

Murnau and German Expressionism

Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau (1888-1931)

- Der Januskopf, 1920 (The Head of Janus)
- Satanas, 1920
- Bucklige und die Tänzerin, 1920 (The Hunchback and the Dancer)
- Schloß Vogelöd, 1921 (The Haunted Castle)
- Nosferatu, 1922
- Der brennende Acker, 1922 (Burning Soil)
- Der letzte Mann, 1924 (The Last Laugh)
- Herr Tartüff, 1926 (Tartuffe)
- Faust, 1926
- Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans (1927)
- City Girl (1930)
- Tabu (1931)



Burning Soil



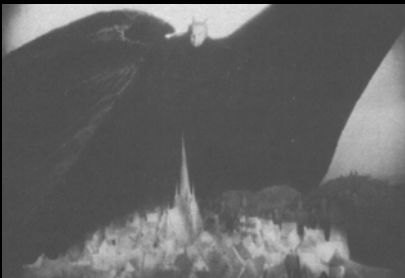
Faust



Faust



Faust



Faust



DER LETZTE MANN



Sunrise
A Song
of Two Humans











Tabu

A collage of three black and white film stills related to the movie Tabu. The top left still shows a man and a woman in a close embrace. The bottom left still shows a close-up of a woman's face. The right still shows a man in a dark, loincloth-like garment holding a long spear or staff, standing on a beach or shore with waves in the background.

German Expressionism

- film movement, roughly 1920s, based on earlier Expressionist movement in painting and literature
- main examples: Caligari, Nosferatu
- influenced Fritz Lang (Nibelungen, Metropolis, M)
- through Lang (and others) influenced film-noir

Expressionism



Expressionism

Simplified, abstract representation (form, geometry)
Free, subjective use of color
Symbolic

"The Expressionist does not see, he has 'visions'.
(Lotte Eisner, Haunted Screen)

Abstraction and Geometry



Expressionist Movies



Genuine (Robert Wiene, 1920)



Raskolnikow (Robert Wiene, 1923)

Light and Shadow



Influence on Fritz Lang



Nibelungen, 1924



M, 1931

Film Noir



Night of the Hunter, 1954



Back to 1919: Nosferatu