

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO PUBLISH MAJOR
CINEMA ANTHOLOGY, REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM, ON OCTOBER 1

From the world's first movie show--screened by the Lumière Brothers in 1895--to the final flowering of the classic tradition in the 1950s, France has crafted a history of great filmmaking that has long been recognized as among the most varied and accomplished in film history. Unlike American movies, with their stress on narrative drive and entertainment, French films have explored the ambiguities of behavior, stretched the boundaries of dramatic atmosphere, scrutinized the vagaries of morality, and made psychologically penetrating probes into character and society. To appreciate fully and reassess this fascinating national cinema, The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film recently presented a comprehensive, two-part retrospective of some 200 French movies and on October 1, 1983, will publish an anthology titled Rediscovering French Film.

Lavishly illustrated with 137 photographs from films of every period, Rediscovering French Film offers material that will appeal to everyone from the interested moviegoer to the serious film student and scholar. In his introduction, Richard Roud, Director of the New York Film Festival, traces French film from its beginnings to the 1960s in a lively and authoritative survey that reveals what exactly is most "French" about French film. The book showcases articles by such great filmmakers as Jean Renoir, Abel Gance, and René Clair, as well as briefer commentaries by Marcel Pagnol and Jean Grémillon, among others, who explain in their own words their approach to film. Also included are essays by distinguished historians and critics such as André Bazin, Dudley Andrew, Roger Greenspun, and Stephen Harvey. Edited by Mary Lea Bandy, Director of The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film, Rediscovering French Film is a rich panoply of French cinematic culture.

Featuring an extensive bibliography and a filmography listing more

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than a hundred filmmakers and their works, Rediscovering French Film will be available in paperback at \$14.95 and is published by The Museum of Modern Art and distributed by New York Graphic Society/Little, Brown and Company, Boston.

REVIEW EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: For review copies, please contact Sabra Smith, Little, Brown and Company (212) 683-0660.

September 1983

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