



Live Score for "Metropolis": Toni Bras (on the right) in the conversation with musicians from the band Mastino Surfers, who scored the film „Berlin – Symphony of the city“.  
Picture: Eva Siemandel

## „Own world premiere in Romania“

13.02.2010 – From our journalist Thomas Volkmann

**The SZ/BZ talked with Toni Bras about his work on "Metropolis" and about an interesting trip to Romania.**

### **When and how did you discover your love for "Metropolis"?**

“As a fan of the science fiction genre, I saw "Metropolis" for the first time at a cinema in Berlin when I was 16. I was surprised by the technical effects and the theatrically masterful usage of light and shadow, simply surpassing anything that had been seen and done with silent film to that point. Shortly before, I'd seen "Star Wars" then "Blade Runner" and with time, learnt that "Metropolis" had, for these and other such films, been a great inspiration, not to mention video clips from Madonna, Queen, Giorgio Moroder and even Techno-parties in the nineties where scenes were used as backdrops.

At that time however, most noticeable for me was the reaction of the audience, and the numbers who showed a particularly keen interest in the film itself. This is when I decided I wanted to transport the film, its meaning and content into the present day – and to address a younger audience via the music. On account of its social-critical content, quite different target groups are reached. I want, with my performance, not only to build bridges, but for this to be understood as my personal contribution for a better world“.

### **How many presentations of the Live Score have there been up to now?**

Toni Bras: „Since 2001, eleven and that with a four-year break in-between due to illness. In autumn, 2007 I revamped the score again – above all the last 30 minutes, which I was never really content with, since the 2001 version at Movida. Basically, the score is a work in progress, simply because live you can trim the different instruments electronically. Hence, every performance is always a little different“.

### **Last year you had the opportunity to present "Metropolis" and your music to a Romanian audience. How did this come about?**

Toni Bras: „Originally I wanted to make a tour through Germany, I had contacted over 700 promoters and then it became known that new material had been found on Argentine, the interest receded until it was known how the new scenes would be incorporated. Then in July, 2009 came an inquiry from Romania. For the last three years the organisers there, the German Cultural Centre in Cluj-Napoca (Klausenburg), have had "a day of Silent Film" and they wanted a performance of "Metropolis" with a modern soundtrack. This took place in November before an audience of 220 viewers.

Silent films, puppet and shadow theatre are all highly valued in Romania. In conversation, one learns that the Romanians are very proud of their films and are used to the cinema as being seen as a critical mouthpiece in a social, ecological and political sense.

**“The promoters are highly interested!”**

**On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April “The Complete Metropolis” in the restored version, will be shown at the Berlin Film Museum, what are your feelings toward the resonance on this occasion?**

Toni Bras: “I am already curious as to what awaits me at this exhibition. Some of it I will already know, and a lot more will certainly fascinate me. The promoters are very interested in the new scenes in combination with my music. I have been in close contact with the distributors and the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung and have been invited to the World premiere of the restored version in Frankfurt, which coincides with the premiere at the Berlin Film Festival. (Ed.: Yesterday's performance at the old opera was accompanied by the Braunschweig state orchestra). After the world premiere I will receive the new scenes and on the 29th of May at the TIFF (The Transylvania International Film Festival in Romania, one of the most important film festivals in south-eastern Europe), I can celebrate my own world premiere.”

For further information see: [www.metropolis-live.de](http://www.metropolis-live.de)

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