

M T R E O P I O L S

ELECTRO FILM-
CONCERT

ARTISTIC FILE



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MOVIE

Fritz Lang, 1927, 2h33

As a gigantic and visionary silent film, *Metropolis* represents the culmination of the German Expressionist movement, but also one of the high points of silent cinema. Building on the pessimism of Robert Wiene's *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, Fritz Lang extended it to the architectural and social order. He would later say: « *Metropolis* was born from the first glance I cast at the skyscrapers of New York in October 1924. » This version was screened in Berlin in 1927, before being edited by Paramount to make it more marketable. The deleted scenes were thought to be lost until 2008, when they were rediscovered at the Cinema Museum in Buenos Aires, Argentina, causing a stir amongst film enthusiasts.

PITCH

In a vast city of the third millennium, the workers form a caste of slaves relegated to an underground city, whilst a privileged elite lives in paradisiacal idleness. Freder, son of the city's ruler, falls in love with Maria, a young woman from the catacombs...

ORIGINAL MUSIC :
ACTUEL REMIX (Xavier Garcia ; Guy Villerd)

LIVE PERFORMANCE :
Xavier Garcia & Jérôme Lopez (laptops)

R. Hawtin & I. Xenakis
electro remix

Creation : january 2012
at Institut Lumière /
Lyon

In collaboration with
Institut Lumière & mk2.

VIDEO

ALBUM

Arfi Label - AM056 - 2013 -
Distrib. Les Allumés du Jazz



ACTUEL REMIX

Actuel Remix is a group founded by Xavier Garcia and Guy Villerd (now replaced by Jérôme Lopez). The duo's project involves 'remixing' the music of leading artists from the electro scene with that of so-called contemporary composers, for the sheer pleasure of bringing together two styles of contemporary music and breaking down the supposedly insurmountable barriers between these worlds. « This set of rules we've laid down for ourselves is more than just a DJ's trick or the application of a simple concept. For us, it's a genuine compositional endeavour aimed at creating something that is certainly hybrid and unexpected, but above all vibrant and musical. »

The music

To create the music for Metropolis, Actuel Remix drew exclusively on musical material by Iannis Xenakis (for the contemporary music) and Richie Hawtin (for the techno music). The highly 'driving' and powerful techno of Richie Hawtin's music, combined with the vibrancy and richness of Xenakis's composition, shed a very contemporary light on this cinematic masterpiece, the subject matter of which, incidentally, remains highly relevant to this day.

Metropolis performed on numerous occasions in France between 2012 and 2022, as well as in Brazil (Curitiba, Campo Grande, Manaus, Niterói, Rio), South Africa (Pretoria, Johannesburg), Germany (the Ruhrtriennale festival in Essen) and Taiwan (Taipei)...

ELECTRO REMIX OF...

RICHIE HAWTIN

With a career spanning more than 20 years, he is one of the most important electronic music artists of the moment. Active on the North American techno and acid scene in his early days, he subsequently moved towards a more minimalist and experimental style, favouring the use of the latest composition and DJing technologies. He currently lives in Berlin. « There are all sorts of fluctuations and movements in my music, and sometimes they're so subtle that you only notice them once they've already happened. These are things that amazed me when I was young or, later on, when I started listening to the music of Steve Reich or Philip Glass. In their music, there are these motifs that evolve and change without you even realising it. I've drawn heavily on this idea, in my own way. »

IANNIS XENAKIS

...who needs no introduction, has consistently sought to link architecture, mathematics, physics, graphic design and composition. He was also one of the first to use computers for calculating form, and later for sound synthesis with the UPIC. Beyond his interest in computers and the formal organisation of music (which brings us closer to both him and Richie Hawtin), one cannot escape the extremely 'raw', 'rough' nature of his soundscape. Whatever the instrumentation, Xenakis's sound is instantly recognisable. The originality of his musical language (rhythmic interplay, distinctive treatment of musical masses, timbres, voices, specific instrumentation, etc.) as well as an overflowing vital energy make his music a source of inspiration of inexhaustible richness.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

To coincide with the film-concert performances, Jérôme Lopez and Xavier Garcia are running a workshop open to all, designed to introduce the audience to the world of audiovisual media.

VIDEO-CASE

Participatory in situ creation



The 'video case' is a portable tool for participatory creation and live audiovisual performance developed by Jérôme Lopez. At the crossroads of video and sound art, field recording and digital creation, it offers a unique approach to artistic creation, based on an encounter with a locality, its inhabitants and their stories. It is designed with a low-tech approach : a converted small suitcase and a backlit glass table, recycled and modified cameras and tablets, and open-source software.

The 'video case' comprises two complementary strands : video performance and site-specific creation (resulting from a period of immersion in a particular area), and the participatory creative workshop, which invites groups of participants to collectively produce a short audiovisual piece. The meetings and workshops result in a collection of voices, sounds and testimonies, as well as personal objects, photographs, letters and mementoes.

These materials, which are both documentary in nature and personal, become the raw material for an audio-visual creation. Sounds and spoken words are assembled to form a soundtrack, whilst objects are mani-

pulated and filmed live to produce projected images. The installation thus enables the creation of collective artistic forms, rooted in a shared context and experience. As a mobile installation, it can be set up both indoors and outdoors for public performances, screenings or video projections onto walls and façades.

The creations can then be shared in the form of online videos, podcasts or exhibitions, thereby extending the experience beyond the performance itself. The 'video case' has been presented in France (Grenoble, Lyon, Saint-Étienne, Marseille, Perpignan...), Brazil (Rio, Niterói, Recife, Curitiba, Campo Grande, Manaus, Ouro Preto), Thailand (Bangkok, Chiang Mai) and Belgium. It has informed several residencies and regional projects: *Faites des Arts* (2020), *Sunugal Expérience* (Grenoble, 2021), *Local Polar* (Ambert, 2022), the *Pyrénées-Cerdagne Regional Nature Park with Jazzèbre* (2024), and *Atlas Imaginaire* (Bresse-Ain, 2024-25). Furthermore, Jérôme uses the video kit in several productions: *Lozen* (Arfi, 2023), *Les Dormants* (Arfi, 2028), *Just* (Ensemble TaCTuS, 2023), *Mémoire* (Ensemble TaCTuS, 2027) *The Case of the Sea Dog* (Ictus – Brussels, 2027)...

Length : 3 hours

Participants : up to 20 people

[Find out more](#)
[Teaser](#)

THE ARTISTS



Xavier Garcia

Sampler, processing, laptop

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A composer and improviser, he is passionate about both live performance and studio production. A pupil of Pierre Schaeffer at the Paris Conservatoire, Xavier has composed around thirty electroacoustic works whilst working with the INA's Groupe de Recherches Musicales, the Groupe de Musiques Vivantes de Lyon, and in his own studio. A member of ARFI since 1987, he plays the sampler and creates sound designs for various groups, film concerts and shows, notably the orchestra La Marmite Infernale. His discography comprises forty albums, either solo or co-produced, including projects such as Metropolis, L'Effet Vapeur and Labyrinthe d'une ligne.



Jérôme Lopez

Video artist, percussionist, sound processing, laptop

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Visual artist since 1998, he has been incorporating video into his work for the past 15 years, exploring a personal approach inspired by both the animal and plant worlds, as well as by outsider art and the unusual. Jérôme is also a musician and is developing a body of work that combines traditional and electroacoustic percussion. In addition to the numerous performances he has organised as a video artist (film and video concerts) or as a musician (percussion, sound design), the artist has created, through the 'video case', a fusion of audiovisual art and engagement with a specific audience, via various initiatives taking the form of artistic and educational workshops. As a member of the ARFI collective, he collaborates with various musical groups, companies, associations and collectives.



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À PROPOS DE L'ARFI

Founded in 1977, ARFI is France's longest-standing collective of jazz and improvised music musicians. Its exceptional longevity is down to the personalities of its members – all passionate improvisers and composers – and the quality of their collective relationship, founded on a shared passion: the ceaseless quest for new energies in the creation of music.

The artists who make up the collective are committed to local projects of varying scope, with all the rigour required to defend cultural rights. ARFI has produced a multitude of groups, performances and events in France and abroad, always with the aim of reaching an audience beyond the circle of connoisseurs.

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