THE IDEA

One century after the premiere, Metropolis comes home to the film capital.

Why now

Metropolis reached America in March 1927, so its centenary falls in spring 2027. The evening takes place in April 2027 and opens the run-up to the 2028 Oscar season, when the Academy turns 100.

The table

Six courses in the manner of Berlin's grand salons of the twenties, cooked in the refined Franco-German style of the Black Forest.

The music

Opera from the composers who carried Berlin to Hollywood and Broadway, sung live by baritone Wolfgang Rauch. Piano all night, full orchestra at the climax.

The piano

A 1908 Ibach grand by Emil Beutinger, once shown on Darmstadt's Mathildenhöhe, at the centre of the room. Played live, auctioned for charity.

Date: April 2027, around the Long Beach Grand Prix weekend, framed as "100 years of Metropolis in America" and as the prelude to the Academy's 100th Oscars on 5 March 2028. Exact day to be agreed with the host.

THE HOUSE

Berlin 1927, staged for Hollywood.

Hosted in Los Angeles by Jackson Chong, curated by Taste2Mind. The evening joins three things Berlin did best in the twenties: grand-hotel cuisine, the concert stage and design. Original film-architecture drawings hang on the walls, the film runs on an LED wall, and two guests of honour from the families behind its images speak at the piano.

1927	World premiere, Berlin, 10 January
150–200	Guests at round tables of eight (estimate)
1908	The Ibach grand at the centre of the room
2028	The Oscars turn 100. This April 2027 evening opens the run-up

ORDER OF THE EVENING

01 ARRIVAL
Huppertz at the Ibach
The night opens as an exhibition: original film exhibits, a Machine-Man replica, Robert Herlth's set drawings. The pianist plays Huppertz's 1927 score.

02 THE MENU
Six courses from the grand salons
It opens with the Caviatur: every plate lands as the piano strikes its first chord.

03 KEYNOTES
Two voices from the families of Metropolis
Prof. Alexander Luckow and Bertina Schulze-Mittendorff, about ten minutes each, between courses.

04 LIVE PERFORMANCES
Courses and arias
Wolfgang Rauch sings from Korngold to Weill, with piano solos of the period in between.

05 CLIMAX
Das Rheingold, with full orchestra
"Abendlich strahlt der Sonne Auge", the film's strongest scene on the wall in sync, the gods' entry into Valhalla as the close.

06 AUCTION
The Ibach goes under the hammer
A live charity auction. The winning bidder keeps the piano or gives it to the Met.

07 ENCORE
My Way
A German baritone's bow to the host country. Then the bar opens, and there is time for photos with artists and guests of honour.

THE PROGRAMME

Huppertz · Metropolis (1927)
Original film score, piano solo, at arrival

Korngold · "Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen"
Die tote Stadt, 1920

Weill · "Die Moritat von Mackie Messer"
The Threepenny Opera, Berlin 1928

Wagner · Das Rheingold
Climax, with full orchestra

Encore · "My Way"
The song Frank Sinatra made America's own

TEAM

Jackson Chong	*Host & associate partner*
Wolfgang Rauch	*Voice & artistic direction*
Florian Balke	*Concept & production*
Alayla Zhang	*Communications*
Prof. Alexander Luckow	*Guest of honour · keynote*
Bertina Schulze-Mittendorff	*Guest of honour · keynote*

THE MENU · DRAFT

The grand restaurants of twenties Berlin served lobster, caviar and game. We follow them, in the refined Franco-German style of Germany's southwest. Guest chef to be confirmed.

AMUSE	**Caviatur**	*One octave per guest: white keys of potato blini, black keys of pumpernickel with caviar and crème fraîche*
STARTER	**Goose liver terrine**	*Toasted brioche, Pinot Noir jelly, chives. Made without force-feeding. Alternative: lobster medallion*
SOUP	**Consommé double**	*Clear and golden, with Madeira and a julienne of root vegetables*
FISH	**Dover sole**	*Beurre blanc, celeriac purée, cress and pearls of trout roe*
MAIN	**Saddle of venison**	*Juniper jus, hand-scraped Spätzle, creamed savoy, glazed chestnuts*
DESSERT	**Fürst Pückler**	*Chocolate, vanilla and strawberry, with a breath of Kirsch*

Wine: Riesling Sekt or Champagne with the Caviatur, then Baden Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir.

THE ROOM · SHORTLIST

The Hollywood Roosevelt, Blossom Ballroom
Opened in 1927. Hosted the first Academy Awards on 16 May 1929.

Cicada Club, Oviatt Building
An Art Deco interior of 1928 in gold leaf, mahogany and Lalique glass. Capacity to confirm.

Layout
Piano on a low, slowly rotating podium in the centre, round tables of eight, drawings along the walls, LED wall at one end.

THE GUESTS OF HONOUR

Prof. Alexander Luckow
Grandson of film architect Robert Herlth. Keynote: Building the dream, film architecture from Babelsberg to Hollywood.

Bertina Schulze-Mittendorff
Daughter of Walter Schulze-Mittendorff, sculptor of the Machine-Man. Keynote: Making Maria.

THE CHARITY AUCTION · ONE PIANO, TWO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Metropolis is the first film in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register (2001); the Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt, where this piano was shown in 1908, is UNESCO World Heritage (2021). The Metropolitan Museum of Art has signalled strong interest in the instrument but will not acquire it itself. The decision lies with the winning bidder.

Give it to the Met
Hand the piano to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and be named as its donor.

Keep it
Own a unique 1908 grand by Emil Beutinger and Rud. Ibach Sohn, appraised at approx. €190,000 in 2017.

Either way
The proceeds go to charity, and the story of the night travels with the instrument.

FOR PARTNERS · TERMS OPEN, SHAPED WITH EACH PARTNER

Presenting	*Named with the evening, a table for guests, presence on the LED wall and in all invitations.*
Auction bidder	*Bids for the 1908 Ibach; keeps it or gives it to the Met as its named donor.*
Wine & culinary	*Champagne, wine or ingredients for the menu, served and named at the table.*
Cultural	*Under discussion: Murnau Foundation, Goethe-Institut Los Angeles, Thomas Mann House, Art Deco Society of Los Angeles.*

FLORIAN@TASTE2MIND.COM
VOCALMOMENTS.COM