

[Avant-Garde: Experimental Cinema of the 1920s & 1930s](#)

This collection of 24 short experimental films, mostly produced in France, Germany, and the United States, includes works by Orson Welles, Sergei Eisenstein, and others. Many of the films bear the influence of the artistic philosophy of the Surrealists. (DVD)

[The Battleship Potemkin](#) (1925)

Sergei Eisenstein, Director
This Russian film pioneered many narrative techniques still in use today, such as montage, quick edits, and fade-ins and -outs. The film dramatizes a 1905 mutiny by Russian sailors who were returning from war with Japan and rebelling against having to eat infected food. (VHS) VIDEO Int.

[The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari](#) (1919)

Robert Wiene, Director
This German horror film features the malicious Dr. Caligari, a circus performer who brainwashes a zombie-like somnambulist to commit murder. The dark lighting, eerie sets, and sharp angles used in the film greatly influenced the style of later horror movies. (DVD)

[City Lights](#) (1931)

Charlie Chaplin, Director
In this comedy, Chaplin plays a tramp who falls in love with a blind woman, who mistakenly believes he is a millionaire. In order to earn money for an operation that will restore the woman's sight, the tramp works a series of odd jobs. (DVD)

[Greed](#) (1925)

Erich von Stroheim, Director
This adaptation of the Frank Norris novel [McTeague](#) was filmed on the streets of San Francisco. It tells the story of how John McTeague's life changes for the worse after his wife wins a large sum of money in the lottery. Originally seven hours long, this VHS is the two-hour version edited by MGM studios for theatrical release. (VHS)

[The Man with a Movie Camera](#) (1929)

Dziga Vertov, Director
This film does not present a linear story, but instead follows a cameraman who depicts scenes of daily life in the Russian cities of Kiev, Moscow, and Odessa during the 1920s. This "film within a film" employs many innovative camera techniques, and is widely regarded as a classic of avant-garde cinema. (VHS) VIDEO 778.53

[The Man Who Laughs](#) (1928)

Paul Leni, Director
Based on a novel by Victor Hugo, this early horror film tells the story of Gwynplaine, a circus performer whose face was disfigured by gypsies when he was a child, displaying an unfixable grin. (DVD)

[Metropolis](#) (1927)

Fritz Lang, Director
In this science fiction film set in the year 2026, society is split into two main classes – the rich, who inhabit a splendid city, and the poor, who live underground, providing the labor needed to keep the city functioning. Things change, however, when Freder, the son of the leader of Metropolis, falls in love with Maria, a member of the working class. (DVD)

[Nanook of the North](#) (1922)

Robert J. Flaherty, Director
Considered one of the first documentaries, this film depicts the daily life of Nanook, his family, and other Inuit Indians (also known as Eskimos) in Northern Canada. It features scenes of hunting, building igloos, and other aspects of Inuit culture. (VHS)

[Napoleon](#) (1927)

Abel Gance, Director

Francis Ford Coppola, director of *The Godfather* and other films, funded this restoration of Gance's epic biographical film of the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

In addition to innovative camera work and fine acting, this film features one of the first uses of the split screen. (VHS)

[The Passion of Joan of Arc](#) (1928)

Carl Dreyer, Director

This French film is notable for telling the story of Joan of Arc mostly through close-ups of actors' faces. It also features the widely acclaimed performance of lead actress Renee Falconetti. (DVD)

[Woman in the Moon](#) (1929)

Fritz Lang, Director

In this early science fiction film, a professor travels to the moon in a rocket ship, hoping to find gold. A group of criminals, after discovering the professor's plans, hope to obtain the gold for themselves. (DVD)



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