

Pandora's Box is getting a new Limited Edition Blu-ray release

[Phil](#)

Eureka Entertainment is releasing **G. W. Pabst's** sordid melodrama **Pandora's Box**, one of silent cinema's great masterworks, starring Louise Brooks. Presented on Blu-ray for the first time in the UK, from a new restoration as part of The Masters of Cinema Series. Available from 30 October 2023, the Limited-edition set (3000 copies only) will feature a Hardbound Slipcase & 60-page Collectors Book.

In a role intended at one point for Marlene Dietrich (*The Blue Angel*), 22-year-old **Louise Brooks** (*Diary of a Lost Girl*), with her fragile beauty and iconic dark bob hairstyle, gives a performance, decades ahead of its time, that immortalised her as an icon. Largely condemned and censored upon its initial release for its daring treatment of sexuality and female desire, Brooks' understated yet erotically charged performance endures as among the most modern of the silent era.

*Adapted from a pair of plays by Frank Wedekind, Pandora's Box tells the story of prostitute Lulu, a free spirit whose open sexuality breeds chaos in its wake. When Lulu's latest lover, the newspaper editor Dr Ludwig Schon (**Fritz Kortner**, *The Hands of Orlac*), announces plans to leave her to marry a more respectable woman, Lulu is devastated. Cast in a musical revue written by Schon's son, Alwa (**Francis Lederer**, *The Return of Dracula*), Lulu seduces Schon once more – only to have their tryst exposed, and Schon's plans for a more socially acceptable marriage shattered. Left with no choice but to marry Lulu, Schon meets with tragedy on their wedding night. Lulu stands trial for the incident, facing years of imprisonment. With the aid of her former pimp (**Carl Goetz**, *Tom Sawyer*), an infatuated lesbian countess (**Alice Roberts**, *The Merry**

Widower) and Alwa, she flees toward a fate of increasing squalor and peril, finally crossing paths one Christmas Eve with Jack the Ripper.

Reviled and bowdlerised at its debut, ***Pandora's Box*** has since been recognised as one of the masterpieces of early German cinema. A sordid melodrama made with great style, it affirms **G. W. Pabst** as a daring and important director and Louise Brooks as one of cinema's most exquisite and distinctive performers. The **Masters of Cinema** series is proud to present Pabst's masterpiece in a new restoration on [Blu-ray for the first time](#) in the UK.

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