

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1992

JEAN-LUC GODARD: SON+IMAGE, 1974 - 1991

October 30 - November 30, 1992

A retrospective of Jean Luc-Godard, tracing the relationship between his film and video work from 1974 to 1991, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on October 30, 1992. One of modern cinema's most influential artists, Godard is equally important in the development of video, and much of his video work has not been exhibited widely in the United States. Comprising thirty works and a program of commercials, **JEAN-LUC GODARD: SON+IMAGE, 1974 - 1991** continues through November 30. Godard introduces two evening programs on Friday, October 30, at 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.

The series encompasses almost two decades of work, from the films *Ici et ailleurs* (1974) and *Numéro deux* (1975), and the video series *Six fois deux/Sur et sous la communication* (1976) and *Histoire(s) du cinéma* (1989--), to the recent films *Nouvelle Vague* (1990) and *Germany Year 90 Nine Zero* (1991). This body of work is as visually and verbally dense with meaning as his revolutionary films of the 1960s.

Since 1974 Godard has concerned himself less with traditional narrative and more with the complex relation between sound and image, creating densely layered soundtracks and experimenting with editing techniques. Using deconstruction and reassemblage in works such as *Puissance de la parole* (video, 1988), he invests the sound/moving image with a fresh aesthetic that is at once mysterious and resonant. In *Histoire(s) du cinéma*, image, music, and text are blended into a seamless discourse on the history of the cinema and a meditation on the twentieth century.

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Film highlights of the series include *Numéro deux*, a combination of both film and video addressing the meeting of sex and politics in the home; *Every Man for Himself* (1979), a return to the theme of prostitution; *Hail Mary* (1985), a contemporary retelling of the Immaculate Conception; and *Germany Year 90 Nine Zero*, filmed in Berlin, about a Europe in transition.

JEAN-LUC GODARD: SON+IMAGE, 1974 - 1991 includes the video *Scénario du film Passion* (1982), revealing Godard's thought process in conceiving the film *Passion* (1982), which is also shown. The video essays Godard collaborated on with Anne-Marie Miéville, a photographer and filmmaker, are featured. These include *Soft and Hard (A Soft Conversation between Two Friends on a Hard Subject)* (1986), a dialogue between Godard and Miéville about their creation of and reception of images, and the series made for television, *Six fois deux/Sur et sous la communication*, on the politics of television and communication.

Jean-Luc Godard was born in 1930 in Paris. He was educated in both France and Switzerland and received a degree in ethnology from the Sorbonne in 1950. In the 1950s he was a critic for the film journal *Cahiers du Cinéma* and *Arts* magazine and directed his first film *Opération Béton* (1954), a documentary. Godard achieved international fame in 1960 with *Breathless*, his stunning feature-film debut.

As an activist during the 1960s, Godard led street protests against the controversial firing of Henri Langlois, curator of the French Cinémathèque, and instigated the shutdown of the Cannes Film Festival during the events of May 1968, with a host of other young filmmakers. He directed many of his classic films in the 1960s, among them, *Contempt* (1963), *Alphaville* (1965), *Masculin Féminin* (1966), *Two or Three Things I Know About Her* (1966), and

Weekend (1967). Also in the 1960s, Godard married and divorced twice, first to Anna Karina and second to Anne Wiazemsky. Both women are actresses who starred in his films.

From 1968 to 1973 Godard collaborated with Jean-Pierre Gorin to form the Dziga Vertov Group and made Maoist political films, culminating in *Tout va bien* (1972). After the breakup with Gorin, Godard and Miéville established the production and distribution company Sonimage in 1974. He currently lives in Switzerland and works in both Switzerland and France. He finished shooting a new film, *Hélas pour moi*, starring Gérard Depardieu, in September.

JEAN-LUC GODARD: SON+IMAGE, 1974 - 1991 was organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, with the collaboration of Mary Lea Bandy, director, and Barbara London, assistant curator, video, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art; and Colin Myles MacCabe, professor of English, University of Pittsburgh, and head of research and information, British Film Institute. Support for the retrospective is provided in part by The Fairchild Corporation.

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For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

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JEAN-LUC GODARD: SON+IMAGE, 1974-1991
October 30 - November 30, 1992

Exhibition Schedule

All films and videotapes are in French with English subtitles, except where noted. Screenings are in Titus Theater 2, unless noted otherwise.

Friday, October 30

- 2:30 p.m. *Keep Up Your Right. (Soigne ta droite)*. 1987. With Godard, Jacques Villeret, and Jane Birkin. 82 min. Titus Theater 1.
- 3:00 p.m. *Scénario du film Passion*. 1982. Codirected with Jean-Bernard Menoud, Anne-Marie Miéville, and Pierre Binggelli. Video. 54 min.
Passion. 1982. With Isabelle Huppert, Hanna Schygulla, Michel Piccoli, and Laszlo Szabo. 87 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Histoire(s) du cinéma*. 1989--. Video. 100 min.
Program introduced by Godard.
- 6:30 p.m. *Germany Year 90 Nine Zero. (Allemagne année 90 neuf zéro)*. 1991. With Eddie Constantine, Hanns Zischler, and Claudia Michelsen. 62 min. No English subtitles. Titus Theater 1.
Program introduced by Godard and Colin McCabe.

Saturday, October 31

- 2:00 p.m. *Germany Year 90 Nine Zero*. See above. Titus Theater 1.
- 2:30 p.m. *Histoire(s) du cinéma*. See above. Program introduced by Raymond Bellour.
- 5:00 p.m. *Keep Up Your Right*. See October 30 at 2:30. Titus Theater 1.
- 5:00 p.m. *Scénario du film Passion/Passion*. See October 30 at 3:00.

Sunday, November 1

- 1:00 p.m. *France/tour/détour/deux/enfants*. 1977-78. Codirected with Anne-Marie Miéville. With Camille Violette, Arnaud Martin, and Betty Berr. Video. Twelve 26-minute programs. 5½ hrs.
- 2:30 p.m. *Nouvelle Vague*. 1990. With Alain Delon, Domiziana Giordano, and Roland Amstutz. 89 min. Titus Theater 1.
- 5:00 p.m. *Numéro deux*. 1975. With Sandrine Battistella, Pierre Oudry, and Alexandre Rignault. 88 min.

Monday, November 2

- 3:00 p.m. *Numéro deux*. See above.

Tuesday, November 3

- 3:00 p.m. Two Videotapes from 1986.
Grandeur et décadence d'un petit commerce de cinéma. With Jean-Pierre Léaud, Jean-Pierre Mocky, and Marie Valera. 52 min.
Soft and Hard (A Soft Conversation between Two Friends on a Hard Subject). Directed by and starring Godard and Anne-Marie Miéville. 48 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Nouvelle Vague*. See November 1 at 2:30.

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Friday, November 6

- 3:00 p.m. *First Name: Carmen. (Prénom Carmen)*. 1983. With Maruschka Detmers, Jacques Bonnaffé, and Myriem Roussel. 85 min.
 6:00 p.m. *Grandeur et décadence/Soft and Hard*. See November 3 at 3:00.

Saturday, November 7

- 2:30 p.m. *Petites Notes à propos du film Je vous salue Marie*. 1983. With Godard, Myriem Roussel, Thierry Rode, and Anne-Marie Miéville. Video. Without English subtitles. 25 min.
Hail Mary. (Je vous salue Marie). 1985. With Myriem Roussel, Thierry Rode, and Philippe Lacoste. 72 min.
 5:00 p.m. *First Name: Carmen*. See November 6 at 3:00.

Sunday, November 8

- 2:30 p.m. *Scénario de Sauve qui peut (la vie)*. 1979. Video. Without English titles. 20 min.
Every Man for Himself. [Sauve qui peut (la vie)]. 1979. With Isabelle Huppert, Jacques Dutronc, and Nathalie Baye. 87 min.
 5:00 p.m. *Every Man for Himself*. See above. Swiss television version. Video. Without English subtitles. App. 80 min.

Monday, November 9

- 3:00 p.m. Godard's commercials for Renown and MFG (Marithé and Francois Girbaud). Video. App. 5 min.
Le Rapport Darty. 1989. Codirected with Anne-Marie Miéville. Without English subtitles. Video. 50 min.

Friday, November 13

- 3:00 p.m. *Every Man for Himself*. See November 8 at 5:00.
 6:00 p.m. *Petites Notes à propos du film Je vous salue Marie/Hail Mary*. See November 7 at 2:30.

Saturday, November 14

- 2:00 p.m. *Six Times Two. (Six fois deux/Sur et sous la communication)*. 1976. Codirected with Anne-Marie Miéville. Video. First three of six 100-minute programs. Part 1: Ya Personne/Louison. Part 2: Leçons de Choses/Jean-Luc. Part 3: Photo et Cie/Marcel. 5 hrs.

Sunday, November 15

- 2:00 p.m. *Six Times Two*. See above.
 Final three of six 100-minute programs. Part 4: Pas d'histories/Nanas. Part 5: Nous trois/René(e)s. Part 6: Avant et Après/Jacqueline et Ludovic. 5 hrs.

Thursday, November 19

- 12:30 p.m. *Six Times Two*. See November 14.
 Part 1: Ya Personne/Louison. 100 min.

Friday, November 20

- 12:30 p.m. *Six Times Two*. See November 15.
 Part 2: Leçons de Choses/Jean-Luc. 100 min.

- 3:00 p.m. Program of Short Works: 1982-90.
Changer d'image. 1982. Video. 10 min.
 Without English subtitles.
Lettre à Freddy Buache. 1981. Video. 11 min. Without English subtitles.
Armide. Sequence from the film *Aria* (1987). 12 min.
On s'est tous défilé. 1988. Video. 13 min. Without English subtitles.
Puissance de la parole. 1988. Video. 25 min. Without English subtitles.
Le Dernier Mot. From the television series, "Les Français entendus par." 1988. Video. Without English subtitles. 13 min.
L'Enfance de l'art. Sequence from the UNICEF film, "Comment vont les enfants/How Are the Kids." 1990. 8 min.
 Program 92 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Ici et ailleurs*. 1974. Codirected with Anne-Marie Miéville. Made from footage shot in 1970 by the Dziga Vertov Group as *Jusqu'à la victoire*. 60 min.

Saturday, November 21

- 12:30 p.m. *Six Times Two*. See November 14.
 Part 3: Photo et Cie/Marcel. 100 min.
- 2:30 p.m. *Meetin' W.A.* 1986. With Godard and Woody Allen. Video. 26 min.
King Lear. 1987. With Burgess Meredith, Peter Sellars, Molly Ringwald, and Woody Allen. 90 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Déetective*. 1985. With Nathalie Baye, Claude Brasseur, Johnny Hallyday, and Jean-Pierre Léaud. 95 min.

Sunday, November 22

- 12:30 p.m. *Six Times Two*. See November 15. Part 4: Pas d'histoires/Nanas. Video. 100 min.
- 3:00 p.m. *Comment ça va*. 1976. Codirected with Anne-Marie Miéville. With Miéville and M. Marot. 78 min. Without English subtitles.
- 5:00 p.m. Program of Short Works: 1982-90. See November 20 at 3:00.

Monday, November 23

- 12:30 p.m. *Six Times Two*. See November 15.
 Part 5: Nous trois/René(s). 100 min.
- 3:00 p.m. *Scénario de Sauve qui peut (la vie)/Every Man for Himself*.
 See November 8 at 2:30.

Tuesday, November 24

- 12:30 p.m. *Six Times Two*. See November 15.
 Part 6: Avant et Après/Jacqueline et Ludovic. 100 min.

Friday, November 27

- 12:30 p.m. *France/tour/détour/deux/enfants*. 1978. Codirected with Anne-Marie Miéville. Program 1: Obscur/Chimie, Program 2: Lumière/Physique, Program 3: Connu/Géométrie/Géographie, and Program 4: Inconnu/Technique. Twelve parts in all. Video. 104 min.
- 3:00 p.m. *Comment ça va*. See November 22 at 3:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Meetin' W.A./King Lear*. See November 21 at 2:30.

Saturday, November 28

- 12:30 p.m. *France/tour/détour/deux/enfants*. See above. Program: 5
 Impression/Dictée, Program 6: Expression/Français, Program 7
 Violence/Grammaire, and Program 8: Désordre/Calcul. Video.
 104 min.
- 3:00 p.m. *Grandeur et décadence/Soft and Hard*. See November 3 at 3:00.
- 5:00 p.m. *Ici et ailleurs*. See November 20 at 6:00.

Sunday, November 29

- 12:30 p.m. *France/tour/détour/deux/enfants*. See November 27 at 12:30. Program
 9: Pouvoir/Musique, Program 10: Roman/Economie, Program 11:
 Réalité/Logique, and Program 12: Rêve/Morale. Video. 104 min.
- 3:00 p.m. *Déetective*. See November 21 at 5:00.
 Godard's commercials. See November 9 at 3:00.
- 5:00 p.m. *Histoire(s) du cinéma*. See October 30 at 6:00.

Monday, November 30

- 3:00 p.m. Program of Short Works: 1982-90. See November 20 at 3:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Scénario du film Passion/Passion*. See October 30 at 3:00.

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