

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOURTH ANNUAL PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA FILMS DIRECT FROM PARIS TO BE SHOWN

The Museum of Modern Art announces the 4th annual New York presentation of PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA. Programmed from March 2nd through March 14th, this special series offers New York audiences the opportunity to see recent French productions, many of which are currently being shown in Paris first-run theatres. "Cousin, Cousine" was first shown in the United States as part of the PERSPECTIVES program; so too were "Daguerreotypes" by Agnes Varda and Jean-Luc Godard's "Numero Deux." Nine feature films and two programs of shorts will have their American previews during the current PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA, and five directors will be present to discuss their films.

Bertrand Tavernier will introduce "Spoiled Children" on Thursday, March 2nd at 8:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, March 4th at 2:30 p.m.; Charles Belmont will discuss "For Clemence" on Friday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.; Jean-Daniel Simon will comment on "Angela Davis: The Web" on Saturday, March 4th at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, March 5th at 2:30 p.m.; Benoit Jacquot will speak on "Closet Children" on Thursday, March 9th at 8:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, March 11th at 2:30 p.m.; and Coline Serreau will talk about "Why Not!" on Friday, March 10th at 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 11th at 5:00 p.m.

On the opening night, March 2nd at 8:30 p.m., Bertrand Tavernier's fourth and latest film, "Spoiled Children," will be presented. The story revolves around the relationship between a middle-aged director/screenwriter (played by Michel Piccoli) and a younger woman (played by Christine Pascal), but it also deals with political issues which stem from daily urban life.

The issue of inability to cope with excessive leisure time is treated in

Charles Belmont's film "For Clemence," which explores the experience of a 40-year-old man who suddenly, after years of leading a life regimented and restricted by work hours and schedules, finds himself unemployed.

Coline Serreau's award-winning "Why. Not!"--winner of the 1977 Prix Georges Sadoul--deals with the interactions resulting from the communal living arrangement of two men and one woman. Serreau has stated that she has "no philosophy, no theory, no axe to grind. I avoid setting up my characters as examples, I simply describe an experience."

In Benoit Jacquot's "Closet Children," Brigitte Fossey and Lou Castel play a sister and a brother who meet in Paris after a separation of 20 years. They soon rediscover the anxious sensations which have always haunted their relationship. Jacquot has said that "a new, novel-like cinema" is needed today.

"At Night All the Cats Are Gray" is Gerard Zingg's first feature. Gerard Depardieu stars as the central character of the strange, picaresque tale spun within the film by a man who wants to entertain his young niece.

In Jean-Daniel Simon's feature-length documentary, "Angela Davis: The Web," the director focuses on the struggle against racism and oppression. Made in collaboration with Angela Davis, much of the film was shot in the United States during the 1976 election campaign, and it contains an exclusive interview with Fleeta Domingo, one of the Soledad Brothers.

Laurent Heynemann's first film, "La Question," deals with the brutalities suffered by a man while under arrest during the Algerian war. Director Heynemann has said it "is not a film about torture" but rather it is "the story of a man who...achieves a heroism based not on manliness or some virility myth but on straight will power."

Philippe Galland's first feature film, "The Exercise of Power," is a political comedy based on real scandals and events.

The feature film "Chinese Red" by Jacques Richard completes this program. All of the films were selected by the Societe des Realisateurs de Films (the

Association of French Film Directors), with the objective of focusing attention on films independently made and diverse in scope. The program is presented by the French Film Office / Unifrance Film USA with the cooperation of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

There will also be two programs of shorts, including "Marechal Ferrant," which won this year's Cesar as "Best Documentary Short," directed by Georges Rouquier, who is best known here for his classic feature "Farrebique;" and "Reve" by Peter Foldes, which received this year's Cesar as "Best Animated Short."

All of the feature films have English subtitles. The complete schedule and timings are as follows:

March 2 & 9: LA QUESTION. Laurent Heynemann.
112 min. (2nd at 2:30/9th at 6:00)

March 2 & 10: THE EXERCISE OF POWER. Philippe Galland. 92 min. (2nd at 6:00/10th at 2:30)

March 2 & 4: SPOILED CHILDREN. Bertrand Tavernier. 113 min. (2nd at 8:30/4th at 2:30)
Tavernier to introduce both programs.

March 3 & 12: AT NIGHT ALL THE CATS ARE GRAY. Gérard Zingg. 104 min. (3rd at 2:30/12th at 2:30)

March 3 & 13: FOR CLEMENCE. Charles Belmont. 100 min. (3rd at 6:00/13th at 2:30)
Belmont to introduce March 3rd program.

March 4 & 5: ANGELA DAVIS, THE WEB. Jean-Daniel Simon. 95 min. (4th at 5:00/5th at 2:30)
Simon to introduce both programs.

March 6 & 7: CHINESE RED. Jacques Richard. 100 min. (6th at 2:30/7th at 2:30)

March 9 & 11: CLOSET CHILDREN. Benoît Jacquot. 105 min. (9th at 8:30/11th at 2:30)
Jacquot to introduce both programs.

March 10 & 11: WHY NOT! Coline Serreau. 93 min. (10th at 6:00/11th at 5:00)
Serreau to introduce both programs.

March 9, 13, 14: Short Films, Programs I and II.
Program I, 50 min. Program II, 52 min.
(9th at 2:30, Programs I and II; 13th at Noon, Program I; 14th at Noon, Program II)