

# **FRITZ LANG: A selective bibliography**

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## Introduction

This bibliography has been compiled to coincide with the Fritz Lang season held at the National Film Theatre in January and February 2000. It includes a selection of material that covers Fritz Lang's films and life as a filmmaker .

Only English language material has been listed, and most of the documents are published after 1980, though some relevant pre-1980 material is included. Please note that no theses have been included.

A useful selection of other, earlier material can be found in **Contemporary Literary Criticism**, v20, edited by Sharon R. Gunton and published by Gale Research Company, Detroit, in 1982.

All the books and journals listed here can be found at the BFI National Library using the book catalogue OLIB and the article database SIFT, but if possible approach your local library or university library first. The BFI library is a reference library only but does have photocopy facilities.

## Fritz Lang: Books

**BOGDANOVICH, Peter**

**Who the devil made it.**

*New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997. 849p. illus.index.*

See pp.170-234

Two interviews with Lang by the author from 1965, about his films in general.

**EISNER, Lotte; ROBINSON, David (ed.)**

**Fritz Lang.**

*Secker & Warburg, 1976. 416p. illus. bibliog. filmog.*

First-hand account of Fritz Lang's film-making with a chapter on each film. In three parts: German films before Hitler, the American period, and German film 1959-1960. Fritz Lang himself co-operated on the book, Lotte Eisner being his long-term friend. The German period is covered more extensively than the American one.

**GUNNING, Tom**

**The Films of Fritz Lang: Allegories of Vision and Modernity**

*London: British Film Institute, 2000. 544p.*

Gunning, a renowned historian and early cinema theorist, proposes new readings of the entire output of Lang and is concerned to reflect on modernity, identity and subjectivity in a progressively more impersonal and automated world.

**HUMPHRIES, Reynold**

**Fritz Lang: genre and representation in his American films.**

*Baltimore; London: John Hopkins University Press, 1989. 207p. illus. bibliog.*

*filmog.index.*

Includes a chapter on each of the films *THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW*, *HOUSE BY THE RIVER* and *SECRET BEYOND THE DOOR*.

The English-language edition is a translated revision of the French one.

**JENKINS, Stephen (ed.)**

**Fritz Lang: the image and the look.**

*[London]: British Film Institute, 1981. 173p. illus. biofilmog.*

Essays on Fritz Lang and his films. With chapter headings such as 'Lang and Auteurism', 'Lang: Fear and Desire' and 'Two Fictions Concerning Hate', the author attempts "...challenging the notion of Lang as a chronicler of twentieth-century paranoia and tracing in his films not a single, unchanging vision of the world but a multiplicity of narrative and formal perspectives."

**KAPLAN, E. Ann**

**Fritz Lang: a guide to references and resources.**

*Boston, MA: G.K. Hall, 1981. 488p. indices.*

(A Reference Publication in Film)

An annotated definitive bibliography of writings about Lang in English, German and French. Includes chapters on other film related activities such as writings and performances, on archival sources and film distributors. Also gives synopses, credits, notes and reviews for his films.

**KAPLAN, E. Ann**

**Women in film noir.**

*London: British Film Institute, 1998.*

See pp. 81-88

Chapter entitled "The Place of Women in Fritz Lang's THE BLUE GARDENIA".  
Analyses how the male discourse is undercut in the film.

**LEVIN, David J.**

**Richard Wagner, Fritz Lang and The Nibelungen: the dramaturgy of disavowal.**

*Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press., 1997. vii-xi, 207p. illus. bibliog. index.*

(Princeton series in opera)

Discussion on how Richard Wagner's and Fritz Lang's THE NIBELUNGEN fits in with recent German history.

**MCGILLIGAN, Patrick**

**Fritz Lang: the nature of the beast.**

*New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997. xi, 548p. filmog. index.*

Biography concentrating on his Hollywood period, but also covers his time in Berlin.

**RUSSELL, Catherine**

**Narrative mortality: death, closure, and new wave cinemas.**

*Minneapolis; London: Minnesota University Press, 1995. 271p. illus. bibliog. index.*

See pp.31-66

Chapter titled BEYOND PLEASURE: LANG AND MORTIFICATION. Talks about BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT with regard to death and critic's comments.

## Fritz Lang: Journal References

### **CAMERA OBSCURA**

n15. Autumn 1986, pp.137-163

#### **Metropolis: Mother-City — “Mittler” — Hitler**, by Roger Dadoun

Psychoanalytic interpretation of METROPOLIS. Considers the ideological conditions under which it was produced, and Ufa's aspirations for the film. Article translated from the original by Arthur Goldhammer.

### **CAMERA OBSCURA**

n15. Autumn 1986, pp.165-173

#### **Metropolis, Scene 103**, by Enno Patalas

Account by Enno Patalas of his reconstruction of scene 103 - the scene known as Hel's room, the construction of the robot as an idealized female image. Article translated from the original by Miriam Hansen.

### **CINEACTION!**

n13/14. Summer 1988, pp.64-73

#### **The Man's Melodrama: Woman In The Window and Scarlet Street**, by Florence Jacobowitz

Analysis of WOMAN IN THE WINDOW and SCARLET STREET as melodrama “in the série noire tradition”. Examines the elements of masculine identity, confinement, and gender ideals, amongst others.

### **CINEACTION!**

n13/14. Summer 1988, pp.74-82

#### **Seeing by Glimpses: Fritz Lang's The Blue Gardenia**, by Douglas Pye

Analysis of BLUE GARDENIA and Lang's play on the spectator's perceptions.

### **CINEACTION!**

n13/14. Summer 1988, pp.83-93

**RANCHO NOTORIOUS: a noir western in colour**, by Robin Wood

Comparison of RANCHO NOTORIOUS and The BIG HEAT identifying resemblances and analysing the differences.

### **CINEACTION!**

no21/22. Sum/Fall 1990, pp.4-20

**Creativity and evaluation: two film noirs of the fifties**, by Robin Wood

In an issue devoted to authorship. Looking at film noir, in particularly The BIG HEAT and KISS ME DEADLY.

### **CINEACTION!**

n29. Autumn 1992, pp.56-69

**While the city sleeps**, by Michael Walker

In-depth analysis of WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS. Part of an issue devoted to the revaluation of Hollywood - contemporary and classical.

### **CINEMA JOURNAL**

v35. n1. Autumn 1995, pp.27-52

**A tale of three cities: the banning of Scarlet Street**, by Matthew Bernstein

On the relationship between studios and censors in post World War II America, using as example the banning of SCARLET STREET in the states of New York, Milwaukee, and Atlanta.

### **CINÉ-TRACTS**

v.2. n.1. Autumn 1978, pp.15-23

**Lang, Pabst and sound**, by Noel Carroll

Article on Lang and Pabst's reaction to the coming of sound, by examination of their films, M and KAMERADSCHAFT.

### **CLASSIC IMAGES**

n86. August 1982, p.15

Brief look at the style and themes of some of Lang's films.

### **FILM COMMENT**

v10. n6. Nov/Dec 1974, pp.12-17

**Fritz Lang's American nightmare**, by Alfred Appel, Jr.

New criticism of Lang's American films, and especially of *The WOMAN IN THE WINDOW*.

### **FILM COMMENT**

v26. n.6. Nov/Dec 1990, pp.9-12

**Fritz Lang, our contemporary**, by Peter Hoague

A review of Fritz Lang's career and his films, in celebration of the centenary of his birth, claiming his work gets more "modern" with each year.

### **FILM COMMENT**

v31. n4. Jul/Aug 1995, pp.66-69

**Fritz Lang's spies**, by Geoffrey O'Brien

Article about Fritz Lang's *SPIONE* and its huge influence on subsequent spy films.

### **FILM CRITICISM**

v21. n1. Autumn 1996, pp.34-47

**"A little trouble with perspective": art and authorship in Fritz Lang's *Scarlet Street***, by Jeanne Hall

Article about the audience response to *SCARLET STREET*, with artistic taste being linked to the gap between high and mass culture.

## **FILM CRITICISM**

v21. n3. Spring 1997, pp.43-65

**"Keep the coffee hot, Hugo": nuclear trauma in Lang's The Big Heat**, by Walter Metz

The BIG HEAT is used to show "how ingrained nuclear discourse became in the everyday lives of Americans" during the cold war period.

## **FILM DOPE**

n33. November 1985, pp.3-6

**Fritz Lang**

Bio-filmography.

## **FILM HISTORY**

v4. n4. 1990, pp.289-304

**Fritz Lang Outfoxed: The German Genius as Contract Employee**, by Nick Smedley

Fritz Lang's participation in the films THE RETURN OF FRANK JAMES, WESTERN UNION and MAN HUNT, all made for Twentieth Century Fox, is examined.

## **FILM HISTORY**

v5. n1. March 1993, pp.1-21

**Fritz Lang's trilogy: the rise and fall of a European social commentator**, by Nick Smedley

Surveys the early history of Fritz Lang's American career and the social comment in his early films. Looks at FURY, YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, and YOU AND ME.

## **FILM QUARTERLY**

v33. n2. Winter 1979/80, p.2-11

**Fritz Lang: only melodrama**, by Dan Willis

Reassessment and evaluation of Lang's long career in Germany and America through reviews of a series of publications on him which have been issued over the past few years.

### **FOCUS ON FILM**

n20. Spring 1975, pp.43-51

**Fritz Lang remembers**, by Gene D. Phillips

Interview with Lang on his career.

### **LITERATURE/FILM QUARTERLY**

v22. n3. 1994, pp.181-186

**Von Sternberg, Lubitsch, and Lang in the work of Manuel Puig**, by Kenneth E. Hall

About the influence of the cinema on the work of Manuel Puig, especially his indebtedness to Josef von Sternberg, Ernst Lubitsch, and Fritz Lang (M, The BIG HEAT, and METROPOLIS).

### **MONTHLY FILM BULLETIN**

v43. n509. June 1976, p.140

**Franju on Lang**, translated by Diane Matias

An abridged translation of "Le style de Fritz Lang", an article by George Franju which originally appeared in a 1937 issue of Cinématographe.

### **SIGHT AND SOUND**

v36. n3. Summer 1967, pp.109-112

**Lang**, by Axel Madsen

Reportage-style interview with Lang about aspects of his career, quoting him and giving his opinions on his own works and on other directors.

### **SIGHT AND SOUND**

v44. n4. Autumn 1975, pp.240-243

**Fritz Lang's career girl**, by David L. Overbey

Study of Lang's unfilmed project DEATH OF A CAREER GIRL and references to the role of the career girl in other Lang films.

## **SIGHT AND SOUND**

January 2000, pp.18-22

**Fritz Lang: the illusion of mastery**, by Thomas Elsaesser

On Fritz Lang's German films and in particular on the Dr Mabuse trilogy, on the occasion of a major retrospective of his films at London's National Film Theatre.

## **SUB-STANCE**

n9. 1974, pp.25-34

**On Fritz Lang**, by Raymond Bellour

Summary of Lang's career, and notes on the elements which could form the basis of a systematic approach to Lang's work.

## **VELVET LIGHT TRAP**

n11. Winter 1974, pp.23-28

**The Big Heat & The Big Combo: rogue cops & mink-coated girls**, by Tom Flinn

Looks at these films as film noir in content rather than style, and examines the depiction of organised crime.

## **VELVET LIGHT TRAP**

n22. 1986, pp.33-52

**Fritz Lang, Incorporated**, by Matthew Bernstein

Discussion of the internal operations of Diana Productions (formed by Lang, Joan Bennett and Walter Wanger) in the mid-forties, illustrated with accounts of the making of SCARLET STREET and SECRET BEYOND THE DOOR.

## **WIDE ANGLE**

v.3. n.3. 1979, pp.18-26

**Dr. Mabuse and Mr. Lang**, by Lucy Fischer

A political reading of Das TESTAMENT DES DR. MABUSE, placed in a historical context. Looks at the circumstances of Lang's leaving of Nazi Germany for France in 1933.

### **WIDE ANGLE**

v3. n4. 1980, pp.55-59

**Patterns of violence toward women in Fritz Lang's *While the City Sleeps*, by Ann Kaplan**

Looks at the treatment of women in *WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS* brought on by the weakening of male authority and patriarchal structures.

### **WIDE ANGLE**

v5. n3. 1982, pp.32-43

**Ideology & cinematic practice in Lang's *Scarlet Street* & Renoir's *La Chienne*, by E. Ann Kaplan**

Comparison of the political, historical and economic context of each film - both based on the same literary work - focusing around the concepts of family vs the working environment, sexual difference, and class.

### **WIDE ANGLE**

v19. n4. October 1997, pp.62-93

**From Berlin to Bunker Hill: urban space, late modernity and film noir in Fritz Lang's and Joseph Losey's *M*, by Edward Dimendberg**

Investigates modes of surveillance in the modern city and artistic production within a consideration of Film Noir aesthetics. Part of an issue on Cityscapes and Film. "Skirmishes of vision and power: Berlin in Lang's *M*", pp.71-78, part two of the article, offers a closer look at Lang's *M*.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRITZ LANG: NEWSPAPER ARTICLES &amp; PROGRAMME NOTES</b></p>
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The bfi National Library holds a number of newspaper articles, and various programme notes (some in languages other than English) on microjacket. Researchers should be able to access articles published in the popular press in their local reference library, or at the British Library Newspaper Library in Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HE (Tel: 0207 412 7353).

## FRITZ LANG: WEBSITES

In January 2000 as simple search on the LYCOS search engine produced over 3,200 web-references. The usual riders apply - not all of these will contain significant, useful, information and not all of them will be authoritative. By far, the majority deal with Metropolis.

We make no recommendations but suggest that you at least look at <http://malvm1.mda.bc.ca/~mcneil/lang.htm> which as well as linking to the Internet Movie database (IMDB) has a number of other useful links to bookshops and to library catalogues.

If you just want the IMDB go to <http://us.imdb.com>

## FRITZ LANG: MISCELLANEOUS

### AUDIOTAPE

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The bfi National Library also holds an interview with Fritz Lang recorded at the National Film Theatre on 8th January 1962. The interviewer is Stanley Reed.

### VIDEOTAPE

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Some websites are linked to companies which distribute video and DVD versions of some of Lang's films. The bfi distributes M on its Connoisseur label, price £12.99, catalogue number BFIV024, (VHS video format). Orders should be sent to Connoisseur at 10a Stephen Mews, London W1P 0AX. General enquiries on 0207 957 8957; Credit card orders to 0207 957 8957; Email at [video.films@bfi.org.uk](mailto:video.films@bfi.org.uk).

In addition according to Videolog, at the time of compilation the following titles were in distribution on video or DVD in the UK.

BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT  
CLOAK AND DAGGER  
DOCTOR MABUSE - THE GAMBLER  
KRIEMHILD'S REVENGE  
M (DVD)  
METROPOLIS (Director's version)  
METROPOLIS (DVD)  
RANCHO NOTORIOUS  
SCARLET STREET  
SECRET BEYOND THE DOOR  
SIEGFRIED  
WOMAN IN THE WINDOW