FILM THEORY

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SILENT FILM

A silent film is a film with no synchronized recorded sound (and in particular, no audible dialogue). In silent films for entertainment, the plot may be conveyed by the use of title cards, written indications of the plot and key dialogue lines.

DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE
After hours of lonely waiting.
A Paramount Artcraft Picture

A Beginner's Guide to Silent Cinema
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rqsqYaEFaE

10 Silent Movies You Must See Before You Die
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fU5_7E2jka4

Silent Films were almost always accompanied by live sounds. During the silent era that existed from the mid-1890s to the late 1920s, a pianist, theater organist—or even, in large cities, a small orchestra—would often play music to accompany the films.

Pianists and organists would play either from sheet music, or improvisation. Sometimes a person would even narrate the intertitle cards for the audience.

Amazing Buster Keaton silent film "The Goat" (1921) Live Piano (2011)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7Oymuw9HUA

The Berklee Silent Film Orchestra presents "Phantom of the Opera"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zF30P8dLHZQ

A Demonstration of Silent Era Film Music - LIVE ORCHESTRA!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMS8hurc09w

Early sound films, starting with The Jazz Singer in 1927, were variously referred to as the "talkies", "sound films", or "talking pictures".

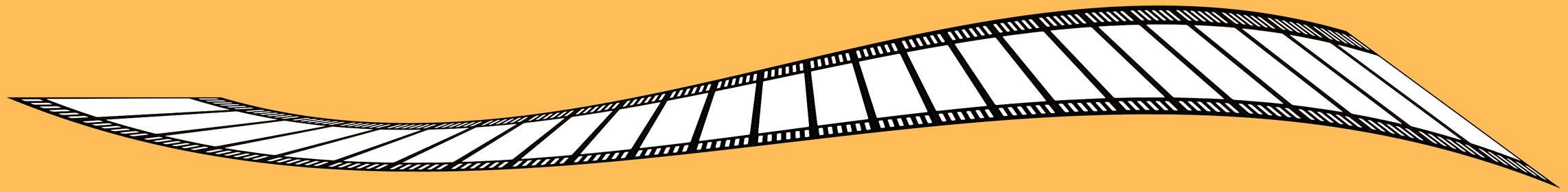
Movies were accompanied by synchronized sound recordings of spoken dialogue, music and sound effects.

WARNER BROS. SUPREME TRIUMPH
AL JOLSON
"THE JAZZ SINGER"
WITH
MAY McAVOY
WARNER OLAND
Cantor Rosenblatt
Based upon the play by Samson Raphaelson as produced on the spoken stage by Lewis & Gordon and Sam H. Harris
Scenario by Al Cohn
DIRECTED BY ALAN CROSLAND
A WARNER BROS. PRODUCTION
ACME

1927: The Jazz Singer - How The Movies Learnt To Talk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlAt2lcg5ZM

The Spoken Words That Caused A Sensation In "The Jazz Singer" (1927)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SzltpkGz0M

Recommended Silent Films
Early Synchronized sound movies



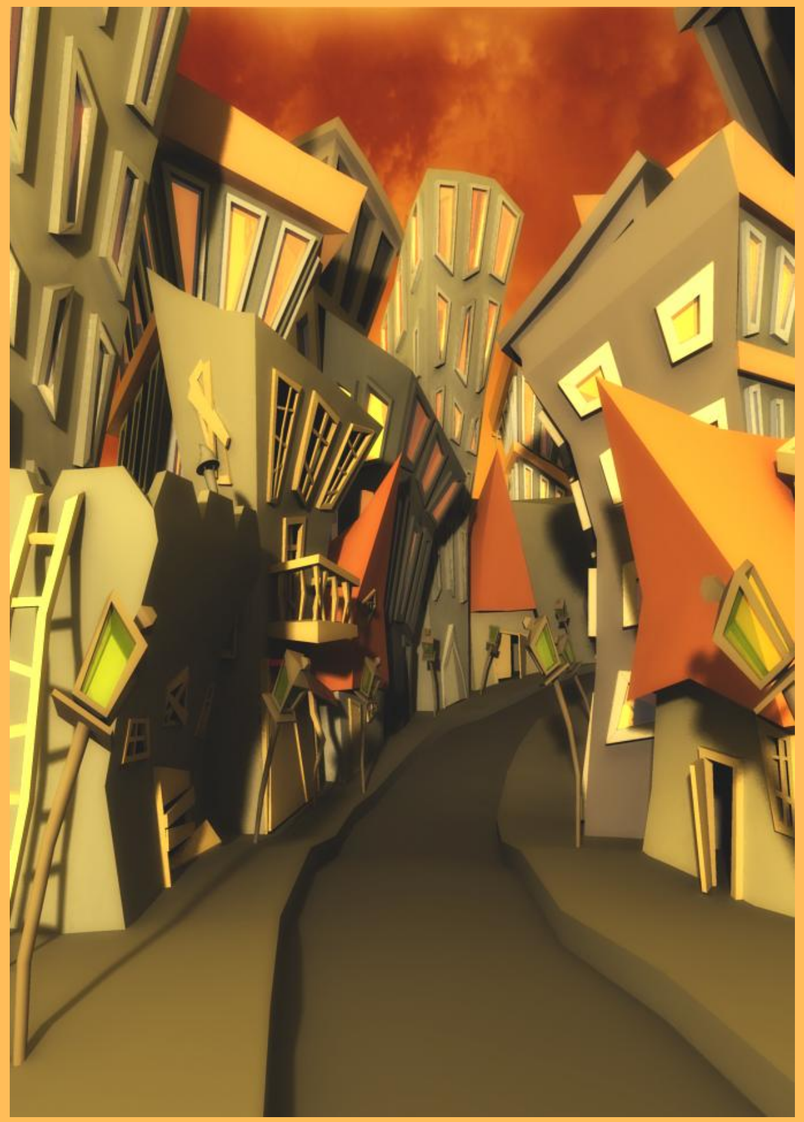
1921: HOW CHARLIE CHAPLIN INVENTED THE DRAMADY.
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=W8OXQWYNNQC
[CHARLIE CHAPLIN]

1920: HOW THE CABINET OF DR CALIGARI (1920) WAS THE FIRST PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR.
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=YIX-D47MP_A

1922: HOW NOSFERATU LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR GOTHIC CINEMA.
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=8VP2WHYFAKI

GERMAN EXPRESSIONISM

German Expressionism consisted of a number of related creative movements in Germany before the First World War that reached a peak in Berlin during the 1920s. These developments in Germany were part of a larger Expressionist movement in north and central European culture in fields such as architecture, dance, painting, sculpture, as well as cinema. This article deals primarily with developments in German Expressionist cinema before and immediately after World War I.



Many critics see a direct tie between cinema and architecture of the time, stating that the sets and scene artwork of Expressionist films often reveal buildings of sharp angles, great heights, and crowded environments, such as the frequently shown Tower of Babel in **Fritz Lang's Metropolis.**

METROPOLIS
METROPOLIS
METROPOLIS
UNE PRODUCTION UFA
RÉALISÉE PAR FRITZ LANG
D'APRÈS LE SCÉNARIO DE THEA VON HARBOU
PRÉSENTÉE PAR ALLIANCE CINÉMATOGRAPHIQUE EUROPÉENNE

German Expressionist painters rejected the naturalistic depiction of objective reality, often portraying distorted figures, buildings, and landscapes in a disorienting manner that disregarded the conventions of perspective and proportion. This approach, combined with jagged, stylized shapes and harsh, unnatural colors, were used to convey subjective emotions.

The prime example is **Robert Wiene**'s dream-like film **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)** which is universally recognized as an early classic of Expressionist cinema. Hermann Warm, the film's art director, worked with painters and stage designers Walter Reimann and Walter Röhrig to create fantastic, nightmarish sets with twisted structures and landscapes with sharp-pointed forms and oblique, curving lines. Some of these designs were constructions, others were painted directly onto canvases.

DECLA
Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari
FILMSCHAUSPIEL in 6 AKTEN · REGIE: ROBERT WIENE · HAUPTR: WERNER KRAUS · CONRAD VEIDT · FRITZ FEHÉR · LIL DAGOVER ·

1927: METROPOLIS - HOW CINEMA CHANGED THE WAY WE SEE THE FUTURE

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=VLXE92EGT9Y&T=2S

1928: THE PASSION OF JOAN OF ARC - THE POWERFUL PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CLOSE UP

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=YDFBZ_OOCRK

1928: STEAMBOAT WILLIE - THE SURPRISING ORIGIN OF MICKEY MOUSE

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=CJ56IDYQ_NS

WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS' STEAMBOAT WILLIE

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=BBGGHNQF6E4

[SOUND]

SOUND DESIGN PROJECT 2: MICKEY MOUSE

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=94CJ3DW4FAC

[HANNA BARBERA LIBRARY]