

**1919**



Anders als die Andern / Different from the Others

## **STATISTICS**

Cinemas: 2836  
Feature films: 470

# EVENTS

January 1

## **Emelka**

Münchner Lichtspielkunst GmbH (M.L.K., known as Emelka), founded in April 1918, is converted into a stock corporation with the cooperation of Bayerische Handelsbank. It is to form a southern German counterweight to Ufa. Start capital: 2 million marks.

April 17

## **Sound patent**

The Germans Hans Vogt, Jo Engl and Joseph Massolle, who formed a group of inventors (later group name: Triergon = Work of the Three), patent their process for fixing the light tone on the picture strip in Berlin.

May 31

## **Film-Kurier**

The first issue of the *Film-Kurier*, a 'daily newspaper for film, variety, art, fashion, sports, exchange', edited by Alfred Weiner, appears in Berlin. In the 1920s, the editorial staff included Willy Haas, Hans Feld and Lotte Eisner. In its best years, the newspaper had a daily circulation of 10,000 copies.

June 28

## **Peace treaty**

The peace treaty between the German Reich and the Allies is signed in Versailles.

June

## **Geiseltal**

The director and producer Peter Ostermayr acquires an area of 37 hectares in Geiseltal near Munich. In September, construction begins on a glass studio according to plans by architect Josef Heldmann, which allows filming with natural light.

August/September

## **Film review debate**

In the *Film-Kurier*, a polemical article by E. A. Dupont on the corruptibility and dependence of film critics (Aug. 24: "Filmkritik und Filmreklame") triggers a general debate in which representatives of the film industry and the film press as well as individual film journalists participate.

September 11

**Illustrated Film-Kurier**

The first *Illustrierte Film-Kurier*, a program booklet sold at the box office, was published in Berlin. Subscribers to the 'Film-Kurier' receive it free of charge. No. 1: KÖNIG NICOLO, No. 2: MADAME DUBARRY. The series ends in the winter of 1944/45 with Nos. 3379 (KOLBERG) and 3380 (ORIENTEXPRESS).

September 18

**Ufa Palace at the Zoo**

The 'Ufa-Palast am Zoo' (2,000 seats) was festively opened in Berlin: World premiere of Ernst Lubitsch's MADAME DUBARRY. The building with the facade in the late romantic style, built at the beginning of the century, was used in the 1910s as both a stage theater and a cinema. In the future, it will be Ufa's main premiere house.

September

**Fritz Lang moves to Berlin**

Actor, author and painter Fritz Lang leaves his native Vienna for Berlin, where producer Erich Pommer employs him as a dramaturge and scriptwriter at his company Decla. In spring of 1919, Lang directs HALBBLUT, his directorial debut.

October 29

**Decla becomes limited partnership**

'Decla-Film-Gesellschaft Holz & Co' and 'Decla-Lichtspiel-Gesellschaft, Berlin' merge with twelve limited partners to form 'Decla-Film KG'. The company is headed by Erich Pommer.

November

**Film Producers**

The 'Vereinigung der Filmfabrikanten Deutschlands' and the 'Schutzverband der Filmfabrikanten Deutschlands', two parallel existing interest groups, merge in Berlin to form the 'Vereinigung Deutscher Filmfabrikanten e.V.'. The association was chaired by Dr. Maschke and Erich Pommer.

December 4

**World premiere of DIE PUPPE**

The comedy DIE PUPPE by Ernst Lubitsch premieres at the 'Ufa-Palast am Zoo'. Ossi Oswalda and Hermann Thimig play the leading roles. In 1947 Lubitsch says: "Even today I consider this film one of my most imaginative."

# FILMS OF THE YEAR

April 4

## **VERITAS VINCIT**

Directed by Joe May. Written by Ruth Goetz, Richard Butter. Cinematography by Max Lutze. Sets: Paul Leni. With Mia May, Johannes Riemann. - Three episodes - at the time of the Romans, around 1500, and in modern times - are about love, lies and honor; only in the third does the truth triumph. "A day of reflection for the German film industry. Because on this day we proved to the public that we have the courage and the means, the skill and the brains to do it the same way as the 'feared foreign countries'." (Carl Boese, Der Film, 12.4.1919). The production of the three-and-a-half-hour work cost RM 900,000. Record also for Ufa.

May 28

## **ANDERS ALS DIE ANDERN / DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS**

Directed by Richard Oswald. Screenplay: Oswald, Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld. Cinematography: Max Faßbender. Sets: Emil Linke. With Conrad Veidt, Fritz Schulz, Anita Berber, Reinhold Schünzel. - A social-hygienic film drama that opposes the criminalization of homosexuality (§ 175 of the penal code). Veidt plays a gay violin virtuoso who is blackmailed and ends up committing suicide. Conservatives and nationalists call for censorship. Anti-Semitic tones are mixed into the debate.

June 20

## **DIE AUSTERNPRINZESSIN / THE OYSTER PRINCESS**

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. Screenplay: Banns Kräly, Lubitsch. Cinematography: Theodor Sparkuh! Production design: Kurt Richter. With Ossi Oswald, Harry Liedtke, Victor Janson, Julius Falkenstein, Curt Bois. - A satirical fairy tale about the cultural connection between Europe and America. The happy ending between rich Princess Ossi and poor Prince Nucki is accompanied by an outbreak of foxtrot fever. "The best comic film ever made in Germany, a grotesque of destructive vulgarity." (Frieda Grafe, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8/29/72).

September 18

## **MADAME DUBARRY**

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. Screenplay: Fred Orbing (d.i. Norbert Falk), Hanns Kräly. Cinematography: Theodor Sparkuhl. Sets: Kurt Richter, Karl Machus. With Pola Negri, Emil Jannings, Reinhold Schünzel, Harry Liedtke. - The rise of a French milliner to mistress of King Louis XV and her fall in the turmoil of the French Revolution. Lubitsch's first historical film is great cinema, in which history is told individually and with irony. The French find this German view of their past irritatingly un-Prussian.

October 3

**DIE SPINNEN (1) / THE SPIDERS (1)**

Directed and written by Fritz Lang. Cinematography: Emil Schönemann. Set designers: Hermann Warm, Otto Hunte, Carl Ludwig Kirmse, Heinrich Umlauff. With Carl de Vogt, Lil Dagover, Ressel Orla. - Part I: THE GOLDEN LAKE. The Spiders - an Indian secret society - and the American adventurer Kay Hoog outwit each other in their search for an Inca treasure and a mysterious diamond that is believed to be the key to world power. They move in a world of codes and signals. Lang found the exotic locations on the outskirts of Berlin. World premiere of the second part - DAS BRILLANTENSCHIFF - on February 6, 1920.. World premiere of the second part - DAS BRILLANTENSCHIFF - on February 6, 1920.

December 4

**DIE PUPPE / THE DOLL**

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. Screenplay: Hanns Kräly, Lubitsch. Cinematography: Theodor Sparkuhl. Sets, costumes: Kurt Richter. With Hermann Thimig, Ossi Oswalda. - Shy Lancelot, afraid of all the nubile women, decides to marry a doll. But then she comes to life. At the beginning, Lubitsch is seen opening a toy box. He takes out a cardboard landscape and figures, sets everything up, and then lets the game begin. A commentary on the possibilities of a movie director.

December 5

**DIE HERRIN DER WELT / THE MISTRESS OF THE WORLD**

Directed by Joe May. Written by May, Richard Hutter, Ruth Goetz, Wilhelm Roellinghoff, Fritz Lang, based on the novel by Karl Figdor. Cinematography: Werner Brandes. Sets: Otto Hunte, Erich Kettelhut, Karl Vollbrecht, Martin Jacoby-Boy. With Mia May, Michael Bohnen, Henry Sze, Hans Mierendorf. - The life story of Maud Greegards is told in eight parts, an adventurous time travel through China, Africa, America and Europe. The exteriors were mainly shot on the May film lot in Woltersdorf. Until the end of January, a new episode is shown in movie theaters every Friday.

## **MORE FILMS**

January 17

**MEYER AUS BERLIN / MEYER FROM BERLIN**

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. Screenplay: Hanns Kräly, Erich Schönfelder. Cinematography: Alfred Hansen. With Lubitsch, Ethel Orff, Heinz Landsmann. - Comedy: Lubitsch, as Sally Meyer, goes to Berchtesgaden to recover from his wife. She looks for him in the Alps.

January 29

**OPIUM**

Directed and written by Robert Reinert. Camera: Hjalmar Lerski. With Werner Krauß, Conrad Veidt, Hanna Ralph, Eduard von Winterstein. - Scenes from a debauched opium den as a warning against opium.

March 20

**DIE REISE UM DIE ERDE IN 80 TAGEN / THE JOURNEY AROUND THE EARTH IN 80 DAYS**

Directed by Richard Oswald. Written by Oswald, based on the novel by Jules Verne. Camera: Max Faßbender. With Conrad Veidt, Anita Berber, Reinhold Schünzel, Eugen Rex, Max Gülstorff, Käte Oswald. - Adventure trip. After a dispute with Jules Verne's heirs, the movie is retitled THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORLD.

April 3

**HALBBLUT**

Directed, written by Fritz Lang. Cinematography by Carl Hoffmann. With Ressel Orla, Carl de Vogt, Gilda Langer. - The story of a love and destruction. A story of love and destruction. There seems to be no print left of Fritz Lang's first feature film.

May 1

**PROSTITUTION**

Directed, written by Richard Oswald. Cinematography: Max Faßbender. Production design: Emil Linke. With Fritz Beckmann, Anita Berber, Gussy Holl, Conrad Veidt. - A plea for unpunished prostitution. The title was changed to DAS GELBE HAUS (The Yellow House) shortly after the premiere.

August 22

**RAUSCH**

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. Written by Hanns Kräly, based on the play by August Strindberg. Cinematography: Karl Freund. Sets: Rochus Gliese. With Asta Nielsen, Alfred Abel, Carl Meinhard, Grete Diercks. - Drama about a writer who in his success neglects his wife and child.

October 5

**ROSE BERND**

Directed by Alfred Halm. Written by Halm, based on the play by Gerhart Hauptmann. Cinematography: Willy Gabel. Sets: Hans Baluscheck. With Werner Krauß, Henny Porten, Alexander Wirth, Ilka Grüning, Emil Jannings, Paul Bildt. - Drama about a farmer's daughter.

October 15

**WAHNSINN**

Directed by Conrad Veidt. Script: Margarete Lindau-Schulz, Hermann Fellner, based on a story by Kurt Münzer. Cinematography: Carl Hoffmann. Sets by Willy A. Hamann. With Conrad Veidt, Reinhold Schünzel, Gussy Holt, Grit Hegesa. - A banker suffers a nervous breakdown and deliriously searches for a mysterious chest to find ultimate happiness, but also death.

October 23

**DIE PEST IN FLORENZ / THE PLAGUE IN FLORENCE**

Directed by Otto Rippert. Screenplay: Fritz Lang. Cinematography: Willy Hameister, Emil Schünemann. Sets: Hermann Warm. With Theodor Becker, Marga Kierska, Julietta Brandt, Otto Mannstaedt, Ernst Hübsch. - A courtesan makes Florence the scene of orgies. The plague punishes everyone.

November 5

**UNHEIMLICHE GESCHICHTEN / UNCANNY SORIES**

Directed by Richard Oswald. Screenplay by Oswald, based on stories by Anselma Heine, Robert Liebmann, Edgar Allen Poe, Robert Louis Stevenson and Richard Oswald. Cinematography: Max Lutze, Sets: Hans Dreier. With Conrad Veidt, Erna Morena, Lilli Lohrer. - Cinematic fantasy about the devil, death and a prostitute reading and acting out horror stories at midnight.

December 30

**ALKOHOL / ALCOHOL**

Directed by E. A. Dupont, Alfred Lind. Written by Lind, Dupont. Cinematography: Charles Paulus, Karl Hasselmann. Sets: Robert A. Dietrich. With Hanni Weiße, Jean Moreau, Anton Ernst Rückert, Maria Zelenka. - Life story of a drunkard.

Without date

**DER KNABE IN BLAU / THE BOY IN BLUE**

Directed by F. W. Murnau. Written by Edda Ottershausen. Cinematography: Carl Hoffmann. Sets: Willi A. Herrmann. With Ernst Hofmann, Margit Bamay, Georg John, Blandine Ebinger. - No print of Murnau's directorial debut exists.

# FILM BOOKS

Ewald André Dupont

## **Wie ein Film geschrieben wird und wie man ihn verwertet**

Berlin: Reinhold Kühn. 94 pp.. - The author and director Dupont gives recommendations and advice on how to sell a movie. "For the professional, the author's remarks on the serial film are also noteworthy. He sees in it the strongest inhibitions for the film writer. Most valuable for the reader are the included samples of finished film manuscripts." (Der Film, 3/22/19). In 1925, the book was republished in a completely revised edition by Fritz Podehl without Dupont's participation

Resi Langer

## **Kinotypen**

Hanover: Der Zweemann. 76 pp. - Twelve chapters from the "nursery of film" that tell pointed stories about the studio and the cinema girl, about moviegoers in the north and west of Berlin, about film heroes, film divas, film motifs, film mishaps, and her own film experiences. Resi Langer was a German cabaret artist and actress. She died in 1971.

Max Prels

## **Kino**

Bielefeld, Leipzig: Velhagen & Klasing. 80 pp. - A 'people's book' warning against the popularization and mass success of film. In a Twelve chapters from the "cradle of film" that tell pointed stories about the studio and the cinema girl, about moviegoers in the north and west of Berlin, about film heroes, film divas, film motifs, film mishaps, and her own film experiences. Resi Langer was a German cabaret artist and actress. She died in 1971.