

## Press Release

# Metropolis, the German classic silent film screened in Qatar

## A film concert by Qatar Museums, German Embassy and Goethe-Institut Gulf Region in collaboration with Doha Film Institute

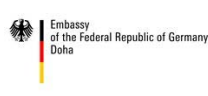
**Doha, Qatar; September 24, 2017:** As part of the Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture and in partnership with Qatar Museums, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and the Doha Film Institute will present a screening of the German timeless classic silent film 'Metropolis'.

In 1927 director Fritz Lang released his science fiction masterpiece 'Metropolis', which will be screened at the Katara Opera House this month. The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra will be accompanying the film with the original scores composed by Gottfried Huppertz. The film concert will be part of a larger screening series by Doha Film Institute called 'A Symphony of Films'.

'Metropolis' has been known as the pioneering work in the science-fiction genre and belongs to the first feature length movies. The story takes place in the future, in the city of Metropolis, which is divided into two parts, the rich and powerful in the Upper Town and the slave-like workers who run their machinery in the Lower Town. Johann Fredersen rules the city, claiming himself as its brain and those in the Lower Town as nothing more than mere 'hands' of the machinery. When Johann's son, Freder, follows Maria, a young woman from Lower Town preaching the values of love and reconciliation, he unsuccessfully pleads with his father to improve the inhumane conditions he came to witness. Johann, fearing a revolt, consults the inventor Rotwang to create a robot version of Maria, which would enable him to influence the workers as he pleased. Rotwang, a long-time rival of Johann's, develops his own plan to use robot Maria to destroy the city instead. The interesting turn of events during the movie showcase the director's visionary aim of bringing an innovative idea to real life.

On the occasion of the upcoming screening, **Dr. Gabriele Landwehr, General Manager of the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region** said, "*The 1927 classic fiction 'Metropolis' is a silent film that speaks a thousand words.*" With Gottfried Huppertz's original score music played by Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, DFI is presenting an outstanding film and music experience to the Doha public.

The music plays an important part in the movie. The original score has been neglected over a long period of time and parts of it were considered lost. The film



was not able to recover its production costs of 5 million Reichsmark at its release and had to face several cuts. Only after a lucky find in 2008 in Buenos Aires it was possible to restore the entire film. After the restoration, it was shown in its original form of two hours and twenty-five minutes, with the original score by Huppertz.

'A Symphony of Films' will conclude on Tuesday, September 26, with the screening of 'Metropolis'. Tickets for the film concert can be purchased via the website of Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra: <http://qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org>

Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture is a year-long program designed to deepen understanding between nations through the mutual exchange of arts, culture, heritage and sport, developed by Qatar Museums in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, the German Embassy in Doha and the Embassy of Qatar in Germany.

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#### **Note to Editors:**

#### **About Doha Film Institute:**

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Doha Film Institute

Twitter: @DohaFilm; Instagram: @DohaFilm; Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/DohaFilmInstitute](http://www.facebook.com/DohaFilmInstitute)

#### **About The Goethe-Institut:**

The Goethe-Institut is a world-wide organization working to promote German language and culture. With a network of 159 institutes in 98 countries around the world and 12 institutes in Germany, the Goethe-Institut acts on behalf of the German Government to implement its cultural relations policy. The Goethe-Institut Gulf Region offers German language courses and organises cultural events in the Gulf Region. Together with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region arranges the programs of Qatar Germany Year of Culture 2017.

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#### **About The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra**

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra promotes and performs western and Arabic music in order to inspire the children and adults of Qatar and the Arab world to create and enjoy



music. In blending these cultures the Qatar Philharmonic extends a message of peace to the world. The Philharmonic was founded in 2007 as a center in the Qatar Foundation, chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. It is composed of 101 professional musicians chosen in international auditions from 30 countries. The Philharmonic's first music director, Nader Abbassi, was succeeded by Michalis Economou and Han-Na Chang, and Dmitrij Kitajenko was recently named Conductor of Honor. The orchestra has also worked with such conductors such as David Afkham, James Gaffigan, Lorin Maazel, Marc Minkowski and Tung-Chieh Chuang.

As a member of the Qatar Foundation, the Philharmonic assists Qatar in its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential. It is an integral part of the Philharmonic's work to host new and established composers, soloists and conductors of the Arab world.

The Qatar Philharmonic gives on average 50 different performances per year at their home in the Katara Opera House, which it opened in December 2010 with the world premiere of Marcel Khalifé's Rababa Concerto. Touring performances have included the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Kennedy Center in Washington, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Konzerthaus in Vienna for the 50th anniversary of OPEC, the Syrian Opera House in Damascus, the United Nations General Assembly, the BBC Proms in London, Linz Brucknerhaus and Santa Cecilia Hall in Rome.

You can also visit: [qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org](http://qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org)