

4 August 2010
For immediate release



ROUNDHOUSE

Metropolis

with live accompaniment from London Contemporary Orchestra
Sunday 10 & Mon 11 October, 7pm

Metropolis, the cult 1927 German sci-fi classic has been reconstructed and restored, and it's being screened in the Roundhouse Main Space with the original soundtrack performed live by the London Contemporary Orchestra (conductor Hugh Brunt) on Sunday 10 and Monday 11 October.

With its dizzying depiction of a futuristic cityscape and an alluring female robot, *Metropolis* is the mother of sci-fi cinema (an influence on *Blade Runner* and *Star Wars*, among countless other films). Directed by the legendary Fritz Lang, its jaw-dropping production values, iconic imagery, and modernist grandeur remain as powerful as ever.

The music for the film, by German composer Gottfried Huppertz, is one of the biggest scores ever written for a silent film and has only recently been reconstructed in its entirety. Huppertz played a prominent role in the filming of *Metropolis* by playing the piano during shooting to encourage and help the actors. His music anticipates later film-music composers such as John Williams (*Star Wars*, *ET*, *Jaws*) by giving each character and idea it's own melody, or 'leitmotif', and drawing on the emotionally charged music of major romantic composers including Wagner and Richard Strauss.

Drawing on – and defining – classic sci-fi themes, *Metropolis* depicts a dystopian future in which society is thoroughly divided in two: while anonymous workers conduct their endless drudgery below ground their rulers enjoy a decadent life of leisure and luxury. This screening also includes an extra 25 minutes of footage previously thought lost to the world, and seen for the first time in 83 years.

The Main Space will be set up for this event in a cabaret table setting, celebrating the first in a line of Roundhouse unique film screenings, details of which will be announced soon.

Rating: PG

Listings

Venue: Roundhouse, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 8EH
Performances: Sunday 10 & Mon 11 October, 7pm
Running time: 2 hrs 50 mins (inc 20 min interval)
Box Office: www.roundhouse.org.uk 0844 482 8008
Tickets: £150 premium tables, seats 6 people, including 2 bottles of wine
£18 premium table seats
£15 table seats
£12 circle unreserved seating

Press enquiries

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Roundhouse

The Roundhouse is one of London's leading performing arts venues and, as a charity, it helps thousands of young people every year. Following an extensive refurbishment in 2006, more than half a million people have been to music, theatre, dance and circus events, and there have been 13,000 attendances by 11–25 year olds to develop their talents in the Studios. The Roundhouse delivers creative projects for London's young people from all backgrounds, including radio (with a dedicated radio station run by and for young people), music production, drama, poetry, TV, sound engineering, photography, VJ skills and much more. www.roundhouse.org.uk

About the London Contemporary Orchestra

London Contemporary Orchestra draws together London's brightest young talent to explore and promote contemporary music to an increasingly wide audience. Formed in 2008, the LCO has worked alongside artists including Matmos, Jonny Greenwood, Biosphere, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Mira Calix, United Visual Artists and Foals, and commissioned music from emerging composers Emily Hall, Shiva Feshareki and Anna Meredith. Recent highlights include Aldeburgh Music's 'Faster Than Sound', the Spitalfields Festival, and performing to an audience of 30,000 with Belle and Sebastian at this year's Latitude Festival. In May LCO was shortlisted for the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards 2010 (Audience Development category). Future projects include Frank Zappa's 'The Yellow Shark' at the Roundhouse, and performances at The Sage Gateshead and Symphony Hall, Birmingham. www.lcorchestra.co.uk

Eureka! Entertainment Ltd.

Eureka Entertainment is the leading independent distributor of classic silent/early films in the UK and has been involved in film distribution since 1981. The company was responsible for bringing to market the fully restored, remastered, and most comprehensive version of the Fritz Lang classic *Metropolis* (1927).

2004 saw the birth of the new Masters of Cinema Series, a specially curated DVD collection of classic and world cinema using the finest available materials for home viewing, with important new releases like *Shoah* (Lanzmann), *Onibaba* (Shindo), *Sunrise* (Murnau), *Francesco giullare di Dio* (Rossellini), *The Prisoner of Shark Island* (Ford), *Twenty-Four Eyes* (Kinoshita), *Abhijan* (Ray), *Toni* (Renoir), *Vengeance is Mine* (Imamura) and the *Complete Buster Keaton Short Films 1917-1923* amongst many others.

In late 2010 Eureka Entertainment will release *Metropolis* in its reconstructed and restored form on Blu-ray and DVD, see the website for details www.metropolis1927.com

The Masters of Cinema Series

The Masters of Cinema organisation was founded in 2001. The four co-founders of MoC were spread around the world (Canada, USA, and the UK) and together they contributed to the popular website mastersofcinema.org—a touchstone for the worldwide cinephile community. In early 2004, Masters of Cinema began collaborating with Eureka on *The Masters of Cinema Series* and in late 2008 Eureka consolidated their investment in the Series by acquiring the Masters of Cinema organisation outright. The Masters of Cinema Series is now a wholly owned label of Eureka Entertainment Ltd, London.