

Shell Shock Cinema: Weimar Culture and the Wounds of War

Anton Kaes

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

Princeton and Oxford

Contents

Illustrations vii

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

1 The War at Home 7

The Wounded Soldier 8

The Spirit of 1914 16

Film and Nation 20

The Battle of Images 25

A Medium for Deception 29

The New Empire 34

Mental Breakdowns 37

2 Tales from the Asylum 45

War Neurotics 46

Recovering the Past 49

Phantoms and Freaks 55

From Dr. Charcot to Dr. Caligari 63

Madness as Resistance 71

The Hitler Connection 75

Shattered Space 81

3	The Return of the Undead	87
	The Lost Generation	88
	Mass Death	93
	Dracula Revisited	98
	A Community under Siege	108
	Hysteria on the Home Front	113
	The Allure of the Occult	120
	The Work of Mourning	127
4	Myth, Murder, and Revenge	131
	The National Project	132
	Posing for Germany	135
	The Will to Form	141
	The Fallen Hero	145
	Excursus: Lang in World War I	151
	The Sacred Battle	153
	The End of Violence	157
5	The Industrial Battlefield	167
	Rise of the Machines	168
	Moloch War	175
	Lang's America	181
	The Hunger for Religion	186
	The Workers' Revolt	193
	Destruction and Regeneration	200
	Aftershocks	205
	Conclusion	211
	Notes	217
	Weimar Cinema on DVD	251
	Bibliography	267
	Shell Shock and Trauma Theory	267
	World War I and the Weimar Republic	272
	Weimar Film History	278
	Films Discussed	283
	Index	299