



0. F.W. MURNAU - Story Preface
1. THE REAL DRACULA
2. DOUBLE-DEALING
3. VLAD THE IMPALER
- 4. F.W. MURNAU**
5. MAX SCHRECK
6. NOSFERATU
7. DRACULA'S DEATH
8. THE LEGEND OF DRACULA

In a still-shot from F.W. Murnau's film, *Nosferatu*, we see Count Orlok (Murnau's version of Dracula) on board ship. As the vessel comes into port, Orlok (the vampire) is the only one still alive. Killing his victims, Orlok differs from Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. It is one of the ways in which *Nosferatu*'s film makers tried to get around copyright restrictions (since they did not have permission, from the Stoker Estate, to make the silent-era movie).

F.W. Murnau (born Friedrich Wilhelm Plumpe in Bielefeld, Germany in 1888) was one of the most acclaimed directors of the silent-movie era.

One of five children, (2 brothers and 2 sisters), he showed an early interest in the theatre. In 1910, the family name was changed to Murnau, for a lovely Bavarian town. Following service as a German pilot during WWI, Murnau pursued his real passion: making movies.

Very little has been written about Murnau in English, although a 1998 novel, *Nosferatu* by Jim Shepard, is loosely based on his life. Several German Internet sites, however, provide important details of the man and his work.

The original silent film, *Nosferatu Eine Symphonie des Grauens* (translated as *Nosferatu, a Symphony of Horror*), is available for online viewing. Among other things, we see Murnau's version of Dracula (called "Count Orlok") arriving home by ship. English subtitles describe the scene: "The Master is coming! The master is here!" "The master," of course, is the only one left on board. Everyone else, thanks to "The Master," is dead.

Following enormous success in Germany, with films like "Faust," Murnau was invited to make movies in Hollywood. Two other Germans, Fritz Lang and Georg Wilhelm Pabst, were already in America.

Murnau, however, believed he did not have enough control over his films when the Hollywood studios were involved. He soon went to the South Seas where he filmed *Tabu*.

One week before *Tabu* premiered in New York, Murnau was a passenger in a car bound for Monterey, California. It would be his last trip.

When the car was involved in an accident just south of Santa Barbara, Murnau was thrown-out and his head struck a pole. He died instantly, by the side of the road. He was 42 years old.

Totally absorbed with his craft of film-making, Murnau wanted his characters and movies to be as realistic as possible. It did not matter to him that audiences could not hear his characters speak. The images and shadows of people and scenes spoke for themselves.

None was heard more loudly than Max Schreck, who played *Dracula*.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/F.W.-MURNAU-Shadow-of-the-Vampire-The-Real-Dracula)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/F.W.-MURNAU-Shadow-of-the-Vampire-The-Real-Dracula>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/F.W.-MURNAU-Shadow-of-the-Vampire-The-Real-Dracula)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/F.W.-MURNAU-Shadow-of-the-Vampire-The-Real-Dracula>



Bielefeld - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy German-language Wikipedia.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bielefeld-Map-Locator>



Murnau Children - Family of F.W. Murnau

Image, courtesy German-language website (now offline).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Murnau-Children-Family-of-F.W.-Murnau>



Murnau in Uniform

Image, courtesy German-language website (now offline).

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Murnau-in-Uniform>



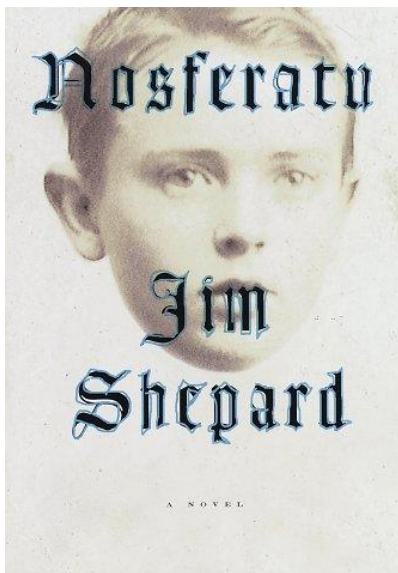
Murnau - German Pilot during WWI

Image, courtesy German-language website (now offline).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Murnau-German-Pilot-during-WWI>



Nosferatu - by Jim Shepard

Image online, courtesy Amazon.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nosferatu-by-Jim-Shepard>



Tabu - Movie by Murnau

Image online, courtesy Wikipedia.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tabu-Movie-by-Murnau>



Murnau's Use of Shadow

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Murnau-s-Use-of-Shadow>



Max Schreck

Image online, courtesy Wikipedia.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Max-Schreck>



F.W. MURNAU

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>

Faust - Silent Film by F.W. Murnau

"Faust," a 1926 silent film by F.W. Murnau, based on the play by Goethe. Public domain. Online, courtesy Archive.org.

Director:

F.W. Murnau

Producer:

Erich Pommer

Screenplay:

Hans Kyser

Starring:

Gösta Ekman - Faust

Emil Jannings - Mephisto

Camilla Horn - Gretchen

Frida Richard - Gretchen's mother

William Dieterle - Valentin

Yvette Guilbert - Marthe Schwerdtlein

Eric Barclay - Duke of Parma

Hanna Ralph - Duchess of Parma

Werner Fuetterer - Archangel

Anderhusan von Arteblach - Gretchen's aunt

Music:

William Axt (US, uncredited)

Cinematography:

Carl Hoffman

Distributor:

UFA

Release dates:

September 14, 1926 - Austria

December 5, 1926 - U.S.

Running Time:

106 minutes

Country:

Germany

Language:

Silent film

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Faust-Silent-Film-by-F.W.-Murnau>

