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FILM CRITICISM IN CAPE TOWN 1928-1930

**An Explorative Investigation into the  
CAPE TIMES and DIE BURGER**





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for granting me a scholarship to support my research in South Africa. Several colleagues and friends provided valuable information, a bibliography and general encouragement, in particular: Prof Edwin Hees, who convinced me to conduct this project at the University of Stellenbosch; Dr Herman Wasserman and the Journalism Department, who gave helpful comments and supervised my project; Dr Martin Kidd from the Statistics Department for his invaluable help with the database; Hanna Botha and her staff from the Africana section of the J.S. Gericke Library in Stellenbosch, for tracking down the most obscure references; Paul Berri (Namibia) and Rob Goodfellow (England) for transforming my German thoughts written in English into standard English; and last but not least Sandy “The Squirrel” Pfeßdorf for tirelessly organising and sending me German research literature which forms an essential part of this study.



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## PREFACE

This study is the revised version of my thesis, submitted at the University of Stellenbosch to obtain the degree Master of Philosophy of Journalism. The decision to publish this thesis stems from various recommendations because of the significant lack of fundamental studies concerning early South African film history. Conducted as an attempt to provide contextual background for a more comprehensive study on the reception of German films in South Africa in the years 1928 – 1933, the study aims to provide further research with the necessary basic data and a general statement on the use value of film reviews in newspapers. The only way to avoid the danger of using the few secondary sources over and over again was the return to the original film reviews published in the daily newspapers *Die Burger* and the *Cape Times* in the period under discussion. The result is a list of film titles which is supposed to give an unabridged overview of the films screened in Cape Town 1928 to 1930.<sup>1</sup> Due to the functionalist character of this survey, the given conclusions remain rather descriptive, sometimes speculative, and point out the necessity for more probing studies. In the present case, this study presents itself as an invitation to others to use the collected material as one possible point of departure for further investigations.

**Michael Eckardt,  
Stellenbosch 2005**

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<sup>1</sup> Because of its extended size, the complete data base is not part of this publication. A copy of appendix II (pp. 151-184) from the original thesis can be requested from the author (michael.eckardt@web.de) or from one of these institutions: Department of Journalism/University of Stellenbosch, Private Bag XI, 7602 Matieland; G.S. Gericke Biblioteek/Universiteit van Stellenbosch, Privaatsak X 5036, 7599 Stellenbosch or any other institution holding a copy of the original thesis.