

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
March 1988

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 1988:  
"Perspectives on French Cinema"  
Includes Premieres of New Films and a Tribute to Louis Malle

Opening at The Museum of Modern Art on April 8, 1988, FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 1988: "Perspectives on French Cinema" includes the New York premières of new features and a retrospective of the French work of Louis Malle. The festival, which continues in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters 1 and 2 through April 24, was created in response to the public's enthusiastic reaction to the showing of new French films over the years.

The survey of recent French films by established and new directors includes Josiane Balasko's Les Keufs (1987), a detective comedy with Ms. Balasko and Isaach de Bankolé, who starred in the 1986 Black Mic Mac; Patrice Leconte's Tandem (1987), a comic portrait of a relationship between two men played by Jean Rochefort and Gérard Jugnot; and André Techiné's Les Innocents (1987). By the director of Scene of the Crime (1986) and Rendez-vous (1986), Les Innocents is a stylish melodrama featuring Sandrine Bonnaire, star of Agnès Varda's Vagabond (1986), and Jean-Claude Brialy.

This first New York retrospective of Louis Malle's French films includes both fiction features and documentaries. The director is known for his original screenplays and astringent humanism, as well as for his extraordinary talent for eliciting strong performances. Among the well-known works in the series are Lacombe, Lucien (1973), a character study set against the background of the Nazi occupation; Le Souffle au Coeur/Murmur of the Heart (1971), a discreetly treated story of adolescence; and Zazie dans le Métro (1960). The program features such rarely seen works as the original French version of Vie

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Privée (1962), starring Brigitte Bardot and Marcello Mastroianni; Ascenseur pour l'Echafaud/Elevator to the Gallows (1958), a psychological thriller with Jeanne Moreau; and Le Feu Follet/The Fire Within (1963), the story of the last days in the life of an alcoholic.

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 1988: "Perspectives on French Cinema" is sponsored in part by Le Parker Meridien Hotel, New York; Air France; CIC-UEI, New York; Grand Marnier Foundation; Jean Laporte, Paris Parfums; Michelin Tire Corporation; Louis Vuitton; Cristofle; and Givenchy Parfums.

The exhibition has been organized by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina, curators in the Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art; in association with Unifrance Film International, Gilbert de Goldschmidt, president, and Alain Boismery, délégué général; and the French Film Office/Unifrance U.S.A., Catherine Verret, director. The series is presented with the cooperation of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

Special evening screenings have been arranged to make the new features more accessible to the public, and a complete schedule will be announced in the near future. Admission will be charged for this part of the series; each film will be shown at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. (weekends 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.) on different days. Beginning March 25, advance tickets will be available at the information desk in the Museum's lobby (no phone or mail orders) for \$5.00 general, \$3.50 members, and \$2.50 students. LOUIS MALLE: FRENCH FILMS is a regularly scheduled program of the Department of Film; tickets, included in the price of Museum admission, will be available the day of the film at the information desk. Call 212/708-9490 for daily film listings.

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For further film press information, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750, or Jeffrey Wise, consultant, 212/460-8373.