

Marlene Dietrich (1901-1992) is the world's most famous German singer and actress of the twentieth century. Following her early theatrical appearances, she landed a hit in Mischa Spoliansky's intimate revue of 1928, "Es liegt in der Luft" ("It's in the Air"). The stories of her "discovery" for the role of "Lola Lola" in the first German sound film, "Der Blaue Engel" ("The Blue Angel") have grown into legends. After that film's premiere in 1930, her Hollywood film career began, and she created the figure of the "vamp with character and an enigmatic, ineffable aura" (Werner Sudendorf). In World War II, she entertained Allied troops on the front lines, and in the mid-fifties, she launched a second career as an internationally acclaimed chanson star:

"She plays the sweet young girl and the ferocious hussy... You can't forget her, thanks to those unique cheekbones beneath that heavenly realm of shadows ... Her immortal bottom, her stride, the eloquence of her legs, that disdain in a tiny turn of her lips. A rare creature full of carefree, playful indolence — one is stunned by beauty. (Alfred Kerr)

