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M
(GERMAN MADE)

Berlin, May 24.

Nerofilm production and Vereinigte Star-
film release. Direction Fritz Lang, after
story and script by Thea von Harbou.
Photography, Fritz Arno Wagner, Gustav
Bathje, Karl Vash and Karl Veilbrecht;
Sound, Adolf Janzen and Emil Hasler.
Recorded on Tobis-Klangfilm. Cast: Peter
Lorre, Ellen Widman, Inge Landgut, Gus-
tal Gruendgens, Fritz Gnass, Fritz Ode-
sdr, Paul Kemp, Theo Lingen, Ernst
Sahl-Nachbaur, Franz Steia, Otto Wer-
nicke, Theodor Loos, Georg John, Rudolf
Bluemner, Karl Platen, Gerhard Bienert,
Rosa Valetti, Hertha von Walther, Carl
Heinrich, Hans Behal, Hugo Deeblich, Else
Fischer, Erwin Faber, Ilse Fuerstenberg,
Heinrich Gothe, Almas Caroll, Eckhof
Kiser, Gellgik, Goldstein, Goltz, Gretler,
Malank, Hartberg, Hempel, Hoocker, Hoer-
mann, Isenta Karchow, Kepich, Hermann,
Kreppa, Kurth, Leiser, Rose Lichtenstein,
Lotte Loebinger, Lohde, Loretto, Mascheck,
Matthis, Mederow, Margarete Melzer, Trude
Moos, Netto, Neumann, Nied, Maja Nor-
don, Pauly, Klaus Pohl, Polland, Rebane,
Sahpoff, Reihelg, Rhaden, Ritter, Sab-
linski, Sascha, Agnes Schulz-Lichterfeld,
Stachel, Stroo, Swinborne, Trutz, Waldis,
Walsh, Wanka, Wannemann, Wulf and
Bruno Ziemer. Running time, 114 minutes.
At Ufa-Palast am Zoo, Berlin.

"An extraordinary, good, impres-
sive and strong talker. Again fine
work by Fritz Lang, his wife and
helper, Thea von Harbou. A big
success, good internationally. All
the more astonishing as it is Lang's
first talker.

"M" is the sign of recognition of
a child's murderer who is sought by
the police and an underworld or-
ganization. It is the story of the
world-known murderer, Peter Kuer-
ten of Daesseldorf. Amazing thing
about this is that the authoress,
Thea von Harbou, wrote this manu-
script before Peter Kuersten was
ever arrested, which proves that her
vision foresaw the problem of this
human beast.

The town is looking for a mur-
derer who is terrorizing the whole
city. Children disappear and are
found dead. Police force is mobili-
zed and also the underworld, as
due to the constant raids of the po-
lice their business is endangered.

After a thrilling chase the mur-
derer is caught by the gangster or-
ganizations. The work of the police,
of the criminal department, the raids
and police patrols, the spy work of
the gangsters, all this is splen-
dently worked out and realistically.

Here Lang shows his great ability.
When the captured murderer is
brought before the court of the un-
derworld organization and sen-
tenced, the audience in part pro-
fests and in part agrees with the
sentence—it is so true.

The performance takes two hours,
a little too long. Without spoiling
the effect—even bettering it—cut-

ting could be done. There are a
few repetitions and a few draggy
scenes.

Peter Lorre does unusually well
as the murderer, changing from hu-
man despair to bestial lust. It is
most gripping when he pleads for
human treatment and understand-
ing for his pathological tendencies.

Technical art soars to unknown
human heights, and a tremendous
group of splendid actors, too big to
separately comment. Otto Wernicke,
as the chief of the criminal depart-
ment, achieves such perfect work
one is reminded of Lon Chaney's
figures. Theodor Loos and Gerhard
Bienert are also splendid as crim-
inal policemen. In between are two
fine actresses: Rosa Valetti and
Margarete Melzer.

A very great artistic success for
Fritz Lang and Thea von Harbou,
and a great box office picture for
the producer, Seymour Nebenzahl,
who, with his Nerofilm productions
this season, has shown more cour-
age and energy to create something
new than any other German film
company, including Ufa. Magnus

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