

Bertelsmann and UFA present

UFA FILM NIGHTS

August 21 – 23, 2024



Presented by

BERTELSMANN

UFA
A Freemove Company

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Introduction

On the three evenings of August 21 to 23, 2024, Bertelsmann and UFA will present the 14th **UFA Film Nights**, an open-air silent film festival with live musical accompaniment, against the spectacular backdrop of Berlin's Museum Island. Long a fixture in Berlin's cultural calendar, the UFA Film Nights will once again showcase cinematic masterpieces of the Weimar era at one of Berlin's most exclusive venues.

The first evening will see the world premiere of Carl Lamač's comedy **SUZY SAXOPHONE (SAXOPHON-SUSI)** (1928), in the version reconstructed and digitally restored by the Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum (DFF), starring Anny Ondra and Mary Parker. The evening will be musically accompanied by **The Sprockets film orchestra** playing a composition by their saxophonist **Frido ter Beek**.

The second evening will feature the documentary **THE CITY OF MILLIONS. A PORTRAIT OF BERLIN (DIE STADT DER MILLIONEN. EIN LEBENSBIOD BERLINS)** from 1925, directed by Adolf Trotz. Produced by Ufa Kulturfilmabteilung (Ufa's cultural film department), it is regarded as the first feature-length film portrait of Berlin, showing both the vibrant urban aspects of what was then a city of four million people, but also its historical and contemplative sides. **DJ Raphaël Marionneau** will be at the turntables on location to provide the live soundtrack to the Potsdam Film Museum's digitally restored version.

The UFA Film Nights 2024 will close with a double feature of two early Ernst Lubitsch films: **KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS (KOHLHIESELS TÖCHTER)** (1919/20) starring Germany's first silent film star Henny Porten alongside Emil Jannings, Gustav von Wangenheim, and Jakob Tiedke. **KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS** can be seen in a version digitally restored by the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung with the support of Bertelsmann. Followed by: **I DON'T WANT TO BE A MAN (ICH MÖCHTE KEIN MANN SEIN)** (1918) starring Ossi Oswalda. **KOHLHIESELS TÖCHTER** is accompanied by the **Metropolis Orchester Berlin** playing a new composition by **Florian C. Reithner** commissioned by UFA Film Nights. Afterwards, the second Lubitsch film of the evening, **I DON'T WANT TO BE A MAN** will feature the debut performance of the five-member **Ensemble Narrativ** under the direction of **Maria Reich** (violinist, violist and composer) and **Florian C. Reithner**.

Before each screening, a celebrity patron will give an introduction to the respective films and their place in history.

All screenings start at 9 p.m.

Program

8/21 **Wednesday, August 21, 2024. Film starts at: 9:00 p.m.**

SUZY SAXOPHONE (1928)

Director: Carl Lamač

Cast: Anny Ondra, Mary Parker, Gaston Jacquet, Olga Limburg, Hans Albers

Production: Hom-Film

Length: approx. 90 min.

Music: Frido ter Beek and The Sprockets film orchestra

8/22 **Thursday, August 22, 2024. Film starts at: 9:00 p.m.**

THE CITY OF MILLIONS. A PORTRAIT OF BERLIN (1925)

Director: Adolf Trotz

Production: Ufa-Kulturfilmabteilung

Length: 80 min.

Music: DJ Raphaël Marionneau

8/23 **Friday, August 23, 2024. Film starts at: 9:00 p.m.**

KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS (1919/20)

Director: Ernst Lubitsch

Cast: Henny Porten, Emil Jannings, Gustav von Wangenheim, Jakob Tiedke

Production: Messter Film

Length: approx. 60 min.

Music: Florian C. Reithner (composition). Performed by the Metropolis Orchester Berlin under Burkhard Götze

I DON'T WANT TO BE A MAN (1918)

Director: Ernst Lubitsch

Cast: Ossi Oswalda, Ferry Sikla, Curt Goetz, Margarete Kupfer, Victor Janson

Production: Projection-AG "Union" for Universum Film-AG

Length: 45 min.

Music: Ensemble Narrativ led by Maria Reich and Florian C. Reithner

Tickets are available for €20 at:

www.ufa-filmnaechte.de

and at all advance ticket offices in Berlin and Brandenburg.

About the Films

8/21

SUZY SAXOPHONE

1928



Director	Carl Lamač
Cast	Anny Ondra, Gaston Jacquet, Mary Parker, Olga Limburg, Hans Albers
Production	Hom-Film
Length	approx. 90 min.

It tells the story of two young Berliners: Anni von Aspen (Anny Ondra), the daughter of an aristocratic family, is determined to become a dancer – just like her friend Susi Hille (Mary Parker), who performs as a showgirl on a revue stage. Anni's father thinks his daughter's career aspirations are "crazy." To change her mind, he sends her to a girls' boarding school in London. Anni is accompanied by her friend Susi, who wants to improve her dancing skills with the famous "Tillergirls" in the British capital. On the way, they meet three young Englishmen who get their names mixed up. Instead of clearing up the misunderstanding, the two women simply swap identities: while Susi pretends to be Anni, Anni moves into the "Tillergirls" as Susi and upsets the strict rules of the director. And soon, in the company of her friend and two enterprising gentlemen, the London club scene.

SUZY SAXOPHONE is a star vehicle for Anny Ondra: tailored entirely to the then 25-year-old, who was already famous in her Czech homeland and Austria, she captured the hearts of German cinema audiences with this film, among others. Ondra embodied a new type of woman who, coming from the U.S. after the end of the First World War, became style-defining in Europe: young, self-confident women who wore their hair short, showed their legs, smoked in public and danced the Charleston or foxtrot, always radiating a completely unmannerly joie de vivre – the so-called "flapper girls."

Jazz and dance enthusiasm are the overarching theme of SUZY SAXOPHONE and an anticipation of the sound film era that began shortly afterwards, whose first years were characterized by countless melodious operettas and musical comedies. SUZY SAXOPHONE also features groovy music and dance interludes in central scenes, which were accompanied live by a jazz combo at the film's premiere in 1928 – and will be revived at the UFA Film Nights by Frido ter Beek and The Sprockets film orchestra .

The UFA Film Nights present the digitally restored version of SUZY SAXOPHONE by the Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum (DFF) in a world premiere.

About the Films

8/22

THE CITY OF MILLIONS. A PORTRAIT OF BERLIN

1925



Director	Adolf Trotz
Production	Ufa-Kulturfilmabteilung
Length	80 min.

This documentary presents the many sides of the former imperial capital, which had become Greater Berlin only a few years earlier through the incorporation of numerous surrounding municipalities. With 3.8 million inhabitants, it was now the third-largest city in the world after London and New York and, after Los Angeles, the municipality with the largest area.

In addition to central sights, streets and squares with hectic city traffic are also shown, as well as tranquil neighborhoods. There are staged flashbacks reminiscent of historical greats of Berlin's cultural life, but also an animated vision of the future in the then distant year 2000. Produced by Ufa-Kulturfilmabteilung, Ufa's cultural department, this is the first feature-length city portrait in German film history. An entertaining self-portrayal filled with cheerful local patriotism, created after the worst aftermath of the First World War had been overcome, in a phase of economic upswing that went down in history as the „Golden Twenties.“ The film reflects the attitude to life and newly awakened self-confidence of the Germans following the war and inflation, and is also a kind of early city promotion, inviting viewers to visit a peaceful, modern and – despite all the hustle and bustle – still cozy Berlin.

The metropolis would not exist in this form for much longer. As we look back a century later on the city's destruction through war, division, and often-botched reconstruction, THE CITY OF MILLIONS is an important, unjustly long-forgotten document of contemporary history.

DJ Raphaël Marionneau will accompany THE CITY OF MILLIONS with an electronic soundtrack.

About the Films

8/23

ERNST LUBITSCH DOUBLE FEATURE

KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS

1919/20



Director	Ernst Lubitsch
Cast	Henny Porten, Emil Jannings, Gustav von Wangenheim, Jakob Tiedke
Production	Messter Film
Length	approx. 60 min.

Innkeeper Mathias Kohlhiesel (Jakob Tiedtke) wants to marry off his two dissimilar daughters – prickly Liesel and pretty Gretel (in both roles: Henny Porten). Xaver (Emil Jannings) and Seppl (Gustav von Wangenheim) both try to win Gretel, but Father Kohlhiesel wants to get his older daughter married first. Daredevil Xaver marries Liesel – initially just to get his hands on Gretel. But the better Xaver gets to know his Liesel and she gets to know him (!), the more he falls in love with her. And since Xaver has found happiness with the increasingly changed Liesel, shy Seppl can now marry Gretel.

KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS is based on a Bavarian folk-theater version of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." Lubitsch transformed the rural farce into a slapstick-like, over-the-top film comedy full of crude jokes and double entendres. Lubitsch satirizes ethnic and gender-specific stereotypes in his own distinctive way, drawing them out ad absurdum. Bavarian folklore appears as a pure cliché, traditional gender roles are mercilessly ridiculed. Alongside Henny Porten, one of German cinema's first film stars to absolutely ace a double role, Emil Jannings and Gustav von Wangenheim also contribute to the film's success. KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS became Lubitsch's most commercially successful film before his move to Hollywood.

The UFA Film Nights are showing KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS digitally restored by the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung with the support of Bertelsmann.

KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS will be musically accompanied by the Metropolis Orchester Berlin, playing a new composition by Florian C. Reithner commissioned by UFA Film Nights.

About the Films

I DON'T WANT TO BE A MAN

1918



Director	Ernst Lubitsch
Cast	Ossi Oswalda, Ferry Sikla, Curt Goetz, Margarete Kupfer, Victor Janson
Production	Projektions-AG "Union" for Universum Film-AG
Length	45 min.

Ossi (Ossi Oswalda) grows up with her wealthy uncle, who is usually away on business. She is cared for by a governess (Margarete Kupfer), who tries unsuccessfully to drive out the young woman's fondness for cigarettes, alcohol and poker. Even the strict tutor Kersten (Curt Goetz), who was hired for the occasion, can do little to change this. In order to finally enjoy the privileges that only men are entitled to, Ossi has a tailcoat made and goes to a Berlin ballroom. There she meets the unsuspecting Kersten, who has just been stood up by a girl. Ossi sympathetically comforts her tutor. He takes a liking to his new friend and the two grow closer...

As perfectly as this "woman wears the pants" role fits the saucy Ossi Oswalda, I DON'T WANT TO BE A MAN also is a perfect example of Lubitsch's sympathy for untamed, strong female characters: Their wit, self-confidence, and rebellion against outdated conventions were also the subject of Lubitsch's comedies such as THE OYSTER PRINCESS (DIE AUSTERNPRINZESSIN) and THE DOLL (DIE PUPPE) (both 1919), embodied by Lubitsch's first female star from Berlin-Niederschönhausen: Ossi Oswalda. The director filmed a total of twelve comedies with her during his Berlin years between 1915 and 1920.

Music: Ensemble Narrativ led by Maria Reich and Florian C. Reithner

About the Music

8/21

FRIDO TER BEEK AND THE SPROCKETS FILM ORCHESTRA



Frido ter Beek, saxophonist and composer, is a native of the Netherlands and lives in Buenos Aires. He studied classical saxophone and jazz. Ter Beek founded his own jazz quartet in Buenos Aires, where he plays in various groups and teaches. He regularly comes to Europe where he works with his regular ensembles, the Koh-I-Noor Saxophone Quartet and The Sprockets film orchestra, among others. Composition is becoming increasingly important for his artistic work. Frido ter Beek has written several pieces for Koh-I-Noor and other ensembles. He has also composed several film scores, including for Murnau's last film TABU and for The Sprockets film orchestra.

The Sprockets film orchestra, a six-member virtuoso ensemble consisting of saxophone, ban-jo, double bass and drums, regularly performs at international silent film festivals such as Bologna's "Il Cinema Ritrovato" and, with its founder Maud Nelissen on the grand piano, already enthralled audiences at the UFA Film Nights 2018 with its music for APACHES OF PARIS (DIE APACHEN VON PARIS). In 2019, ensemble member Frido ter Beek presented a new 1920s-style composition for A CRAZY NIGHT (EINE TOLLE NACHT), commissioned by ZDF/ARTE and recorded with The Sprockets film orchestra, for the opening of the UFA Film Nights.

www.fridoterbeek.com

About the Music

8/22

DJ RAPHAËL MARIONNEAU

DJ Raphaël Marionneau works at the intersection between classical, chill-out, electronic, and film music. The Hamburg-based Frenchman samples sounds from these and other genres to create special concept music that has fans all over Europe. He is a resident DJ for international radio stations with his project “abstrait.”



His ethereal sound sessions at the Hamburg Planetarium regularly delight visitors. Since 2005, Marionneau has expanded his activities under the “le cinema abstrait” label to include the accompaniment of silent films. His artistic aim is to enable a new way of experiencing German silent film classics by giving them a fresh, contemporary touch with up-to-date, innovatively mixed sound concepts.

His repertoire to date includes THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI, NOSFERATU, METROPOLIS, and BERLIN: SYMPHONY OF A METROPOLIS (DIE SINFONIE DER GROSSSTADT).

Marionneau’s score for PEOPLE ON SUNDAY (MENSCHEN AM SONNTAG) celebrated its world premiere at the UFA Film Nights 2013, and at the UFA Film Nights 2016, he accompanied the Weimar cinema classic DESTINY (DER MÜDE TOD), whose restoration was sponsored by Bertelsmann.

www.marionneau.de

About the Music

8/23

**FLORIAN C. REITHNER (Composer, Piano),
METROPOLIS ORCHESTER BERLIN
ENSEMBLE NARRATIV**

Born in 1984, Florian C. Reithner completed his extensive musical training in St. Pölten and Vienna, among other places. Concert tours as a conductor, pianist, organist and composer have taken him to many European countries, Asia and North America. For several years, Reithner has also devoted himself to scoring films, including *THE LAST LAUGH (DER LETZTE MANN)* (1924), *THE SQUEAKER (DER ZINKER)* (1931), and *FEAR (ANGST)* (1928).

Florian C. Reithner was commissioned by Bertelsmann to create a new score for F.W. Murnau's *TABU* (1930) for the UFA Film Nights 2015. For his new composition of the music to *MOUNTAIN OF DESTINY (DER BERG DES SCHICKSALS)*, Reithner performed as a solo-ist on the organ with the Metropolis Orchester Berlin at the UFA Film Nights 2022. This year, the same orchestra will play Reithner's composition for Ernst Lubitsch's *KOHLHIESEL'S DAUGHTERS* under the direction of Burkhard Götze. The second film of the evening, *I DON'T WANT TO BE A MAN* marks the debut of the five-member Ensemble Narrativ led by Maria Reich and Florian C. Reithner.



With the Metropolis Orchester Berlin, a professional cinema orchestra entered Berlin's cinema and music scene in 2017 – for the first time since the silent film era. Founded by conductor Burkhard Götze and Berlin musicians with a passion for silent film, the ensemble sets standards in the field of active silent film preservation and promotes the renaissance of a forgotten musical genre – cinema music. New compositions are also created exclusively for the orchestra.

After a regular silent film series was first established at Berlin's Babylon cinema, the Metropolis Orchestra can now be seen at other Berlin cultural venues as well, such as the Theater im Delphi, the Zeughauskino and Heimathafen Neukölln. The orchestra is also regularly invited to play at major film festivals.

In 2022, the Metropolis Orchester Berlin opened the UFA Film Nights with the music to *MOUNTAIN OF DESTINY*, and last year it accompanied *WHERE IS COLETTI?* with a new composition by Richard Siedhoff. This year, the orchestra will be playing the UFA Film Nights for the third consecutive year, again performing music by Florian C. Reithner.

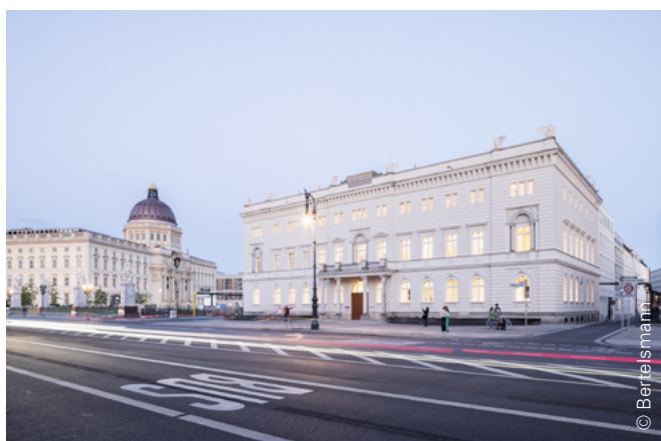
www.fcr-music.com

www.metropolis-orchester-berlin.eu

www.burkhard-goetze.eu

About Bertelsmann

Bertelsmann is a media, services and education company with more than 80,000 employees and operations in around 50 countries around the world. The Group includes the entertainment company RTL Group, the book publishing group Penguin Random House, the music company BMG, the service provider Arvato Group, Bertelsmann Marketing Services, the Bertelsmann Education Group and the international fund network Bertelsmann Investments. The company generated revenues of €20.2 billion in the 2023 financial year. Bertelsmann stands for creativity and entrepreneurship. This combination enables first-class media offerings and innovative service solutions that inspire customers around the world. Bertelsmann is pursuing the goal of climate neutrality by 2030.



As a creative content company with a history stretching back almost 190 years, Bertelsmann is involved in cultural activities at various levels. Its “Culture@Bertelsmann” activities are focused on preserving important cultural assets and making them accessible to a broad public, e.g. through digitization or exhibitions and concerts. For many years, Bertelsmann has organized the popular UFA Film Nights, a silent

film festival in Berlin, and has repeatedly acted as the main sponsor for the digital restoration of important silent films. The Group also owns the Archivio Storico Ricordi in Milan, which houses a wealth of unique testimonies to 200 years of Italian opera history. Bertelsmann is indexing the archive holdings according to the latest standards and makes thousands of documents, set and costume designs, libretti, and items of business correspondence publicly accessible online. For over 20 years, Bertelsmann has organized the “Blue Sofa” literature format series, which provides authors with a prominent stage for their latest works.

Further information on Bertelsmann can be found at

www.bertelsmann.com

Instagram: @bertelsmann_erleben
Facebook: @Bertelsmann
TikTok: @bertelsmann.erleben

About UFA

Over the past 100 years, UFA has created unforgettable images. It is the holding company for all German production activities of the international media and entertainment company Fremantle, which operates the global production business of the RTL Group, which belongs to Bertelsmann.

In 2017, UFA celebrated its 100th anniversary, making it one of the oldest entertainment brands in the world. With more than 3,500 hours of programming broadcast annually, today's UFA Group presents itself as a powerful program creator that has continuously expanded its market leadership as a film and television producer in Germany in recent years. UFA programs excite and inspire millions of viewers every day.

UFA has evolved from a program creator and TV producer into a content specialist that offers solutions for digital and multimedia content exploitation – for all major broadcasters as well as for numerous other partners. The production units UFA Fiction, UFA Serial Drama, UFA Show & Factual and UFA Documentary operate under the UFA umbrella. The wide-ranging product portfolio offers a unique variety of complementary programs. High-quality fictional productions such as TV movies, series, serials, TV events and feature films are realized by UFA Fiction. First-class shows of all genres, from talent and game shows, quiz, panel and dating shows to comedy and music shows, as well as high-quality factual programs, emotional, journalistic and documentary, are created in UFA Show & Factual. UFA Serial Drama is the leading provider of industrial series productions. UFA Documentary focuses on documentaries, documentary hybrids and serial features.

With currently more than 30 serial program brands, UFA has more long-running formats on the market than any other producer. With its programs, UFA sets and develops trends, but is also committed to proven ideas and traditions. Its impressive track record includes hit series and shows such as "SOKO Leipzig," "GZSZ," "Alles was zählt," "Unter uns," "Ein starkes Team," "Wer weiß denn sowas?," "Deutschland sucht den Superstar," "Take Me Out" and "Sag die Wahrheit"; outstanding high-end drama series, TV events and TV movies such as "Generation War" "Ku'damm 56/59/63," "Charité 1/2/3/4," "Deutschland 83/86/89," "Altes Land," "Unsere wunderbaren Jahre" 1 and 2, and "Sam – Ein Sachse," "Gute Freunde – Der Aufstieg des FC Bayern," "Helgoland 513", and the series "Maxton Hall – The World Between Us," which launched globally in spring 2024; feature films such as "Der Junge muss an die frische Luft," "Ich war noch niemals in New York," and "Tausend Zeilen"; as well as successful factual entertainment such as "Bauer sucht Frau" (Farmer Wants A Wife) and social documentaries such as "Hartz und herzlich."

UFA's Managing Directors are Sascha Schwingel (CEO) and Natalie Clausen (COO). Further information about UFA and its productions can be found at

www.UFA.de

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The UFA Film Nights are organized by
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