

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECENT FRENCH FILMS TO BE SHOWN AT MUSEUM

A selection of eight French films, not yet released in this country, will be shown from February 8 through February 20 at The Museum of Modern Art. These films are available to universities in the United States and are circulated by the French Government through the Office of the Cultural Counselor at the French Embassy in New York. The program, arranged by the Museum's Department of Film in collaboration with the French Cultural Services, includes a variety of themes and approaches.

One of the more unusual films on the program is Pierre Jallend's 1972 picture "Une Infinie Tendresse," the story of two handicapped children confined to an institution who become friends despite their limited means of communication. The children can neither speak nor walk properly and not a word of dialogue is spoken in the film. Thomas Quinn Curtiss said of this film in the Paris Herald Tribune: "Jallend has distilled an authentic tragedy that contains more emotional dynamite than is to be found in a thousand trumped-up movie scripts....an ingenious use of sound, one of the most successful since the talkies were invented, has been employed."

Two films in the series are set in World War II. "A Tear in the Ocean," by film editor-turned-director Henri Glaeser, is based on Manes Sperber's novel of an Austrian Jewish doctor who is trying, by means of guerilla action, to save a Polish Ukrainian village from extermination by the Nazis. Rachel Weinberg's "Pic et Pic et Colegram" is the story of a small Jewish girl sent by her father to live in the mountains with a Protestant family during the war. The film depicts her relationship with the family and with a young boy she meets, while at the same time providing a portrait of France at that time.

The documentary on the program, titled "Week-End at Sochaux," was filmed by a collective of young workers striking the Peugeot factory at Sochaux, France. The film

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describes the problems of the workers and proposes some solutions.

"Deux Fois," a non-narrative, consciously "theoretical" film by and with Jackie Raynal, another former film editor, is, in a sense, about editing and the problems it poses with respect to the disruption of spatio-temporal continuity. "Deux Fois" relates to the work of certain American avant-garde filmmakers in its use of long, static shots, repetitions, and, above all, in its analytical investigation of the parameters of the medium.

The other films are "L'Italien des roses," by painter/illustrator/filmmaker Charles Matton, the story of a would-be suicide poised on a ledge and the reaction of the people who gather below; "Un Fils Unique," novelist Michel Polac's story of a teenage boy who learns about his mother by finding and pursuing a painter who has done a portrait of her; and Walerian Borowczyk's "Blanche," a tale of courtly love and violence set in the 13th century.

The schedule follows:

L'ITALIEN DES ROSES. 1972. By Charles Matton. English titles. 90 min.
Thursday, February 8, 5:30 and Saturday, February 10, 5:30

BLANCHE. 1971. By Walerian Borowczyk. English titles. 90 min.
Thursday, February 8, 8:00 and Sunday, February 11, 5:30

WEEK-END AT SOCHAUX. 1972. By Groupe Medvedkine. No English titles. 67 min.
Friday, February 9, 2:00 and Saturday, February 10, 3:00

DEUX FOIS. 1969. By and with Jackie Raynal. English titles. 90 min.
Monday, February 12, 2:00 and Tuesday, February 20, 5:30

UNE INFINIE TENDRESSE. 1972. By Pierre Jallend. No dialogue. 90 min.
Monday, February 12, 5:30; Thursday, February 15, 8:00; and Monday, February 19, 5:30

A TEAR IN THE OCEAN. 1971. By Henri Glaeser. English titles. 86 min.
Thursday, February 15, 5:30 and Saturday, February 17, 3:00

PIC ET PIC ET COLEGRAM. 1972. By Rachel Weinberg. No English titles. 82 min.
Friday, February 16, 2:00 and Sunday, February 18, 5:30

UN FILS UNIQUE. 1969. By Michel Polac. English titles. 82 min.
Saturday, February 17, 5:30 and Monday, February 19, 2:00

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator,
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