . . shocking audiences into hushed, wrapt attention. Dealing, as it does, with a subject at once repellent and proscribed, the film is so ably conceived, so excellently wrought, that it is utterly fascinating both as a dramatic vehicle and as a technical achievement."

**New York American**

"It is in these final sequences that Peter Lorre can take almost equal responsibility with Fritz Lang for the creation of a masterpiece. His acting throughout is terrifyingly brilliant, but it becomes inspired when he fights for his life like a rat and then pleads tragically to be turned over to the authorities. When he tells of his ungovernable impulsion toward blood-letting and cries out in anguish . . . the film reaches a heart-shaking crisis of terror and pity."

**New York Herald Tribune**

"The way it succeeds . . . is truly a melodrama of the soul, unexampled in any other crime film. Lang filled decorative pattern, employed breath taking pace (both fast and slow), with maximum content. As for Lorre, his career was 'made'."

**Parker Tyler, CLASSICS OF THE FOREIGN FILM**

M

99 minutes. Black and white. Germany, 1930. English titles.