THE RESTORATIONS - PICTURES AND COMPARISONS IN STILLS & CLIPS - BEFORE AND AFTER
FRITZ LANG'S CLASSIC
THE RESTORATION OF "M" (2003)
Client: EUREKA Ltd, UK

- Source Elements: Mint condition 35mm Restoration Fine Grain Composite Master Positive newly struck from the best surviving 35mm elements: Camera Negative + Dupe Positive & Negative sources
- Audio: 48kHz 16Bit DAT derived from the 35mm restoration elements
- Transfer Via: SPIRIT DATA LINE/DAVINCI 2Kplus/32' SONY Class 1 Studio Monitor @ 25fps, 4:2:2 YUV, 10bit
- Sound Restoration (48kHz/16bit) made under constant supervision of TLEFilms
- Transfer / Mastering and Project Coordination / Documentaries: TLEFilms

Following the controversial reconstruction of Fritz Lang's classic in the 1990s almost a decade later a (this time correct) restoration combining the best surviving elements worldwide was the basis of the digital restoration project headed by TLEFilms in 2003. TLEFilms worked closely with the producer of the photochemical restoration effort, Martin Koenker, to ensure the best transfer possible. In fact, the materials used were not those which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival, the BERLINALE, in 2001, but a mint condition fine grain that benefited even more from the corrections of perforation damage, a better stabilized picture and other aspects. However, there was still a huge workload to be done covering an area from large tears over multiple frames to massively scratched shots in the film.

The transfer alone took six days; over 630 individual corrections, some of them frame by frame were made on the DaVinci 2Kplus Color Corrector console. For each individual shot the light setting was re-timed. To this day, this master remains the most accurate transfer master made of this film. After transfer was completed, the digital restoration was made under the supervision of TLEFilms. Over 60,000 frames were corrected in the digital domain.
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THE RESTORATION OF

"M"

2003 TLEFilms Transfer Master
(PAL 625 Digital Betacam)

Selected Stills

Before & After Comparisons

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Fritz Lang's Classic

The Restoration of "M"

2001 Broadcast Master
(PAL 625 Digital Betacam)

2003 TLEFilms Transfer Master
(PAL 625 Digital Betacam)

Before & After Comparisons

2003 TLEFilms Final Master
(PAL 625 Digital Betacam)