

M E T R O P O L I S

FILM-LIVE-SCORE BY ANTONIO BRAS

Fritz Lang's silent movie classic "METROPOLIS" is unquestionably a landmark in the history of film making.

The musician, DJ and media artist Antonio Bras sets this "Silent-Movie Masterpiece" to music. Absolutely new and in his own unforgettable style.

By the live application of samples, mixes, synthesizer and drum-computer, Bras advances the aesthetics of the film into the 21st century, emphasizing its arrival, loud and clear, in the here and now.

MUSIC

Until today the performances of METROPOLIS have been accompanied more or less without exception, by the original soundtrack that was especially composed for it. Whether from tape or orchestra, combined, these pictures and music form a work of art.

Antonio Bras uses music styles which take the original concept into consideration. His many-faceted soundscapes and rhythms contain numerous style elements of electronic popular music which are to be found in the "alternative club culture" (Down-Tempo, Trance, Ambient, Industrial).

In this music there is a meeting of classical instruments, electronically generated simulations and also purely synthetic sounds. Sometimes apparently sounding soft, sometimes hard, being underpinned by hard rhythms and deep bass which reminds one of technoid structures. The continuing change of styles flows with the rhythm and pace of the film, captivates us and leaves us eager for more.

In the live performance, classical music and effects, sounding like rock excerpts and meditative ambient sounds, using numerous samples of guitars, concert pianos, percussive elements etcetera, are inserted, resulting in an encompassing digital sound synthesis.

This live soundtrack especially arranged for METROPOLIS puts the known pictures in a new context. The flood of feelings, from tension and menace and from scenes rich in tempo, with contemporary tonal pieces, supplements the emotional effect of the pictures and transports the cinematic contents into the present. The audience will be enthralled and enchanted by the harmony between the classic and the modern.

Antonio Bras has been active in the music scene since 1988 and has his own programme platform as a frequently-booked DJ. He is also Video- and Media-Artist and have a advertising and media agency in Stuttgart (Germany).

FILM

As a world-wide approved and highly rated piece of art and UNESCO world heritage, METROPOLIS has been moved once more, by the scenes recently discovered in Buenos Aires in 2008, into the forefront of public interest.

Fritz Lang's silent film classic METROPOLIS is a masterpiece of film aesthetics, a milestone in the history of the science fiction film genre, and certainly one of the most famous silent films of the Expressionist movement.

With enormous architectural constructions, countless extras, pioneering special effects and representations of monorail systems, flying cars, robots and visual telephone, he established the basis for the science-fiction film genre.

The futuristic story about power, seduction and reconciliation was filmed at great expense and effort between 1925 and 1926 at the UFA film studios in Berlin.

The film was a commercial flop and almost led to the production company's financial ruin. Originally running at around 210 minutes, the film was edited almost beyond recognition in the hope that it could sell more successfully.

In the seventies and eighties, the film was rediscovered and its renaissance celebrated. In 2001, it was included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

For decades this Body of Work was thought to be missing. However in the GDR in the 70's and in Munich in 1988, on the basis of screenplay, sheet music, scene cuts and countless photos a continuous painstaking restoration was made possible. Eventually the most faithful and longest reconstruction of the original film was put together, containing fragments which were brought together from all over the world. It was finally released in February 2001 by the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau Foundation (total running time 118 mins.).

In June 2008 the Museo del Cine of Buenos Aires' (Argentina) new superintendent Paula Félix-Didier re-discovered the missing film cans. Up to and during the 60's, a South-American collector was showing a privately-owned copy at clubs in the region.

Thanks to this sensational discovery, the main body of film could now be shown in all its glory with the newly found additional scenes.

After 83 years this silent film classic returns in 2010's restored lengthier version. On February 12th the World Premiere took place at the Berlin Film Festival, in Frankfurt, in front of the Brandenburg Gate (german: Brandenburger Tor) and was transmitted live by ARTE (Franco-German TV network).

STORY

In the futuristic city of Metropolis, the working class are forced to labour on assembly lines in underground engine rooms, while above, in the "Eternal Gardens" the rich and beautiful amused themselves. A revolt among the oppressed masses leads to violence, chaos and destruction, but ultimately to a reconciliation between the classes.

METROPOLIS versions

2001

D 1927, **118 minutes**, Live-Score with Antonio Bras, with a break

2010

D 1927, **147 minutes**, Live-Score with Antonio Bras, with a break

MORE DETAILS

Official Site	www.metropolis-live.de
Facebook	www.facebook.com/metropolislivesound
MySpace	www.myspace.com/metropolislivesound
YouTube	www.youtube.com/metropolislive

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