

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## JEANNE MOREAU: NOUVELLE VAGUE AND BEYOND

February 25 - March 18, 1994

A film retrospective of the legendary French actress Jeanne Moreau, spanning her remarkable forty-five year career, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on February 25, 1994. **JEANNE MOREAU: NOUVELLE VAGUE AND BEYOND** traces the actress's steady rise from the French cinema of the 1950s and international renown as muse and icon of the New Wave movement to the present. On view through March 18, the exhibition shows Moreau to be one of the few performing artists who both epitomize and transcend their eras by the originality of their work.

The retrospective comprises thirty films, including three that Moreau directed. Two films in the series are United States premieres: *The Old Woman Who Wades in the Sea* (1991, Laurent Heynemann), and her most recent film, *A Foreign Field* (1993, Charles Sturridge), in which Moreau stars with Lauren Bacall and Alec Guinness. Other highlights include *The Queen Margot* (1953, Jean Dréville), which has not been shown in the United States since its original release; the uncut version of *Eva* (1962, Joseph Losey); the rarely seen *Mata Hari*, *Agent H 21* (1964, Jean-Louis Richard), and *Joanna Francesa* (1973, Carlos Diegues).

Alternately playful, seductive, or somber, Moreau brought something truly modern to the screen -- a compelling but ultimately elusive persona. After perfecting her craft as a principal member of the *Comédie Française* and the *Théâtre National Populaire*, she appeared in such films as Louis Malle's *Elevator to the Gallows* (1957) and *The Lovers* (1958), the latter of which she created a scandal with her portrayal of an adultress. Over the decades to come, she

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welcomed new creative challenges from such bold French directors as Marguerite Duras (*Nathalie Granger*, 1972) and André Téchiné (*French Provincial*, 1975), as well as such English-speaking directors as Orson Welles (*Chimes at Midnight*, 1964, and *The Immortal Story*, 1966) and Tony Richardson (*The Sailor from Gibraltar*, 1965).

Jeanne Moreau chose directors, not films. In the 1960s, she worked with such renowned international filmmakers as Peter Brook (*Moderato cantabile*, 1960, for which she received the best actress award at the Cannes Film Festival); Luis Buñuel (*The Diary of a Chambermaid*, 1964); and Michelangelo Antonioni (*La Notte*, 1960). Perhaps her most celebrated role is that of Catherine in François Truffaut's *Jules and Jim* (1961), which marked the beginning of a long collaboration with Truffaut. Most recently, she has worked with the youngest generation of French directors.

As a filmmaker herself, Moreau directed the feature-length films *Lumière* (1975), about the relationships among four actresses, *L'Adolescente* (1976), which stars Simone Signoret in a semi-autobiographical story of a Parisian girl who spends the summer of 1939 at her grandmother's house in the south of France, and the documentary *Lillian Gish* (1983). She begins directing her third feature film in March.

Jeanne Moreau was born in Paris on January 23, 1928. Her father was the proprietor of a trendy Montmartre bistro and her English-born mother was a dancer at the Folies-Bergère. Moreau spent her childhood in the years before World War II attending school in Vichy and spent her holidays in a village where her father's family had been farmers for generations. During the Nazi occupation, Moreau and her mother and sister were forced to stay in Paris because her mother was an alien. They lived above a seedy nightclub in the

Pigalle neighborhood. In 1947, Moreau became the youngest member in the history of the *Comédie Française* and was awarded a leading role in Ivan Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*. Twenty-nine productions and four years later, Moreau grew tired of the politics at the theater company and embarked on a two-year stint with the more experimental *Théâtre National Populaire*.

Moreau made her film debut in Jean Stelli's *Dernier amour* (1949) and appeared in twenty French *policiers* and literary adaptations before her starring role in *Elevator to the Gallows*. Captivated by Moreau's steamy performance as Maggie in Peter Brook's 1956 stage production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Louis Malle cast her in *Elevator to the Gallows*, his first feature film. Malle's New Wave film was the first to capture Moreau's penetrating screen presence.

In the 1970s, prompted by the urgings of Orson Welles, Moreau made her directorial debut with *Lumière*. In 1992, she won a French *César* award as best actress in *The Old Woman Who Wades in the Sea*; she was also awarded the *Lion d'Or* at the Venice Film Festival, in appreciation of her forty-five year career. Moreau just finished serving as President of the *Commission d'Avance sur recettes*, which offers financial support to young French filmmakers, and has been instrumental in discovering and cultivating fresh talent in the French film industry.

**JEANNE MOREAU: NOUVELLE VAGUE AND BEYOND** was initiated by the late Stephen Harvey, associate curator, Department of Film and Video, and organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, and Joshua Siegel, curatorial assistant, Department of Film and Video. The series is funded, in part, by a grant from The Michel David-Weill Foundation.

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For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752. No. 07

# The Museum of Modern Art

## JEANNE MOREAU: NOUVELLE VAGUE AND BEYOND

February 25 - March 18, 1994

### Exhibition Schedule

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

#### Friday, February 25

- 2:30 p.m. *Touchez pas au grisbi*. 1953. Jacques Becker. With Jeanne Moreau, Jean Gabin, and René Dary. 95 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *The Diary of a Chambermaid (Le journal d'une femme de chambre)*. 1964. Luis Buñuel. With Moreau, Georges Géret, and Michel Piccoli.
- 8:00 p.m. *The Old Lady Who Wades in the Sea (La vieille qui marchait dans la mer)*. 1991. Laurent Heynemann. With Moreau, Michel Serrault, and Luc Thullier. 120 min.

#### Saturday, February 26

- 12:30 p.m. *Elevator to the Gallows (L'Ascenseur pour l'échafaud)*. 1957. Louis Malle. With Moreau, Maurice Ronet, and Georges Pujouly. 90 min.
- 2:45 p.m. *Dangerous Liaisons 1960 (Les liaisons dangereuses)*. 1959. Roger Vadim. With Moreau, Gérard Philipe, and Annette Vadim. 105 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Chimes at Midnight/Falstaff (Campanadas a medianoche)*. 1964. Orson Welles. With Moreau, Orson Welles, and John Gielgud. In English. 115 min.

#### Sunday, February 27

- 12:30 p.m. *The Diary of a Chambermaid*. See Friday, February 25, at 6:00.
- 2:45 p.m. *The Old Lady Who Wades in the Sea*. See Friday, February 25, at 8:00.
- 5:00 p.m. *Touchez pas au grisbi*. See Friday, February 25, at 2:30.

#### Monday, February 28

- 2:30 p.m. *Chimes at Midnight/Falstaff*. See Saturday, February 26 at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Back to the Wall (Le dos au mur)*. 1957. Edouard Molinaro. With Moreau, Gérard Oury, and Philippe Nicaud. 95 min.

#### Tuesday, March 1

- 2:00 p.m. *Moderato Cantabile*. 1960. Peter Brook. With Moreau, Jean-Paul Belmondo, and Jean Deschamps. 92 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Elevator to the Gallows/Frantic*. See Saturday, February 26, at 12:30.

#### Thursday, March 3

- 2:30 p.m. *Eva*. 1962. Joseph Losey. With Moreau, Stanley Baker, and Virna Lisi. 124 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *The Sailor from Gibraltar*. 1965. Tony Richardson. With Moreau, Vanessa Redgrave, and Orson Welles. 90 min.

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8:00 p.m. *The Queen Margot (La reine Margot)*. 1953. Jean Dréville. With Moreau, Françoise Rosay, and Armando Francioli. In French without English subtitles. 125 min.

**Friday, March 4**

2:30 p.m. *The Bride Wore Black (La mariée était en noir)*. 1967. François Truffaut. With Moreau, Claude Rich, and Michel Lonsdale. 105 min.

6:00 p.m. *Bay of Angels (La baie des anges)*. 1962. Jacques Demy. With Moreau, Claude Mann, and Paul Guers. 89 min.

8:00 p.m. *Eva*. See Thursday, March 3, at 2:30.

**Saturday, March 5**

12:30 p.m. *Lumière*. 1975. Jeanne Moreau. With Moreau, Lucia Bosè, and Francine Racette. 95 min.

2:45 p.m. *Bay of Angels*. See Friday, March 4, at 6:00.

5:00 p.m. *The Bride Wore Black*. See Friday, March 4, at 2:30.

**Sunday, March 6**

12:30 p.m. *The Sailor from Gibraltar*. See Thursday, March 3, at 6:00.

2:30 p.m. *The Deep*. 1967. Trailer made by Orson Welles for his uncompleted film. With Moreau, Welles, and Laurence Harvey. 5 min.

*The Immortal Story*. 1966. Orson Welles. With Moreau, Welles, and Fernando Rey. 58 min.

*Lillian Gish*. 1983. Jeanne Moreau. 56 min.

5:00 p.m. *La Notte*. 1960. Michelangelo Antonioni. With Moreau, Marcello Mastroianni, and Monica Vitti. In Italian with English subtitles. 122 min.

**Monday, March 7**

2:30 p.m. *Mademoiselle*. 1965. Tony Richardson. With Moreau, Ettore Manni, and Keith Skinner. 105 min.

6:00 p.m. *The Deep/The Immortal Story/Lillian Gish*. See Sunday, March 6, at 2:30.

**Tuesday, March 8**

2:30 p.m. *The Queen Margot*. See Thursday, March 3, at 8:00.

6:00 p.m. *Lumière*. See Saturday, March 5, at 12:30.

**Thursday, March 10**

2:30 p.m. *La Notte*. See Sunday, March 6, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Mademoiselle*. See Monday, March 7, at 2:30.

8:00 p.m. *The Little Theater of Jean Renoir (Le petit théâtre de Jean Renoir)*. 1969. Jean Renoir. Moreau sings "Quand l'amour meurt" in sketch *la Chanteuse*. 5 min.

*Mata-Hari, Agent H 21*. 1964. Jean-Louis Richard. With Moreau, Jean-Louis Trintignant, and Claude Rich. In French without English subtitles. 95 min.

**Friday, March 11**

2:30 p.m. *Nathalie Granger*. 1972. Marguerite Duras. With Moreau, Lucia Bosè, and Gérard Depardieu. 83 min.

- 6:00 p.m. *The Lovers (Les amants)*. 1958. Louis Malle. With Moreau, Alain Cuny, and Jean-Marc Bory. 88 min.
- 8:00 p.m. *A Foreign Field*. 1993. Charles Sturridge. With Moreau, Alec Guinness, and Lauren Bacall. 90 min.

**Saturday, March 12**

- 12:30 p.m. *A Foreign Field*. See Friday, March 11, at 8:00.
- 2:45 p.m. *Jules and Jim (Jules et Jim)*. 1961. François Truffaut. With Moreau, Oskar Werner, and Henri Serre. 105 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Dialogue of the Carmelites (Dialogue des carmelites)*. 1960. René-Léopold Bruckberger and Philippe Agostini. With Moreau, Madeleine Renaud, and Alida Valli. 112 min.

**Sunday, March 13**

- 12:30 p.m. *The Little Theater of Jean Renoir/Mata-Hari, Agent H 21*. See Thursday, March 10, at 8:00.
- 2:45 p.m. *M. Klein*. 1976. Joseph Losey. With Jeanne Moreau, Alain Delon, and Suzanne Flon. 120 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Joanna Francesa*. 1973. Carlos Diegues. With Jeanne Moreau, Carlos Kroeber, and Pierre Cardin. In Portuguese with English subtitles. 110 min.

**Monday, March 14**

- 2:30 p.m. *Dialogue of the Carmelites*. See Saturday, March 12, at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Moderato Cantabile*. See Tuesday, March 1, at 2:00.
- Nathalie Granger*. See Friday, March 11, at 2:30.

**Tuesday, March 15**

- 2:30 p.m. *L'Adolescente*. 1976. Jeanne Moreau. With Simone Signoret, Laetitia Chauveau, and Edith Clever. 90 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *French Provincial (Souvenirs d'en France)*. 1975. André Téchiné. With Moreau, Michel Auclair, and Marie-France Pisier. 95 min.

**Thursday, March 17**

- 2:30 p.m. *French Provincial*. See Tuesday, March 15, at 6:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *L'Adolescente*. See Tuesday, March 15, at 2:30.
- 8:00 p.m. *Jules and Jim*. See Saturday, March 12, at 2:45.

**Friday, March 18**

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

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