

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
February 1986

RECENT FRENCH FILMS BEGIN AT MoMA FEBRUARY 21 WITH CHABROL'S POULET AU VINAIGRE

PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA, now in its eleventh New York season, opens on Friday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. with Claude Chabrol's murder mystery and black comedy Poulet au Vinaigre, starring Jean Poiret, Stephane Audran, and Michel Bouquet. On the same date at 2:30 p.m., a first feature, Bahloul Bahloul's Thé à la Menthe, will be screened. This film, about a young Algerian braggart in Paris suddenly faced with a loving mother, exemplifies the expanded focus of this series. PERSPECTIVES will run through Tuesday, March 18.

PERSPECTIVES was originally established by La Societé des Réalisateurs des Films in 1973 as a special section of the Cannes Film Festival to present provocative works by new film-makers. Since that time, the exhibition has been presented annually in New York by the French Film Office.

This year's program represents both established and emerging directors. Those whose films have been presented in New York include Claude Chabrol and Jean-Charles Tacchella, whose film Escalier C, adapted from a novel set in New York by Elvire Murail, examines the emotional entanglements of a young art critic. Tacchella's Cousin, Cousine was introduced to the American public in PERSPECTIVES several years ago. Claude Zidi, whose film My New Partner opened in New York last year, directed the comedy Les Rois du Gag, starring Michel Serrault and café-théâtre troupers Gérard Jugnot and Thierry Lhermitte. Jacques Doillon, whose La Drole had a New York release, directed La Vie de Famille, a drama about the attempts of an estranged father (Sami Frey) and daughter to reestablish contact on the road. Alexandre Arcady, whose Coup de Sirocco also opened in New York, directed Le Grand Carnaval, a World War II epic in which colonial Frenchmen in North Africa manipulate the American military. Noted author and filmmaker Marguerite Duras directed Les Enfants, a charming adaptation of her own story about a young boy who refuses to go to school and presents a formidable argument in his defense to his parents.

Two filmmakers whose first works, major box-office successes in France, appear in this series are Gérard Jugnot and Michel Blanc. Jugnot directed a comedy, Pinot Simple Flic, about a bumbling's cop's attempt to save a woman from crime and the government. Blanc co-stars with Gérard Lanvin in his feature Marche à l'Ombre, which depicts two unemployed buddies who unknowingly transport contraband. These successes mark the commercial breakthrough of films of the "café-théâtre" movement that revolutionized French comedy. Begun in 1974 in a small theater in Montparnasse by a group of young actors, including Jugnot, the comic Colouche, and the actor Thierry Lhermitte, the café-théâtre has produced plays and films

satirizing the lives of ordinary French people.

Films by other new filmmakers include actress Virginie Thévenet's La Nuit Porte Jarretelles, a nocturnal journey through Paris's sexual underworld; Jean-Pierre Dougnac's Un Amour Interdit, based on the Heinrich von Kleist novella Der Findling and set in eighteenth century Italy, starring Brigitte Fossey and Fernando Rey; a thriller by Pierre Jolivet, a co-writer of Luc Besson's Subway, entitled Strictelement Personnel; Ludovic Segarra's Ganga Maya, a lyrical documentary about a young man's search for the headwaters of the Ganges; Michel Gérard's Blessure, which depicts the vitality of the world of motorcycles and rock music; and Joy Fleury's Tristesse et Beauté, based on the last novel of 1968 Nobel Prize winner Yasunari Kawabata.

Fine performances by popular stars distinguish several other films in PERSPECTIVES. Jean Marboeuf's Vaudeville is a melancholy comedy about the struggle between one's longing for domesticity and freedom, starring Marie-Christine Barrault and Guy Marchand. Vera Belmont's cheerful Rouge Baiser, starring Charlotte Valandrey, Lambert Wilson, Marthe Keller, Laurent Terzieff, and Günter Lamprecht, evokes Paris in the fifties and the coming-of-age of a teen-aged daughter of Jewish Stalinist immigrants. Philippe Noiret, Nicole Garcia, and Jean-Claude Brialy star in Serge Leroy's Le Quatrieme Pouvoir, a commercial success based on actual attempts by the French government to quiet a television anchorwoman. Didier Haudepin's Elsa, Elsa, starring François Cluzet, is a rueful film-within-a-film about a screenwriter who remembers his childhood and inserts his personal problems into his script. Cluzet has become well-known in France for his roles in Jean Becker's One Deadly Summer, Diane Kurys's Entre Nous, Chabrol's The Horse of Pride, and Bertrand Tavernier's upcoming Around Midnight.

PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA has been organized for the Museum by curators Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina of the Department of Film, in association with the French Film Office/Unifrance Film USA, and Jacques Poitrenaud of Perspectives sur le Cinéma Français, and in cooperation with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

No. 15

For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA February 21 - March 18, 1986

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (All films with English subtitles)

- Friday, February 21 at 2:30 p.m.: Le Thé à la Menthe (Mint Tea). 1984. Bahloul Bahloul. With Abdel Kechiche, Chaffia Boudra. 95 min.
- Friday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m.: Poulet au Vinaigre. 1985. Claude Chabrol. With Jean Poiret, Stephane Audran, Michel Bouquet, Pauline Lafont, Lucas Belvaux. 110 min.
- Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m.: Le Quatrième Pouvoir (The Fourth Estate). 1985. Serge Leroy. With Philippe Noiret, Nicole Garcia, Jean-Claude Brialy. 99 min.
- Saturday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.: La Vie de Famille (Family Life). 1985. Jacques Doillon. With Sami Frey, Juliet Berto. 98 min.
- Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m.: Strictelement Personnel (Strictly Personal). 1985. Written and directed by Pierre Jolivet. With Pierre Arditi, Jacques Penot. 90 min.
- Sunday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m.: Vaudeville. 1985. Produced, written and directed by Jean Marboeuf. With Marie-Christine Barrault, Guy Marchand, Roland Giraud. 89 min.
- Tuesday, February 25 at 2:30 p.m.: La Vie de Famille (Family Life). See Saturday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m.: Strictelement Personnel (Strictly Personal). See February 23 at 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 27 at 2:30 p.m.: Un Amour Interdit (Forbidden Love). 1983. Jean-Pierre Dognac. From the novella by Heinrich von Kleist. With Brigitte Fossey, Fernando Rey. 95 min.
- Thursday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m.: Escalier C (Staircase C). 1985. Jean-Charles Tacchella. From the novel by Elvire Murail. With Robin Renucci, Jean-Pierre Bacri. 102 min.
- Friday, February 28 at 2:30 p.m.: Elsa, Elsa. 1985. Didier Haudepin. With François Cluzet, Christine Pascal. 77 min.
- Friday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m.: Un Amour Interdit (Forbidden Love). See Thursday, February 27 at 2:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m.: Le Grand Carnaval. 1983. Alexandre Arcady. With Philippe Noiret, Macha Meril, Richard Berry. 136 min.
- Saturday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m.: Les Rois du Gag (Gag Men). 1985. Claude Zidi. With Michel Serrault, Gérard Jugnot, Thierry Lhermitte, Macha Meril. 98 min.
- Sunday, March 2 at 2:00 p.m.: Le Thé à la Menthe (Mint Tea). See Friday, February 21 at 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 2 at 5:00 p.m.: Ganga Maya. 1984. Ludovic Segarra. Documentary. 97 min.
- Monday, March 3 at 2:30 p.m.: Le Grand Carnaval. See Saturday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 3 at 6:00 p.m.: Elsa, Elsa. See Friday, February 28 at 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 4 at 2:30 p.m.: Pinot Simple Flic (Robert Pinot, Profession: Cop). 1984. Written and directed by Gérard Jugnot. With Pierre Mondy, Jean-Claude Brialy. 92 min.
- Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m.: Tristesse et Beauté (Sadness and Beauty). 1985. Joy Fleury. With Andrzej Zulawski, Charlotte Rampling. 97 min.
- Thursday, March 6 at 2:30 p.m.: Vaudeville. See Sunday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m.: La Nuit Porte Jarretelles (The Night Wears Garters). 1985. Virginie Thévenet. With Jezabel Carpi, Ariel Genet. 85 min.
- Thursday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m.: Blessure. 1985. Michel Gérard. With Florent Pagny, Patricia Millardet. 85 min.
- Friday, March 7 at 3:00 p.m.: La Nuit Porte Jarretelles (The Night Wears Garters). See Thursday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m.

- Friday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m.: Le Quatrième Pouvoir (The Fourth Estate). See Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.: Escalier C (Staircase C). See Thursday, February 27 at 6:00 p.
- Saturday, March 8 at 5:00 p.m.: Pinot Simple Flic (Robert Pinot, Profession: Cop). See Tuesday, March 4 at 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 p.m.: Les Rois du Gag (Gag Men). See Saturday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 9 at 5:00 p.m.: Poulet au Vinaigre. See Friday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m.: Marche à l'Ombre (Cool It). 1984. Michel Blanc. With Gérard Lanvin, Michel Blanc. 90 min.
- Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.: Rouge Baiser (Red Kiss). 1985. Produced, written and directed by Vera Belmont. With Charlotte Valandrey, Lambert Wilson, Marthe Keller, Laurent Terzieff, Günter Lamprecht. 111 min.
- Friday, March 14 at 3:00 p.m.: Rouge Baiser (Red Kiss). See Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.: Marche à l'Ombre (Cool It). See Tuesday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 18 at 2:30 and 6:00 p.m.: Les Enfants (The Children). 1985. Written and directed by Marguerite Duras. With Pierre Arditi, Martine Chevalier, André Dussollier. (English subtitles?) 90 min.