



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

University of Wollongong  
Research Online

---

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts - Papers

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

---

2012

# Speech at the exhibition opening of "Metropolis: Rotwang's Robot, Revolution, and Redemption" A Selection of Memorabilia Relating to Fritz Lang's 1927 Sci-Fi Fantasy Film. From the Collection of Michael Organ.

Jonathan P. Cockburn

*University of Wollongong*, [jon@uow.edu.au](mailto:jon@uow.edu.au)

---

## Publication Details

Cockburn, J. P. Speech at the exhibition opening of "Metropolis: Rotwang's Robot, Revolution, and Redemption" A Selection of Memorabilia Relating to Fritz Lang's 1927 Sci-Fi Fantasy Film. From the Collection of Michael Organ.. Wollongong City Gallery. 30 November 2012. 2012.

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library:  
[research-pubs@uow.edu.au](mailto:research-pubs@uow.edu.au)

---

# Speech at the exhibition opening of "Metropolis: Rotwang's Robot, Revolution, and Redemption" A Selection of Memorabilia Relating to Fritz Lang's 1927 Sci-Fi Fantasy Film. From the Collection of Michael Organ.

## **Abstract**

Opening speech by Dr Jon Cockburn for the exhibition "Metropolis: Rotwang's Robot, Revolution, and Redemption". The exhibition contains a selection of memorabilia relating to Fritz Lang's 1927 Sci-Fi fantasy film. The memorabilia is on loan to the Wollongong City Gallery from the collection of Michael Organ. The opening speech reflects on the development and production of the film *Metropolis* (1927), its reception on first release in Germany and then abroad. The film's influence on the genre of science fiction to the present day is noted. The film's ambiguous themes are of particular interest especially when considered in the light of world events in the late 1930s and the different career trajectories of the film's director, Fritz Lang, and the film's screenplay writer Thea von Harbou. However, of equal significance is how the film stands as a case study in archiving, preserving and restoring fragile film media with the aim of recouping the film's importance as a work and as a document to the time of its production.

## **Keywords**

speech, memorabilia, exhibition, relating, fritz, lang, 1927, sci, fi, fantasy, film, collection, michael, organ, opening, metropolis, rotwang, robot, revolution, redemption, selection

## **Disciplines**

Arts and Humanities | Law

## **Publication Details**

Cockburn, J. P.. Speech at the exhibition opening of "Metropolis: Rotwang's Robot, Revolution, and Redemption" A Selection of Memorabilia Relating to Fritz Lang's 1927 Sci-Fi Fantasy Film. From the Collection of Michael Organ.. Wollongong City Gallery. 30 November 2012. 2012.

# METROPOLIS



ROTWANG'S ROBOT,  
REVOLUTION,  
AND REDEMPTION

GRAUL

WOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY

Wollongong City Gallery invites you to the opening of

# METROPOLIS

## ROTWANG'S ROBOT, REVOLUTION, AND REDEMPTION

A selection of memorabilia relating to Fritz Lang's  
1927 sci-fi fantasy film. From the collection of Michael Organ

**To be officially opened by Dr Jon Cockburn,**  
Lecturer in Design Theory, Faculty of Creative Arts, University of Wollongong

**FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER, 6 FOR 6.30PM**

Refreshments available

Exhibition continues until 3 February 2013

---

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### METROPOLIS FILM SCREENING AND TALK BY MICHAEL ORGAN

**Sunday 3 February 2013, 12.30pm**

Fritz Lang's Metropolis of 1927 presents the past, present and future in a Bauhaus-inspired film which brings together alchemy, technology, a robot, revolution, love and revenge in an unprecedented spectacle from Weimar Germany. Michael Organ will introduce the film and discuss its creation and ongoing influence. Free, all welcome

#### ROBOT AND SPACESHIP WORKSHOPS WITH TINA MACKANDER

Create your own futuristic machine using recycled materials

Ages 8 - 16years

**Saturday 1 December, 1 - 3pm. Saturday 2 February 2013, 1 - 3pm**

Cost \$20 including all materials



Cnr Kembla & Burelli streets Wollongong  
phone 02 4228 7500 fax 02 4226 5530  
email gallery@wollongong.nsw.gov.au  
web www.wollongongcitygallery.com  
open Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm  
weekends 12noon - 4pm



Wollongong City Gallery is a service of Wollongong City Council and receives assistance from the NSW Government through Trade & Investment Arts NSW. The Gallery is a member of Regional and Public Galleries of NSW.