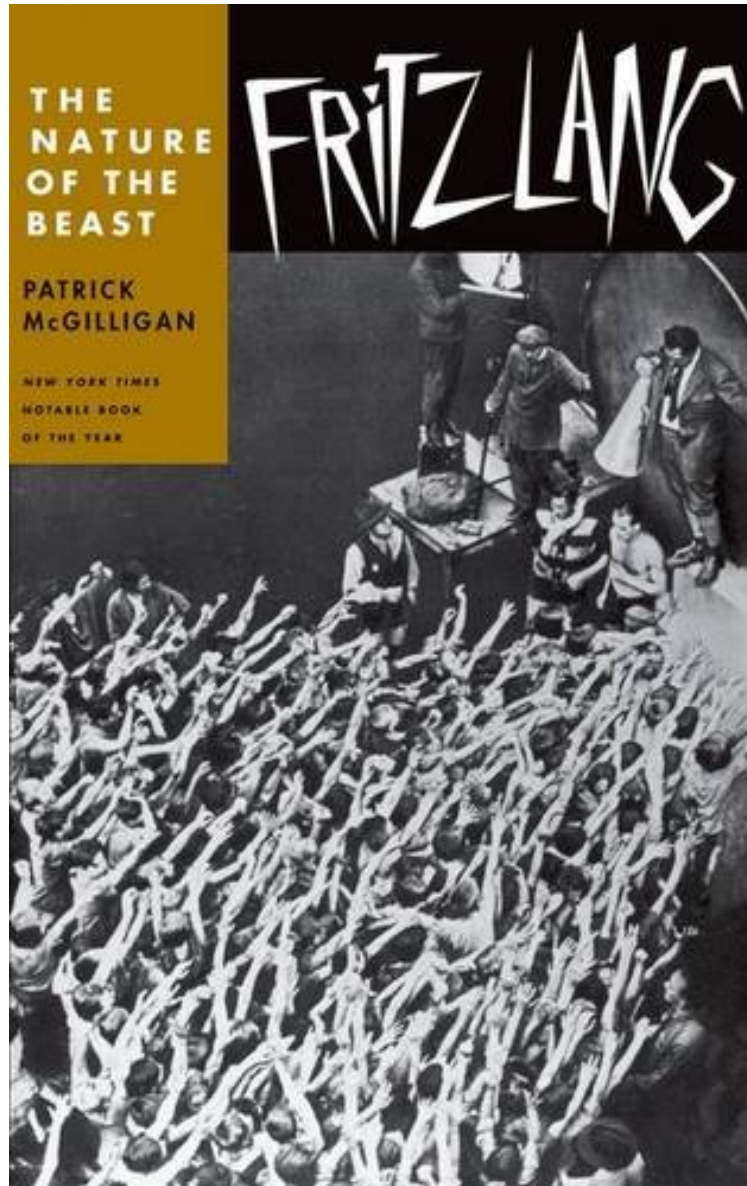


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Fritz Lang: The Nature of the Beast

Patrick McGilligan

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Patrick McGilligan : Fritz Lang: The Nature of the Beast before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fritz Lang: The Nature of the Beast:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Detailed LangBy Nuno Pedro Simes Lobato de Carvalho CarneiroExcelent book, very detailed, all you want to know about Fritz Lang.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent almost day-by-day biography of the German master filmmakerBy JOAO LUIZ VIEIRAAn

excellent almost day-by-day biography of the German master filmmaker, combining useful information which expands our knowledge and appreciation of his films. Worth every page! 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Compelling but deeply flawed. By A Customer. A reader needs to approach this book with a keen understanding that most biographies (especially Hollywood biographies) are not based on facts; they are based on opinions, assumptions, innuendo, and flat-out lies. If you are seeking a straightforward, informative, fact-based account of the life of Fritz Lang, don't read this book. If, however, you're looking for a compelling portrait of a time, a world, a personality, and the art (and business) of filmmaking, look no further. This is a fascinating portrait, even if it reveals more about the author's biases than about his subject's life. It's still a great read. The most frustrating aspect of "The Nature of the Beast" is this: it represents the single worst job of copyediting that I've ever seen. The errors are abundant and distracting. The publisher should be embarrassed, and the copy editor should be forced to retake elementary school.

The name of Fritz Lang, the visionary director of *Metropolis*, *M*, *Fury*, *The Big Heat*, and thirty other unforgettable films, is hallowed the world over. But what lurks behind his greatest legends and his genius as a filmmaker? Patrick McGilligan, placed among the front rank of film biographers by the *Washington Post*, spent four years in Europe and America interviewing Lang's dying contemporaries, researching government and film archives, and investigating the intriguing life story of Fritz Lang. This critically acclaimed biography, lauded as one of the year's best nonfiction books by *Publishers Weekly*, reconstructs the compelling, flawed human being behind the monster with the monocle.

.com Fritz Lang directed *Metropolis*, *M*, *Liliom*, *Fury*, *The Big Heat*, and many other of the cinema's enduring masterpieces. But in Patrick McGilligan's assessment, Lang "lived his life--and cultivated his legend--with the glinted eyes of a maniac." Until his death in 1976, Lang carefully manipulated the events of his past, omitting his first wife's mysterious death, his tyrannical treatment of his associates, and his many liaisons with famous women. In this superbly researched and riveting biography, McGilligan peels Lang's autobiographical fictions to reveal the facts about these omissions as well as his flirtation with Nazism, his alleged Communist affiliations, his sadistic tendencies on the set, and his unparalleled cinematic genius. From *Library Journal*: Genius, womanizer, perfectionist, Nazi, visionary, and tyrant all describe film legend Fritz Lang. McGilligan illustrates some of these terms and answers many questions raised about Lang. Did he murder his first wife? Did Hitler ask him to be the filmmaker for the Third Reich? Did he force extras on the set of his acclaimed *Metropolis* to work under tortuous conditions? The book is meticulously researched and it seems no detail of Lang's life has been omitted. The author spent four years in Europe interviewing Lang's contemporaries and examining records at government and film archives. Author of acclaimed film biographies, McGilligan has returned with another exceptional work, including a detailed filmography and informative acknowledgments that reconstruct his research. This authoritative biography is highly recommended for academic and public libraries. ?Lisa N. Johnston, Sweet Briar Coll. Lib., Va. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist*: Legendary filmmaker Lang (1890[^]-1976) was known for his application of technical mastery to pulp fictional content. As McGilligan characterizes it, Lang's style is a mixture of lowbrow trappings, lofty truths, and visual intensity. In Germany, Lang produced such masterworks as *Metropolis* (1927) and *M* (1931); fleeing to the U.S. after the rise of Hitler, he ran up against Hollywood's studio system yet made such classics as *Fury* (1936) and *The Big Heat* (1955) as well as hackwork. There was plenty of scandal and sleaze in his life. He was known for sadism on the set and affairs with dozens of actresses, including Marlene Dietrich, and he is widely believed to have murdered his first wife. McGilligan emphasizes Lang's work, illuminating his struggle to produce art under the demands of commerce but scrutinizing the many self-aggrandizing myths Lang nurtured. McGilligan's forthright treatment may not have pleased his subject, who loved publicity only as long as he could control it, but its appeal to the many cineasts who idolize Lang is certain. Gordon Flagg