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| ***Metropolis* (1927)** |
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| [Enter an **abstract** for your article] |
| *Metropolis* is a black-and-white silent German film directed by Expressionist filmmaker Fritz Lang and co-written with his then wife, Thea von Harbou. Set in the year 2026 in an urban dystopia where the rich inhabit towering skyscrapers while faceless workers live and toil among subterranean machines that keep the city running, it helped to further establish the science fiction genre within cinema. The film took a notably contradictory stance towards industrial modernity: while its narrative conveyed Expressionist fears of technology by focusing on the machine rhythms and dehumanizing conditions of the modern factory system, it visually celebrated the Machine Age through Art Deco styling, particularly evident in the design of the Maschinenmensch (machine-human), and the utilization of new cinematographic techniques like the Schüfftan process, by which mirrors were used to project actors onto miniature futuristic sets. *Metropolis* received mixed reviews at its 1927 Berlin premiere. While some praised its technical achievements, others critiqued its thematic contradictions, religious iconography, simplistic social message, and epic length. It was severely edited and the original cut was lost for over eighty years until the 2008 discovery of a print in the archives of a film museum in Buenos Aires. Twenty-seven lost minutes were recovered and, after a lengthy restoration process, the most complete version of the film was released in 2010.  *File: Metropolis city (Allison de Fren).jpg*  *No caption provided*  *File: Metropolis shufftian (Allison de Fren).jpg*  *No caption provided* |
| Further reading:  Elsaesser, Thomas. Metropolis. London: British Film Institute, 2008.  Gunning, Tom. *The Films of Fritz Lang: Allegories of Vision and Modernity*. London: British Film Institute, 2008.  Huyssen, Andreas. “The Vamp and the Machine: Fritz Lang’s Metropolis” in *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism*. Bloomington: Indiana UP,  1986.  Kaes, Anthony. “Metropolis (1927): City, Cinema, and Modernity” in *Weimar Cinema: An Essential Guide to Classic Films of the Era,* Noah William Isenberg, Ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).  Kracauer, Siegfried. *From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film*.New York: North Rivers, 1947.  Minden, Michael; Bachmann, Holger. *Fritz Lang's Metropolis: Cinematic Visions of Technology and Fear*. New York: Camden House, 2002. |