

Thea von Harbou

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Thea Gabriele von Harbou (December 27, 1888 – July 1, 1954) was a German actress and author of Prussian aristocratic origin.

In 1905, she published her first novel in the *Deutsche Roman-Zeitung*. However, she then started to work as an actress, beginning in 1906 in Düsseldorf, then moving to Weimar (1908), Chemnitz (1911) and Aachen (1913). In Aachen she met her first husband, the actor and director Rudolf Klein-Rogge, whom she married in 1914.

In 1920, she wrote her first film script *Das Indische Grabmal* (*The Indian Tomb*, *Mysteries of India*), together with Fritz Lang. Fritz Lang became her second husband in 1922, and they collaborated in the following years, writing the screenplays for *Metropolis* and *M* together. They separated in October 1931 and divorced in 1933.

In 1932, a year before Adolf Hitler came to power, she joined the Nazi Party. This

presumably led to the divorce from Lang, who left Germany in 1934 for Paris after his film *Das Testament des Dr. Mabuse* had been declared illegal by Nazi officials because of perceived criticism of Nazi ideology.

Harbou wrote the script for *Der Herrscher* 1937, directed by Veit Harlan and starring Emil Jannings. The movie celebrates unconditional submission under absolute authority, eventually finding reward in total victory.

After the war she was detained by the British military government, and then did unskilled labor, like cleaning up rubble from the bombing. After receiving a working permit she did some synchronizing of movies, but also continued to write scripts.

In 1954 she died in Berlin.

Scripts (selection)

- *Dr. Mabuse, der Spieler* (Dr. Mabuse, King of Crime) (1922)
- *Metropolis* (1927)
- *Spione* (Spies) (1928)

- *Frau im Mond* (Woman in the Moon), from her novel *Die Frau im Mond* (1929)
- *M* (1931)

External links

- Thea von Harbou at the Internet Movie Database

for a Biography, see [1]

Retrieved from

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thea_von_Harbou"

Categories: 1888 births | 1954 deaths | German film actors | German stage actors | German silent film actors | Roman Catholics | Nazi propagandists

- This page was last modified 15:03, 26 July 2007.
- All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. (See **Copyrights** for details.)
Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a US-registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible

nonprofit charity.