

German Expressionism

Outbreak of WW I (1916) output of German film industry small.
2000 movies theaters playing French, American, Italian, Danish
In no position to even ban French/American films

German Gov. supports film industry for propaganda
1916 film imports were banned in Germany (except neutral Denmark).

In order to promote pro war films, German government, Deutsche Bank, industrial concerns, to create UFA (Universumfilm Aktiengesellschaft) in 1917.

UFA moves towards control of German and international markets

Becomes best equipped studios in Europe, superb technicians- attracted foreign filmmakers (including Hitchcock). During 20's Germany co-produces film with other countries spreading German style

1918- end of war- German FI focuses on 3 genres

- 1- Adventure serial- spys, detectives, exotic settings
- 2- Sex exploitation films- "education" about homosexuality, prostitution
- 3- Historic epics (after Italians)

1919 Ernst Lubitch's *Madame Dubarry* (*Passion*- in US) –popular critical/financial

1919- Independent Company Erich Pommer's DECLA (later DECLA-BIOSCOP)
produce script by CARL MAYER and HANSJANOWITZ – Cabinet of Dr. Caligari
(designers Hermann Warm, Walter Reimann, Walter Rohrig)

1920- Cabinet creates sensation in Berlin/then US

Expressionist films succeed and experimental films (Viking Eggeling *Diagonal Symphonie* 1923)

Waxworks 1924

Nosferatu 1922

The Nibelungen 1923-24

Inflation in 1920's helped US export-

But US –Dawe's plan stabilized Germany Economy in 1924

Foreign competition films

Expression film budgets climb-costly epics

Last Major Films

Murnau's *Faust* 1926

Lang's *Metropolis* 1927

Personelle lured to Hollywood-

Hitlers rise to power-

Influence later on HORROR/FILM NOIR