

*Let's talk about Caligari. What makes the film compelling is its rhythm.  
At first slow...it attempts to irritate.  
Then when the zigzag motifs of the fairground start turning,  
the pace leaps forward...and only leaves off at the word "End",  
as abruptly as a slap in the face.*

Louis Delluc

The 1920s produced the Golden Age of German Cinema. At its peak in 1921, the Berlin film industry became Hollywood's greatest competitor, challenging the popularity of the American show in the German theatre. While American movies portrayed realistic subjects, German directors specialized in stylized art films, focusing on history and myth.

Themes reflected the collective desires, dreams and nightmares of their audience, including the socialist struggle of workers against capitalists, the horrified fascination with machines and the Modern City, mythic figures like the mad scientist, and fantastic love stories. The expressionist movement produced some of the period's most enduring films, like Wiene's *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920) and Lang's *Metropolis* (1926). Movies like *Blue Angel*, starring the enigmatic Marlene Dietrich, forever capture the memory of kabarett.

\*\* Films on show courtesy of Kino International\*\*



Plakat aus der Projektarbeit von Eva-Maria Köhl-Knorr "Kabarett: Scenes of 1920s Berlin"  
Museum Studies Programm University of Toronto Class of 2002