

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1994

GAUMONT PRESENTS: A CENTURY OF FRENCH CINEMA

January 28 - April 14, 1994

A retrospective tracing the history of French cinema through films produced by Gaumont, the world's oldest movie studio, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on January 28, 1994. **GAUMONT PRESENTS: A CENTURY OF FRENCH CINEMA**, on view through April 14, includes fifty programs of films made from 1900 to the present. All of the films are recently restored, and new 35mm prints were struck especially for the exhibition. Virtually all of the sound films feature new English subtitles as well. A selection of Gaumont newsreels (*actualités*) accompany the films made prior to 1942.

The exhibition opens with the American premiere of Bertrand Blier's *Un deux trois soleil* (1993), starring Marcello Mastroianni and Anouk Grinberg, on Friday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m.

A major discovery of the series is the work of Alice Guy-Blaché, the film industry's first woman producer and director. She began making films as early as 1896, and in 1906 experimented with sound, using popular singers of the day. Her film *Sur la Barricade* (1906), about the Paris Commune, is featured in the series. Other important directors whose works are included in the exhibition are among Gaumont's earliest filmmakers: the pioneer animator and master of trick photography Emile Cohl; the surreal comic director Jean Durand; the inventive Louis Feuillade, who went on to make such classic serials as *Les Vampires* (1915) and *Judex* (1917), both of which are shown in their entirety; and Léonce Perret, an outstanding early realistic narrative filmmaker.

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Other highlights of **GAUMONT PRESENTS: A CENTURY OF FRENCH CINEMA** include Gaston Ravel's *Figaro* (1928), Jean Grémillon's *Dainah the Half-Caste* (1931), Jean Vigo's *L'Atalante* (1934), Sacha Guitry's *La Poison* (1951), Robert Bresson's *A Man Escaped* (1956), Eric Rohmer's *La Marquise d'O* (1975), Joseph Losey's *Don Giovanni* (1979), and Ettore Scola's *La Nuit de Varennes* (1982). A new generation of filmmakers is represented by works from the hyper-stylized *cinéma du look*, such as Jean-Jacques Beineix's *Betty Blue* (1986, uncut version), and Luc Besson's *La Femme Nikita* (1990).

Léon Gaumont, who founded his company in 1895 to manufacture and sell photographic materials, began making motion pictures for public exhibition in 1896. Within ten years, Gaumont had the largest studio in existence, producing, distributing, and exhibiting films. In 1910 the company built the world's largest movie theater -- with 5,000 seats -- on the site of a racetrack on the Place de Clichy in Paris. Since then, Gaumont has continued acquiring and building theaters; today it owns thirty-six theaters, with 115 screens, including the Gaumont Grand Ecran Italie, with a screen that -- at seventy-nine feet wide -- is the largest in France.

Gaumont also continues to produce and distribute films and is involved in international coproductions and numerous joint ventures. In 1991, Gaumont Télévision was formed to produce television series, and Gaumont's audiovisual and foreign sales department is devoted to selling hundreds of video and television titles. The Cinémathèque Gaumont and the Gaumont Museum are continuously enhancing their libraries. All the newsreels, dating back to 1897, have been restored on acetate film stock; Gaumont is in process of doing the same with all of its feature films.

After its New York opening, **GAUMONT PRESENTS: A CENTURY OF FRENCH CINEMA** travels to the Maison Française (February 1 - March 30, 1994); the National Gallery of Art (February 5 - March 27, 1994) and the Library of Congress

(February 7 - March 4, 1994), Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (March 24 - May 29, 1994); the George Eastman House, Rochester (May 4 - July 30, 1994); the Art Institute of Chicago (May 6 - June 25, 1994); Cleveland Cinematheque at the Cleveland Institute of Art (July 1 - August 28, 1994) and the Cleveland Museum of Art (July 3 - August 28, 1994); the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (July 8 - 29, 1994); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (September 2 - October 30, 1994); the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, Madison (September 9 - October 15, 1994); the Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley (September 9 - November 27, 1994); the UCLA Film and Television Archive, Los Angeles (September 30 - December 3, 1994); Cinematheque Ontario, Toronto (October 28 - December 7, 1994); and Cinémathèque Québécoise, Montreal (December 1994 - January 1995).

GAUMONT PRESENTS: A CENTURY OF FRENCH CINEMA was organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film and Video, The Museum of Modern Art, in collaboration with Edith Kramer, director, Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley; Martine Offroy, director, Cinémathèque Gaumont, Paris; and Pierre Philippe, artistic consultant, Cinémathèque Gaumont.

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PUBLICATION

Gaumont: A Century of French Cinema by François Garçon. Translation by Bruce Alderman and Jonathan Dickinson. 128 pages. App. 40 - 50 black-and-white illustrations. App. 70 - 80 color illustrations. Published and distributed in the United States by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York. Paperbound, \$13.95. Available in The MoMA Book Store.

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For further information or film stills regarding the exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

For further information regarding Gaumont's centennial retrospective, contact Mark Urman or Mary Flanagan, Dennis Davidson Associates, Inc., 212/246-0500.

The Museum of Modern Art

GAUMONT PRESENTS: A CENTURY OF FRENCH CINEMA
January 28 - April 14, 1994

Exhibition Schedule

All films in French with English subtitles or intertitles, unless otherwise noted.

Friday, January 28

- 2:30 p.m. **Some Singing, Some Color, Some Early Experiments. 1906 - 1915.****
Includes *Phonoscènes* (Alice Guy-Blaché), Trichromie Color Process films, *Des Pieds et Des Mains* (Gaston Ravel), and newsreels.
Total running time app. 80 min.
- 6:00 p.m. **The Pioneers: Alice Guy-Blaché and Others, 1900 - 1908.***
Includes *Sur la Barricade* (Alice Guy-Blaché), *Le Violon* (unknown), *La Vie du Christ* (Alice Guy-Blaché), *Le bon Invalide et les enfants* (Etienne Arnaud), *Le Tic* (Roméo Bosetti), *Une Dame vraiment bien* (Roméo Bosetti), *Drame chez les Fantoches* (Emile Cohl and Etienne Arnaud), *L'Homme aimanté* (Roméo Bosetti), *L'Agent à le bras long* (Roméo Bosetti), *Madame à ses envies* (Alice Guy-Blaché), and newsreels.
Total running time app. 70 min.
- 7:30 p.m. *Un deux trois soleil.* 1993. Bertrand Blier. With Anouk Grinberg and Marcello Mastroianni. 105 min.
Program introduced by Bertrand Blier.

Saturday, January 29

- 1:00 p.m. **Emile Cohl: The Animated Screen, 1909 - 1910.***
Animated and live-action short films. Includes *Les Locataires d'à côté*, *Le Binétoscope*, *Le Songe d'un garçon de café*, *Le Bous Bous Mee*, *Les Couronnes*, *Le Miroir magique*, *Le Peintre néo-impressioniste*, *Le douze Travaux d'Hercule*, and newsreels.
- Comedy of the Absurd, 1912 - 1914.***
Films by Jean Durand. Includes *Onésime et le coeur du tzigane*, *Calino s'endurcit la figure*, *Mister Smith fait l'ouverture*, *Le Railway de la mort*, and newsreels.
Total running time app. 94 min.
- 3:00 p.m. **Early Realism, 1911 - 1913.***
Includes *Jeux d'enfants* (Henri Fescourt), *Les Chalands* (Georges André Lacroix), *Le Pavé de Paris* (unknown), *Sur les rails* (Léonce Perret), *Les deux Chemineaux* (Léonce Perret), and newsreels.
Total running time app. 60 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Child of Paris (L'Enfant de Paris).* 1913. Léonce Perret. With Maurice Lagrenée. French intertitles. Preceded by newsreels of 1913. Total running time app. 105 min.

Sunday, January 30

- 1:00 p.m. **The Pioneers: Alice Guy-Blaché and Others, 1900 - 1908.***
See Friday, January 28, at 6:00.

- 3:00 p.m. **Léonce Perret: Rediscovering a Major Filmmaker.***
Films directed by Perret, 1912 - 1913. Includes *Les Dents de fer*, *Léonce aime les morilles*, *Le Homard*, *L'Express matrimonial*, *Léonce cinématographe*, and newsreels. Total running time app. 70 min.
- 5:00 p.m. **Louis Feuillade before *Les Vampires*.***
Films directed by Feuillade, 1911 - 1914. Includes *Héliogabale*, *Bébé fait du cinéma*, *La légende de la fileuse*, *Le Printemps*, *Bébé Apache*, *Bout-de-Zan vole un éléphant*, *Le Furoncle*, and newsreels. Total running time app. 60 min.

Monday, January 31

- 2:30 p.m. *Child of Paris (L'Enfant de Paris)***
See Saturday, January 29, at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. **Emile Cohl: The Animated Screen, 1909 - 1910.* /
Comedy of the Absurd, 1912 - 1914.***
See Saturday, January 29, at 1:00.

Tuesday, February 1

- 2:30 p.m. **Jacques Feyder: A New Wave.****
Films directed by Feyder, 1916 - 1918. Includes *La Faute d'orthographe*, *Têtes de femmes*, *femmes de têtes*, *Un conseil d'ami*, and newsreels. Total running time app. 85 min.
- 6:00 p.m. **Léonce Perret: Rediscovering a Major Filmmaker.***
See Sunday, January 30, at 3:00.

Thursday, February 3

- 2:30 p.m. *La Petite de Montparnasse*. 1931. Hanns Schwarz and Max de Vaucorbeil. With Grazia del Rio and Pierre Magnier. Musical without English subtitles. 89 min.
- 6:00 p.m. **Early Realism, 1911 - 1913.*** See Saturday, January 29, at 3:00.
- 7:45 p.m. **Some Singing, Some Color, Some Early Experiments. 1906 - 1915.***
See Friday, January 28, 2:30.

Friday, February 4

- 2:30 p.m. **After the Great War: New Talents.****
Films from 1919 - 1920. Includes *Narayana* (Léon Poirier) and *Rose France* (Marcel L'Herbier), and newsreels. Total running time app. 105 min.
- 6:00 p.m. **Louis Feuillade before *Les Vampires*.***
See Sunday, January 30 at 5:00.
- 7:30 p.m. **Jaques Feyder: A New Wave.***
See Tuesday, February 1, at 2:30 .

Saturday, February 5

- 1:00 p.m. *El Dorado.** 1921. Marcel L'Herbier. With Eve Francis and Marcelle Pradot. With French intertitles. Preceded by newsreels. Total running time app. 96 min.
- 3:00 p.m. *Dainah, the Half-Caste (Dainah la Métisse)*. 1931. Jean Grémillon. 48 min.
Zero for Conduct (Zéro de conduite). 1933. Jean Vigo. 42 min. Preceded by newsreels.

5:00 p.m. *Figaro*.* 1928. Gaston Ravel. With Edmund Van Duren and Arlette Marchal. With French intertitles. Preceded by newsreels. App. 105 min.

Sunday, February 6

1:00 p.m. *The Seamstress (L'Arpète)*.* 1928. E. B. Donatien. With Lucienne Legrand and Raymond Guérin-Catelain. With French intertitles. Preceded by newsreels. App. 90 min.

3:00 p.m. **After the Great War: New Talents.** See Friday, February 4, 2:30.

5:00 p.m. *The Passion of Joan of Arc (La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc)*.* 1929. Carl T. Dreyer. With Renée Falconetti, Eugène Silvain, and Antonin Artaud. With French intertitles. Preceded by newsreels. App. 113 min.

Monday, February 7

2:30 p.m. *The Passion of Joan of Arc***
See Sunday, February 6, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Figaro*.* See Saturday, February 5, at 5:00.

Tuesday, February 8

2:30 p.m. *Caroline chérie*. 1950. Richard Pottier. With Martine Carol and Jacques Dacqmine. 140 min.

6:00 p.m. *The Seamstress*. See Sunday, February 6, at 1:00.

Thursday, February 10

2:30 p.m. **Films by Jean Vigo: 1930 - 1934.**
Includes *A propos de Nice*** *Taris et la natation*** and *L'Atalante*. Preceded by newsreels. 126 min.

6:00 p.m. *El Dorado*.* See Saturday, February 5, at 1:00.

8:00 p.m. *Dainah, the Half-Caste/Zero for Conduct*.
See Saturday, February 5, at 3:00.

Friday, February 11

2:30 p.m. *Vautrin*. 1943. Pierre Billon. With Michel Simon and Madeleine Solange. 116 min.

6:00 p.m. *5 a.m. Deadline (Le journal tombe à cinq heures)*. 1942. Georges Lacombe. With Marie Déa, Pierre Fresnay, and Bernard Blier. 98 min. Preceded by newsreels.

8:00 p.m. *La petite de Montparnasse*. See Thursday, February 3, at 2:30.

Saturday, February 12

1:00 p.m. *5 a.m. Deadline*. See Friday, February 11, at 6:00.

3:00 p.m. *Back to the Wall (Le dos au mur)*. 1957. Edouard Molinaro. With Jeanne Moreau and Gérard Oury. 93 min.

5:00 p.m. *Caroline chérie*. See Tuesday, February 8, at 2:30.

Sunday, February 13

2:00 p.m. *A Man Escaped (Un condamné à mort s'est échappé)*. 1956. Robert Bresson. With Francois Leterrier and Charles Le Clainche. 95 min.

5:00 p.m. Films by Jean Vigo: 1930 - 1934.
See Thursday, February 10, at 2:30.

Monday, February 14

2:30 p.m. *Antoine et Antoinette*. 1946. Jacques Becker. With Claire Maffei and Roger Pigaut. 78 min.

6:00 p.m. *Rendezvous with Tomorrow (Rendez-vous de juillet)*. 1949. Jacques Becker. With Nicole Courcel and Daniel Gélin. 112 min.

Tuesday, February 15

2:30 p.m. *Rendezvous with Tomorrow*. See Monday, February 14, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *Vautrin*. See Friday, February 11, at 2:30.

Thursday, February 17

2:30 p.m. *Les tontons flingueurs*. 1963. Geroges Lautner. With Lino Ventura and Bertrand Blier. 114 min.

6:00 p.m. *Antoine et Antoinette*. See Monday, February 14, at 2:30.

8:00 p.m. *A Man Escaped*. See Sunday, February 13 at 2:00.

Friday, February 18

2:30 p.m. *If Paris Could Speak (Si Paris nous était conté)*. 1955. Sacha Guitry. With Sacha Guitry, Michèle Morgan, Danielle Darrieux, and Jean Marais. 135 min.

Saturday, February 19

1:00 p.m. *Murderers and Thieves (Assassins et voleurs)*. 1956. Sacha Guitry. With Jean Poiret and Michel Serrault. 80 min.

3:00 p.m. *Poison (La poison)*. 1951. Sacha Guitry. With Michel Simon, Germaine Reuver, and Jean Debucourt. 85 min.

5:00 p.m. *Three Make a Pair (Les trois font la paire)*. 1957. Sacha Guitry. Co-directed by Clement Duhour. With Michel Simon and Sophie Desmarets. 85 min.

Sunday, February 20

1:00 p.m. *Cousin cousine*. 1975. France. Jean-Charles Tacchella. With Marie-Christine Barrault, Marie-France Pisier, and Victor Lanoux. 99 min.

3:00 p.m. *The Tall Blond Man with One Black Shoe (Le Grand Blond avec une chaussure noire)*. 1972. Yves Robert. With Pierre Richard, Mireille Darc, and Bernard Blier. 86 min.

5:00 p.m. *Les tontons flingueurs*. See Thursday, February 17, at 2:30.

Monday, February 21

1:00 p.m. *The Tall Blond Man with One Black Shoe*.
See Sunday, February 20, at 3:00.

3:00 p.m. *Spoiled Children (Des enfants gâtés)*. 1977. Bertrand Tavernier. With Christine Pascal and Michel Piccoli. 101 min.

5:00 p.m. *If Paris Could Speak*. See Friday, February 18, at 2:30.

Tuesday, February 22

2:30 p.m. *Spoiled Children*. See Monday, February 21, at 3:00.

6:00 p.m. *Cousin cousine*. See Sunday, February 20, at 1:00.

Thursday, February 24

- 2:30 p.m. *Three Make a Pair*. See Saturday, February 19, at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Poison*. See Saturday, February 19, at 3:00.
- 8:00 p.m. *Murderers and Thieves*. See Saturday, February 19, at 1:00.

Monday, February 28

- 6:00 p.m. *Back to the Wall*. See Saturday, February 12, at 3:00.

Friday, March 4

- 3:00 p.m. *The Red Sweater (Le Pull-Over Rouge)*. 1979. Michel Drach. With Serge Avedikian and Michelle Marquais. 125 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *L'Etat sauvage*. 1978. Francis Girod. With Marie-Christine Barrault, Claude Brasseur, and Jacques Dutronc. 113 min.

Saturday, March 5

- 2:00 p.m. *Les Vampires*.* 1915-16. Part 1. Louis Feuillade. With Musidora, Edouard Mathé, Marcel Levesque, and Jean Aymé. Episodes 1 - 5. App. 3½ hrs.

Sunday, March 6

- 2:00 p.m. *Les Vampires*.* 1915-16. Part 2. Louis Feuillade. With Musidora, Edouard Mathé, Marcel Levesque, and Jean Aymé. Episodes 6 - 10. App. 3½ hrs.

Monday, March 7

- 6:00 p.m. *Les Vampires*.* Episodes 1 - 3. App. 120 min. See Saturday, March 5, at 2:00.

Tuesday, March 8

- 6:00 p.m. *Les Vampires*.* Episodes 4 - 6. App. 110 min. See Saturday, March 5, at 2:00.

Thursday, March 10

- 6:00 p.m. *Les Vampires*.* Episodes 7 - 8. App. 90 min. See Sunday, March 6, at 2:00.

Friday, March 11

- 6:00 p.m. *Les Vampires*.* Episodes 9 - 10. App. 95 min. See Sunday, March 6, at 2:00.

Saturday, March 12

- 1:00 p.m. *Judex*.* 1916-17. Louis Feuillade. With René Cresté, Musidora, and Marcel Levesque. Twelve episodes, plus prologue and epilogue. App. 6 hrs. with two intermissions.

Sunday, March 13

- 2:30 p.m. *The Red Sweater*. See Friday, March 4, at 3:00.
- 5:00 p.m. *Hail Mary (Je vous salue, Marie)*. 1985. Jean-Luc Godard. With Myriem Roussel and Thierry Rode. 72 min.

Monday, March 14

6:00 p.m. *Judex.** Prologue and episodes 1 - 5. App. 155 min.
See Saturday, March 12, at 1:00.

Tuesday, March 15

6:00 p.m. *Judex.** Episodes 6 - 12 and epilogue. App. 155 min.
See Saturday, March 12, at 1:00.

Thursday, March 17

6:00 p.m. *L'As des As.* 1982. Gérard Oury. With Jean-Paul Blemonto and Marie-France Pisier. 100 min.

Friday, March 18

2:30 p.m. *Querelle.* 1982. Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Brad Davis, Franco Nero, and Jeanne Moreau. In German with English subtitles. 120 min.

Monday, March 21

2:30 p.m. *Hail Mary.* See Sunday, March 13, at 5:00.

Tuesday, March 22

2:30 p.m. *L'As des As.* See Thursday, March 17, at 6:00.

Thursday, March 24

2:30 p.m. *L'Etat sauvage.* See Friday, March 4, at 6:00.

Friday, March 25

2:30 p.m. *Série Noire.* 1979. Alain Corneau. With Patrick Dewaere, Bernard Blier, and Myriam Boyer. 110 min.

Monday, March 28

2:30 p.m. *The Marquise of O (Die Marquise von O).* 1976. Eric Rohmer. With Edith Clever and Bruno Ganz. In German with English subtitles. 102 min.

Tuesday, March 29

2:30 p.m. *La Boum.* 1980. Claude Pinoteau. With Sophie Marceau, Brigitte Fossey, and Claude Brasseur. 100 min.

Thursday, March 31

2:30 p.m. *La Chèvre.* 1981. Francis Veber. With Pierre Richard and Gérard Depardieu. 99 min.

Friday, April 1

2:30 p.m. *La Nuit de Varennes.* 1982. Ettore Scola. With Marcello Mastroianni, Jean-Louis Barrault, Harvey Keitel, and Hanna Schygulla. 150 min.

Monday, April 4

2:30 p.m. *Police.* 1985. Maurice Pialat. With Gérard Depardieu, Sophie Marceau, and Sandrine Bonnaire. 113 min.

6:00 p.m. *Série Noire*. See Friday, March 25, at 2:30.

Tuesday, April 5

2:30 p.m. *A Nos Amours*. 1983. Maurice Pialat. With Sandrine Bonnaire, Maurice Pialat, and Dominique Besnehard. 107 min.

6:00 p.m. *The Marquise of O*. See Monday, March 28, at 2:30.

Thursday, April 7

2:30 p.m. *Don Giovanni*. 1979. Joseph Losey. With Ruggero Raimondi, John Macurdy, Edda Moser, and Kiri Te Kanawa. In Italian with English subtitles. 170 min.

6:00 p.m. *Querelle*. See Friday, March 18, at 2:30.

8:00 p.m. *La Chèvre*. See Thursday, March 31, at 2:30.

Friday, April 8

2:30 p.m. *Nikita (La Femme Nikita)*. 1990. Luc Besson. With Anne Parillaud, Jean-Hugues Anglade, and Jeanne Moreau. 117 min.

6:00 p.m. *Parsifal*. 1982. Hans Jürgen Syberberg. With Edith Clever (sung by Yvonne Minton), Michael Kutter, and Karin Krick (sung by Reiner Goldberg). In German with English subtitles. 255 min.

Saturday, April 9

1:00 p.m. *A Nos Amours*. See Tuesday, April 5, at 2:30.

3:15 p.m. *Police*. See Monday, April 4, at 2:30.

5:30 p.m. *Bizet's Carmen (Carmen)*. 1984. Francesco Rosi. With Julia Migenes-Johnson, Placido Domingo, and Ruggero Raimondi. 151 min.

Sunday, April 10

2:00 p.m. *La Boum*. See Tuesday, March 29 at 2:30.

5:00 p.m. *Nikita*. See Friday, April 8, at 2:30.

Monday, April 11

1:00 p.m. *Parisfal*. See Friday, April 8, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *Don Giovanni*. See Thursday, April 7, at 2:30.

Tuesday, April 12

2:00 p.m. *Betty Blue [37°2 le matin (l'intégrale)]*. 1986. Jean-Jacques Beineix. With Béatrice Dalle and Jean-Hugues Anglade. 192 min.

6:00 p.m. *La Nuit de Varennes*. See Friday, April 1, at 2:30.

Thursday, April 14

2:30 p.m. *Bizet's Carmen*. See Saturday, April 9, at 5:30.

6:00 p.m. *Betty Blue*. See Tuesday, April 12, at 2:00.

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* Silent with piano accompaniment
** Silent with no piano accompaniment