KINOKINO

# THE LOVE OF JEANNE NEY (1927)

**Sunday April 13th 7pm**

***Live Scored by Carolyn Swartz***




“Bristling with beauty and grotesquerie,” G.W. Pabst’s **The Love of Jeanne Ney** (1927) is a stellar example of late-era silent drama. Its plot is a frantic blend of political thriller, mystery, and romantic melodrama, pausing to let the audience breathe only when Pabst wished to linger on a particularly impressive shot. The result is a whirlwind of 1920s filmmaking, demonstrating several of the directorial methods that would help Pabst transition successfully into sound a few years later – namely his fast-paced, action-led cuts and encouraging more naturalistic performances from many of the cast.

Jeanne Ney is portrayed by the literally mysterious Édith Jéhanne – whose birth date, death date, and life outside of the eight films she acted in are all disputed – in a quiet, powerful performance. The accomplished Swedish stage actor Uno Henning, playing her Bolshevik lover, the gentlest revolutionary one could imagine. Opposite the two, as foils in both character and portrayal, are Fritz Rasp and Brigitte Helm, delivering over-the-top performances as the villain and a blind ingénue. The incongruity of the acting serves to balance rather than disrupt the film, and only emphasizes how clearly Andreas and Jeanne are made for each other – that is, if they can navigate the convoluted Revolutionary intrigues that threaten their love.

G.W. Pabst often portrayed the plights and experiences of women, particularly during periods of tumult, and was no stranger to political turmoil himself. Managing to visit – and therefore be captured in – France at the outbreak of both WWI and WWII, he was familiar with the personal and interpersonal upheaval caused by war and revolution. Great events “rupture the fault lines of our lives”, and it is so in The Love of Jeanne Ney, as the fallout of the Russian Revolution follows Jeanne’s life, family, and love from Ukraine to Paris. An excellent example of the silent art form at the end of its era, **The Love of Jeanne Ney** knows in troubled times, even happy endings do not leave their participants unscathed.

Carolyn Swartz will be live scoring **The Love of Jeanne Ney** on the fabulous Steinway B at the Portland Conservatory of Music.