

Metropolis

Main Facts

- Made: 1927
- PRODUCTION COMPANY: Universum Film
- Directed by: Fritz Lang
- Written By: Thea Von Harbou
- Starring: Alfred Abel, Gustav Frohlich, Rudolf Klein-Rogge
- Genre: Science Fiction (Silent Film)

Major Plot Points

- In a futuristic city sharply divided between the working class and the city planners, the son of the city's mastermind falls in love with a working class prophet who predicts the coming of a savior to mediate their differences. (IMDB)

Financials

- Budget: 5,000,000 Reichsmarks
- Money Made: 75,000 Reichsmarks
- Special Costs: Pioneered use of miniatures for cities, filming took over a year

Quotes

- Notable quotes from the movie
 - **Freder**: What if one day those in the depths rise up against you?
 - **Flash Card**: One man's hymn of praise became other men's curses
 - **Worker #3**: Get your women, your sons, from the worker's city!
Let no one stay behind! Death to the machines - !
 - **The Machine Man**: [*disguised as Maria*] Who is the living food for the machines in Metropolis - ? Who lubricates the machine joints with their own blood - ? Who feeds the machines with their own flesh - ? Let the machines starve, you fools - ! Let them die - ! Kill them - the machines - !

Historical/Cultural Significance

- One of the last epic Silent Films
- A precursor for much of science fiction
- Pioneered the use of special effects like the use of miniature models

Filming Information

- Filmed in Germany
 - Berlin
 - Brandenburg
 - Vienna, Austria
 - Guinness Factory in Dublin, Ireland

Composition/Music Notes

- Composed by Gottfried Huppertz.
- Drew inspiration from Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss.

Inane Trivia

- Much to [Fritz Lang](#)'s dismay, [Adolf Hitler](#) and [Joseph Goebbels](#) were big fans of the film. Goebbels met with Lang and told him that he could be made an honorary Aryan despite his Jewish background. Goebbels told him "Mr Lang, we decide who is Jewish and who is not". Lang left for Paris that very night.
- Was so influential on Superman creators [Jerry Siegel](#) and [Joe Shuster](#) that they named their character's city after it.
- The multiple-exposed sequences were not created in a lab but right during the filming on the set. The film was rewound in the camera and then exposed again right away. This was done up to 30 times.
- The robot of this film inspired the look for C-3PO in [Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope](#)(1977).

More trivia

- The mechanical right hand of one of the characters was later imitated in [Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb](#) (1964).
- At two-and-a-half hours in length, the film could not be shown enough times in a day to return UFA's investment soon enough. As a result, the entire company was restructured, with a new, more conservative board of directors. Appalled at the film's Marxist politics, they pulled it from theatres in the spring of 1927.
- Was chosen by Premiere magazine as one of the "100 Movies That Shook the World" in the October 1998 issue. The list ranked the most "daring movies ever made."
- Footage of this film was used in the British Rock Band, [Queen](#)'s Music Video for "Radio Ga Ga".

Accolades

- Created during the first years of the Academy awards, none given