

## ***Berlin: Symphony of a Metropolis* by Walter Ruttmann (1927)**

### **Abstract**

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The experimental documentary film *Berlin: Symphony of a Metropolis* marks the transition from the early years of Expressionist cinema to *Neue Sachlichkeit* or “New Objectivity,” a movement that emphasized the realism of everyday life over romantic longings. In lieu of a storyline, the film loosely portrays the events of a single day in Berlin. Director Walter Ruttmann was interested in exploring the modern phenomena of speed, mobility, mass consumption, and mechanized production. He was equally fascinated by the new technologies that allowed for all of this. Ruttmann favored a cross-cut style of editing that juxtaposed representatives of the various classes of Weimar society. This lobby card advertising the film uses a collage to reflect this editing style.

### **Source**

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Source: Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek

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