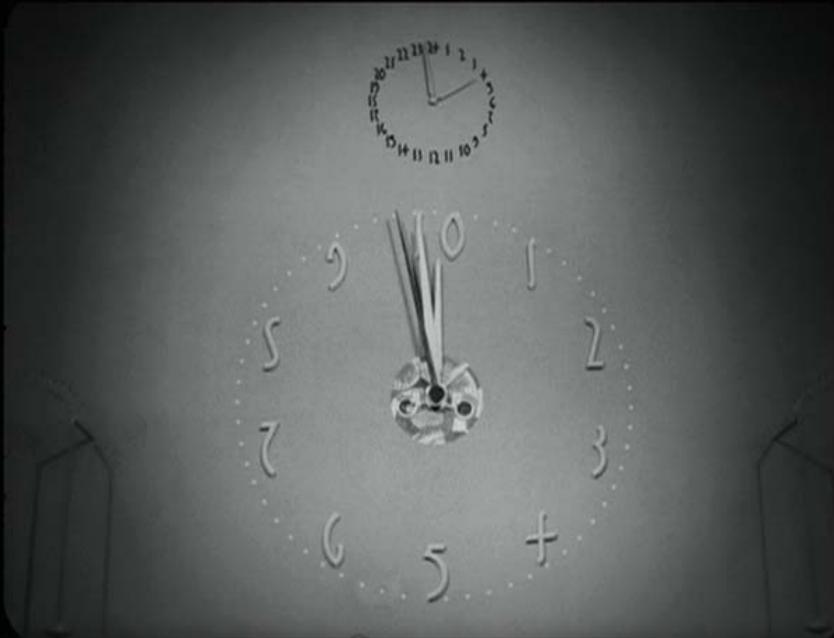


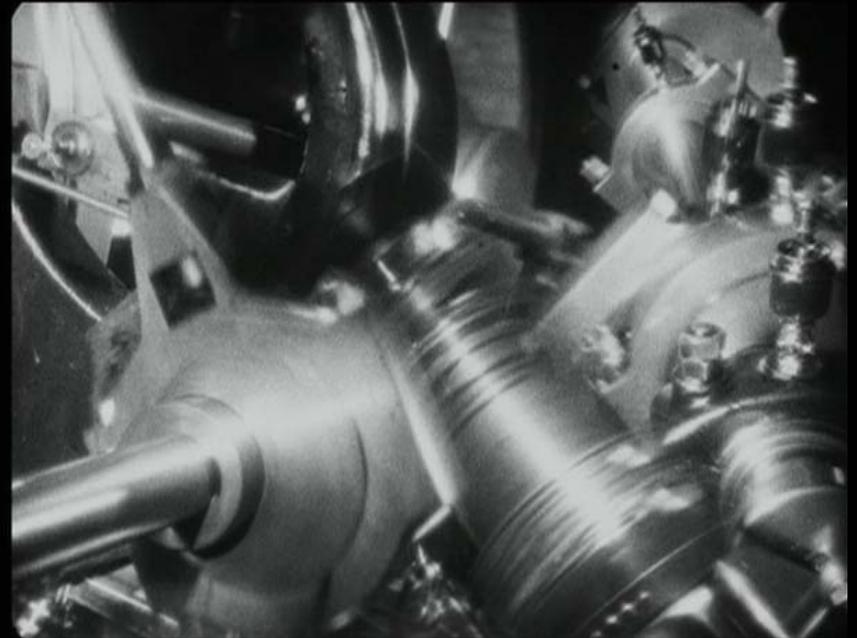
-- The Head and the Hands --

The Visual Storytelling in the Opening of *Metropolis*
and the Class Differences in the Film

Estranging Imagery



The “shift clock” vs. traditional clock



Multiple-exposure of machine images

Implications of Mise en Scène



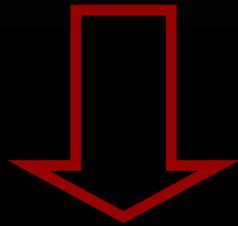
Dark, subterranean, labor class,
constricted environment...



Bright, open air, upper
class/wealth, atmosphere of
freedom...

Visual Aspect of Title Cards

Deep below
the earth's surface lay
the workers' city.




As
deep as
lay the workers'
city below the earth,
so high above it towered
the complex named the "Club
of the Sons," with its lecture halls

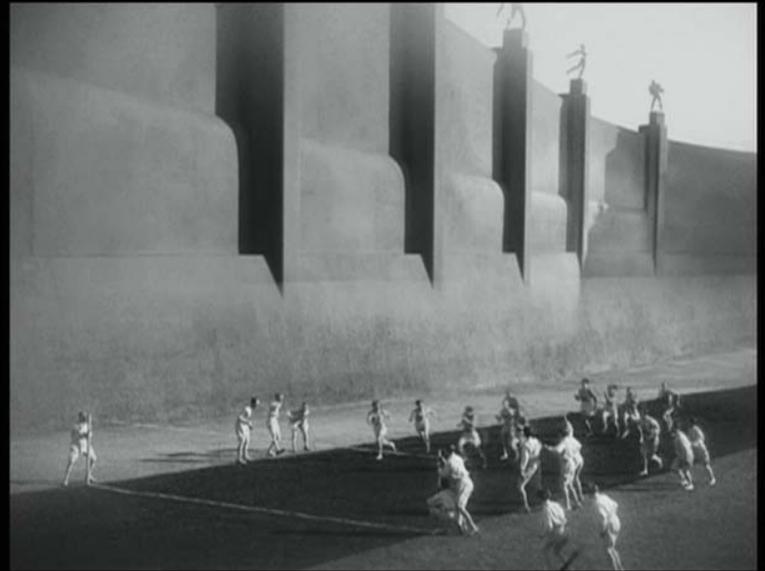
The Hands – “Mechanical” Workers

- They walk very robot-like
- All walk in unison with head down
- New shift walks at exactly double the speed of relieved shift
- No individuality



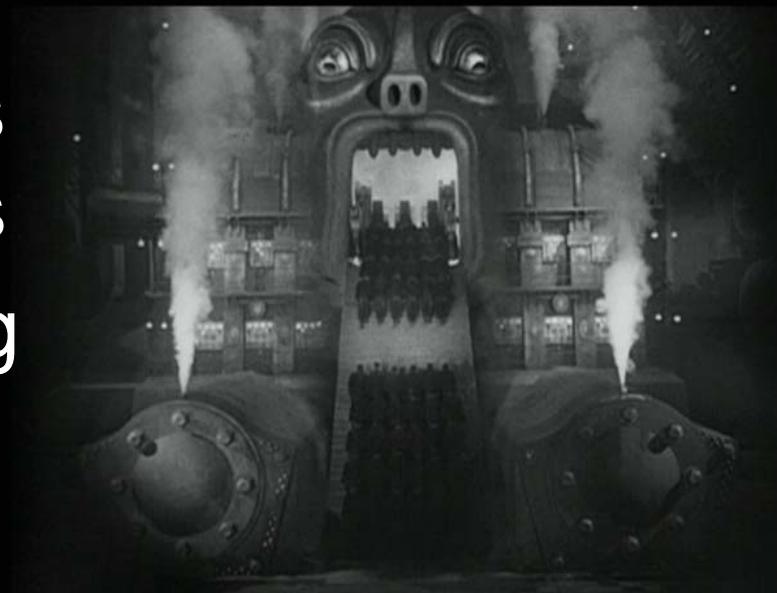
In Contrast To...

- Run around wildly
- Have life of relaxation
- Able to exhibit individuality without repercussions



Life is Work

- No life outside of work
- Will sacrifice own lives to “feed” the machines
- Symbolized by walking into mouth of Moloch



The Heads and Their “Technology”

- A look at how the upper class in *Metropolis* control technology and the lower class

Head Operations

- The Heads operate the Hands who behave like machines
- The Hands in turn operate the machines that allow the Heads to live in luxury

Waiting at the Gate



Human Resources

- We see the herding or managing of the Hands as objects
- The Heads tell them where to move and when to work

Categorization

- By regarding the Hands as technology, this allows the Heads to devalue their lives
- This lack of regard for the Hands is apparent when Fredersen attempts to flood their underground city

Work and Play

- The two major types of technology in *Metropolis* are industrial and entertainment
- Each type is represented by one social class
- The Hands operate industrial technology
- The Heads operate entertainment technology and manage the Hands

Entertainment



Industrial



Big Picture

- Instead of leveling class differences, the reality presented by Fritz has dramatic class differences
- In the film the Heads use technology to control and manipulate the Hands