

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
December 1986

274

SERIES OF FRENCH FILMS FROM FIFTIES AND SIXTIES OPENS AT MoMA JANUARY 9

Charting and broadening the conventional view of one of the most innovative periods in the history of the cinema, the exhibition FRENCH FILMS 1955-1965 opens at The Museum of Modern Art on Friday, January 9, 1987. Jean-Pierre Melville's Bob le Flambeur (1955) will be screened at 3:00 p.m., followed by Jacques Demy's La Baie des Anges/ Bay of Angels (1963) at 6:30 p.m.

Directors represented in the series include those well-known in the United States, such as Jean-Luc Godard, François Truffaut, and Alain Resnais, as well as their lesser-known contemporaries, such as Jacques Rozier and Marcel Hanoun. Henri-Georges Clouzot, René Clément, Robert Bresson, and Melville are more seasoned filmmakers with films in this program. A schedule is attached.

The series covers a decade that witnessed a clash between the highly-polished and literary Cinema of Quality and the convulsive New Wave. The elegant style and conventional narrative patterns of the Cinema of Quality were eschewed in favor of fragmented editing, disjunctive sound and image, hand-held camera, authentic locations, and complicated narrative structure by the new school. A new generation of filmmakers was searching for alternative forms and spontaneous techniques.

Works by well-known directors not widely screened in this country include Godard's Vivre sa Vie/ My Life to Live (1962), Truffaut's Peau Douce/ Soft Skin (1964), and Resnais's Muriel, ou le Temps d'un Retour/ Muriel (1963). Films that highlight the diversity of the period include Melville's Bob le Flambeur, an homage to the gangster and film noir genres; Agnès Varda's Cleo de 5 à 7/

- more -

Cleo from 5 to 7 (1962), a proto-feminist study of narcissism; and Hanoun's Un Simple Histoire/ A Simple Story (1958), a seemingly spare chronicle of an average woman's move into the city that disguises a sophisticated narrative structure.

The exhibition displays the talents of a new generation of actors that emerged in the fifties and sixties. Probably the most apparent in these films is Jeanne Moreau, who stars in La Baie des Anges/ Bay of Angels, Louis Malle's Le Feu Follet/ The Fire Within (1963), and Roger Vadim's Les Liaisons Dangereuses (1959). Brigitte Bardot in Clouzot's La Verité (1960), Anna Karina in Godard's Vivre sa Vie/ My Life to Live, and Delphine Seyrig in Muriel are other new stars in this series.

FRENCH FILMS 1955-1965 continues in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 through February 1 and is the second of a three-part series of French films. The first segment, HOMAGE TO THE CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE, presented restored silent films. The annual PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA, which will be held from February 20 through March 10, concludes the tripartite exhibition and previews many of the latest films and newest talents from France. FRENCH FILMS 1955-1965 has been organized by Stephen Harvey, assistant curator, and Adrienne Mancina, curator, Department of Film, with the collaboration of Catherine Verret and Elizabeth Draper of the French Film Office, New York/ Unifrance Film, and the French Cultural Services.

No. 106

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

FRENCH FILMS 1955-1965

January 9-February 1, 1987

The Museum of Modern Art, New York - The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

Schedule

Friday, January 9

3:00 p.m.: Bob le Flambeur. 1955. Jean-Pierre Melville. With Roger Duchesne, Isabelle Corey. 100 min.

6:30 p.m.: La Baie des Anges/ Bay of Angels. 1963. Jacques Demy. With Jeanne Moreau, Claude Mann, Paul Guers. 85 min.

Saturday, January 10

2:30 p.m.: Pickpocket. 1959. Robert Bresson. With Martin La Salle, Marika Greene. 75 min.

5:30 p.m.: Bob le Flambeur. See Friday, January 9, 3:00.

Sunday, January 11

2:30 p.m.: La Baie des Anges/ Bay of Angels. See Friday, January 9, 6:30.

5:30 p.m.: To be announced

Tuesday, January 13

6:30 p.m.: Le Feu Follet/ The Fire Within. 1963. Louis Malle. With Maurice Ronet, Lina Skeria, Jeanne Moreau. 110 min.

Friday, January 16

3:00 p.m.: To be announced

6:30 p.m.: La Verité/ The Truth. 1960. Henri-Georges Clouzot. With Brigitte Bardot, Charles Vanel. 127 min.

Saturday, January 17

2:30 p.m.: Adieu Philippine. 1960. Jacques Rozier. With Yveline Cery, Stefania Sabatini. 111 min.

5:30 p.m.: Cleo de 5 à 7/ Cleo from 5 to 7. 1962. Agnès Varda. With Corinne Marchand, Antoine Bourseiller. 90 min.

Sunday, January 18

2:30 p.m.: La Verité/ The Truth. See Friday, January 16, 6:30.

5:30 p.m.: To be announced

Tuesday, January 20

6:30 p.m.: To be announced

Friday, January 23

3:00 p.m.: Muriel, ou le Temps d'un Retour/ Muriel. 1963. Alain Resnais. With Delphine Seyrig, Jean-Pierre Kérien, Nita Klein. 116 min.

6:30 p.m.: La Peau Douce/ Soft Skin. 1964. François Truffaut. With Jean Desailly, Nelly Benedetti, Françoise Dorleac. 118 min.

Saturday, January 24

2:30 p.m.: Un Simple Histoire/ A Simple Story. 1958. Marcel Hanoun. With Micheline Bezançon. 60 min.

5:30 p.m.: Muriel, ou le Temps d'un Retour/ Muriel. See Friday, January 23, 3:00.

Sunday, January 25

2:30 p.m.: La Peau Douce/ Soft Skin. See Friday, January 23, 6:30.

5:30 p.m.: Vivre sa Vie/ My Life to Live. 1962. Jean-Luc Godard. With Anna Karina, Sady Rebbot, André S. Labarthe. 85 min.

Monday, January 26

6:30 p.m.: Plein Soleil/ Purple Noon. 1960. René Clément. With Alain Delon, Marie Laforet, Maurice Ronet. 115 min.

Tuesday, January 27

6:30 p.m.: To be announced

Friday, January 30

3:00 p.m.: Les Liaisons Dangereuses. 1959. Roger Vadim. With Gérard Philipe, Jeanne Moreau, Annette Vadim. 106 min.

6:30 p.m.: To be announced

Saturday, January 31

2:30 p.m.: Les Liaisons Dangereuses. See Friday, January 30, 3:00.

5:30 p.m.: Plein Soleil/ Purple Noon. See Monday, January 26, 6:30.

Sunday, February 1

2:30 p.m.: To be announced

5:30 p.m.: To be announced