

German director Murnau 'one of the greatest'

Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau, along with Fritz Lang, was one of Germany's greatest silent film directors. The first half of the 1920s found German filmmaking deep within their Golden Age of Expressionism. This period was ushered in by the very influential *Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (shown earlier this year at Sheldon Art Gallery). The artistic quality of the many films that followed was unmatched anywhere in the world, including the United States.

Murnau was born in Germany in 1888 and came under the stage influence of the famous Max Reinhardt before turning to film and his first feature picture in 1919. He made eight features (nearly all lost today) before 1922 when he directed his first real success, *Nosferatu* (a German word for vampire).

This film, to be shown as part of Sheldon's Film Classics focus on Murnau this weekend, is an unauthorized version of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (thus the change in name). Perhaps the world's first, truly terrifying horror movie, *Nosferatu* stars Max Schreck, as Count Orlock, probably the most skeletonous

figure ever to appear on the screen.

After *Nosferatu*, Murnau made three more features before creating the greatest film ever made in Germany, *The Last Laugh* (1924). This forlorn story of an elegant hotel doorman who is demoted to a washroom attendant remains a cinematic triumph

greg lukow
key grip

even today.

The characters in the film have no names, the movie itself is without titles.

In 1927, Murnau joined the swelling group of

German actors and directors who were lured to Hollywood studios. He signed with William Fox and his first film here was *Sunrise*, along with Chaplin's *City Lights*, one of the last great American silents.

But Murnau soon became disillusioned with the studio's control of his films. In 1931 he and Robert Flaherty, the period's finest documentary filmmaker who directed *Nanook of the North*, bought a yacht and went on an around the world filming binge. But when they came to Tahiti, they stopped their traveling and began shooting *Tabu*, also featured this weekend in the Sheldon Series.

Tabu is one of our finest poetic-documentaries and was Murnau's last film. He had a bright future ahead of him and the thought of an Ernst Lubitsch-Josef von Sternberg-Murnau triumvirate at Paramount Studios in the '30s looked awesome. But the career of one of the cinema's ablest directors was cut short when Murnau was killed in a car accident in March, 1931, one week before the world premiere of *Tabu*.

Renowned flautist in concert tonight

Jean-Pierre Rampal. To those who know his flute playing that is all you need to say.

Rampal was born in Marseilles, France. His father was professor of flute at the Marseilles Conservatoire. He began his career not as a flautist like his father, but as a doctor. During the German occupation he was called to active duty in Germany. He went AWOL and went to Paris. There he was convinced to attend classes at the National Conservatoire. He left with the first prize in flute playing just five months later.

He has taken concert tours on and off since 1946 and has done considerable work on French radio.

Rampal has played the complete spectrum of the flute literature from Baroque to the most contemporary. He has recorded on 13 different labels and six of his recordings have won the Grand Prix du Disque, an international recording award.

Rampal plays tonight at the Kimball Recital Hall at 8 p.m. His concert is the last concert in the Performing Arts Series sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. German composer
5. Pigeon
9. Hunter
12. Medicinal plant
13. Stage direction
14. G.I.'s address

15. For fear that

16. Actress: — Miles
17. Communist
18. Distribute
19. Undivided
20. Cunning
21. Worn groove

23. Bird

25. Sullen
28. Perched
32. Wicked
33. Furnished
31. Very rich men
37. Heed
39. Obtain
40. Insect
41. Properly

44. Decay

46. Mimics
50. Peer Gynt's mother
51. Alaskan city
52. Destiny
53. Decimal base
54. Currier

55. Penalty

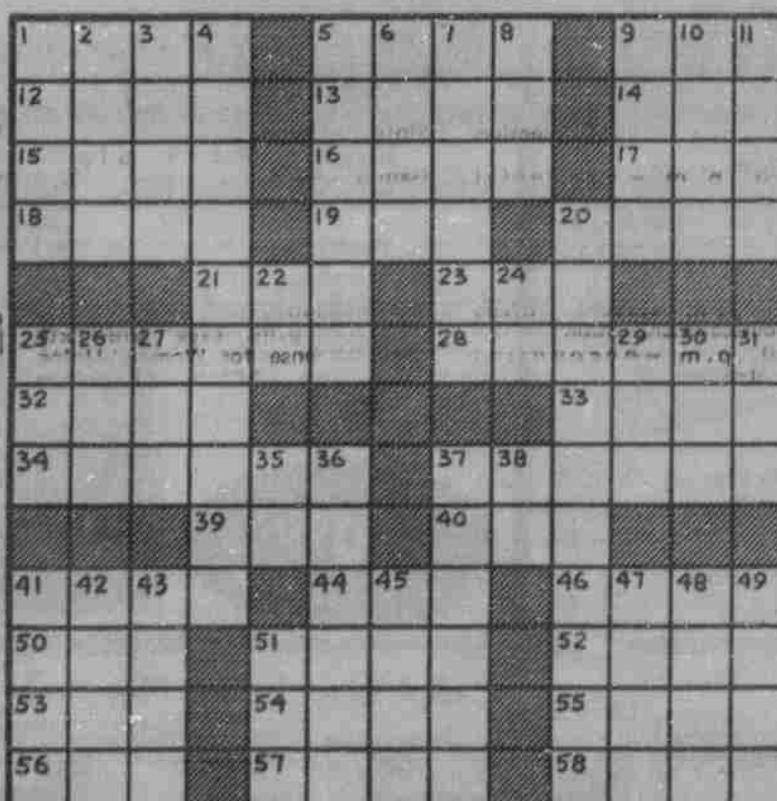
56. Donkey
57. Camping need
58. Strike

DOWN

1. Ointment
2. On the sheltered side
3. Price
4. Opposed to homology
5. Dedicate
6. Beasts of burden
7. American songbirds
8. Greek letter
9. Tropical plant
10. Summit
11. Corpse
20. City and pole

22. Pronoun

24. Book by Lindbergh
25. Chess pieces
26. Eggs
27. Tease
29. Make lace
30. Twilight
31. Lair
35. Exist
36. Tried
37. Most recent
38. At
41. Facts
42. Employs
43. Camera need
45. Augury
47. Bucket
48. Volcanic mountain
49. Ooze
51. Insect egg



FOP EDAM WASH
AMA DELE ARIA
CARDINAL LAND
TREATS OLD
TEE DOOMED
CLOUD FIG ORE
HARM TIC HOSE
AVA ION BORED
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TOGA BEATRICE
AWAY ETC SHE
BEGS EATS SOD

Answer to last puzzle

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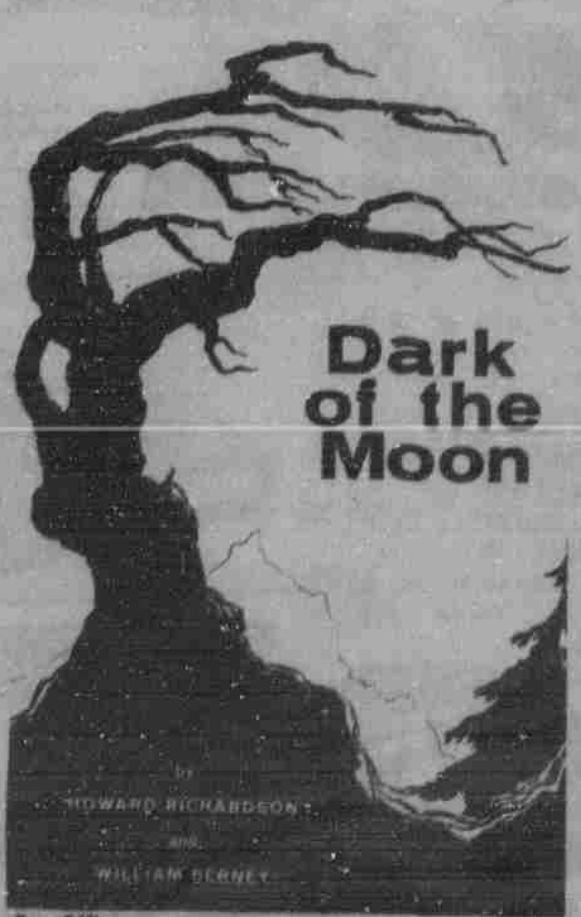
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- L.A. Free Press

Thursday, March 7
"RIVER RAFT REVIEW"
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Friday, March 8 & Saturday, March 9

"STUMP REMOVAL"
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Admission—\$1.25 (including tax)
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March 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9, 8:00 P.M.