

Louise Brooks in *Pandora's Box* by G.W. Pabst (1929)

Abstract

The “vamp” was a remake of the *femme fatale*, a misogynistic stereotype of uninhibited, predatory female sexuality. In G.W. Pabst’s silent film *Pandora’s Box* [*Die Büchse der Pandora*], a cinematic adaptation of Frank Wedekind’s play of the same name, American actress Louise Brooks (1906-1985) played Lulu, a tragic *femme fatale* who descended into murder and prostitution before dying at the hands of Jack the Ripper. Pabst’s film, which is widely regarded as a classic of Weimar cinema, transferred the popular theme of *Lustmord* [“lust murder,” or sexual homicide] from the graphic arts to the screen.

Source



Source: Stills from *Die Büchse der Pandora* [*Pandora's Box*], 1929, dir. G.W. Pabst. Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek

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