

The Museum of Modern Art

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

CLAUDE CHABROL: FRENCH DIRECTOR'S WORK AT MUSEUM

THE FILMS OF CLAUDE CHABROL, the French director who helped pioneer the "New Wave," will begin October 2 at The Museum of Modern Art. Among the 14 films in the series, organized by Adrienne Mancina, Associate Curator of the Department of Film, are "Le Beau Serge" (1958), Chabrol's first film, rarely seen in this country; "Les Bonnes Femmes" (1960), seldom shown here though it is regarded as one of his best; "Le Boucher," an entry in the just completed 8th New York Film Festival; "Que La Bete Meure" ("This Man Must Die"), which will open shortly in New York; and "La Rupture," his most recent movie, just premiered in Paris and not yet acquired for distribution in the U.S.A.

Born in Paris in 1930, Chabrol studied pharmacy but gave up that profession for a total involvement in film. In the 1950s, he wrote for "Cahiers du Cinema" along with Truffaut and Godard, and in 1957 he co-authored a book on Hitchcock with Eric Rohmer, also to become a director.

An inheritance from his first wife's family enabled Chabrol, in 1958, to make "Le Beau Serge," which was followed the same year by "Les Cousins," which won the Golden Bear Award at the 1959 Berlin Film Festival. These films, along with Godard's "Breathless," Truffaut's "The 400 Blows" and Resnais' "Hiroshima Mon Amour," signalled a renaissance for the French film which was to have an impact around the world.

In all, Chabrol has made 19 features, establishing himself as one of the most prolific of the original group of "New Wave" directors. He is also widely acknowledged as a master of cinematic style. Critic Andrew Sarris called "La Femme Infidele," which will be shown in the Museum series, "the most

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brilliantly expressive exercise in visual style I have seen on the screen all year," and Tom Milne, writing in "Sight and Sound" in reference to "Que La Bete Meure," has called Chabrol "quite simply the best technician in France...Chabrol can make his images mean exactly what he chooses them to mean."

"Le Boucher" is the love story of a butcher who may, in fact, be a psychopathic murderer, and a young schoolteacher, set in a small French village. While the film, like much of Chabrol's work, suggests both Hitchcock and Fritz Lang, the picture, Vincent Canby of The New York Times notes, "is not primarily interesting as conventional mystery. Rather it's as a moving love story that it makes sense, and this because Chabrol has respect and admiration for his stars as performers and as characters."

Two of the pictures in the Chabrol program are being shown in this country for the first time--"Ophelia," a 1962 film based on Hamlet, with the emphasis on Ophelia; and "La Rupture," a Hitchcockian horror story with an undercurrent of humor. "La Rupture" stars Stephane Audran, Chabrol's wife who is also the lead in "La Femme Infidele," "Les Biches," and "Le Boucher." In its review of "La Rupture," France-Soir observed, "Stephane Audran dominates her role as much as her husband Claude Chabrol has dominated his subject." Both "Ophelia" and "La Rupture" have no English subtitles.

The complete schedule for the Chabrol series follows:

Friday, October 2

2:00--LE BEAU SERGE. 1958. Written and directed by Claude Chabrol. With Gerard Blain, Jean-Claude Brialy, Bernadette Lafont. 97 minutes.

5:30--OPHELIA. 1962. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Written by Chabrol and Jean Rabier. With Alida Valli, Andre Jocelyn. 105 minutes. NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES.

Saturday, October 3

3:00 and 5:30--LE BEAU SERGE (see October 2 at 2:00 p.m.)

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Sunday, October 4

2:00 and 5:30--LES BONNES FEMMES. 1960. Written and directed by Claude Chabrol. With Bernadette Lafont, Lucille Saint-Simon. 105 minutes.

Monday, October 5

1:30--A DOUBLE TOUR (LEDA or WEB OF PASSION). 1959. Directed by Claude Chabrol. With Madeleine Robinson, Jacques Dacqmine, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Bernadette Lafont, Antonella Lualdi, Andre Jocelyn. 100 minutes.

Tuesday, October 6

NO CHABROL FILMS SCHEDULED.

Wednesday, October 7

2:00 and 5:30--LANDRU (BLUEBEARD). 1962. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Written by Francoise Sagan. With Charles Denner, Michele Morgan, Danielle Darrieux, Stephane Audran, Hildegard Neff. 114 minutes.

Thursday, October 8

2:00--L'OEIL DU MALIN (THE EVIL EYE or THE THIRD LOVER). 1962. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Written by Chabrol and Martial Matthieu. With Jacques Charrier, Stephane Audran, Walter Reyer. 80 minutes.
5:30--LES COUSINS (THE COUSINS). 1958. Written and directed by Claude Chabrol. With Gerard Blain, Jean-Claude Brialy. 112 minutes.
8:00--LA RUPTURE. 1970. Written and directed by Claude Chabrol. With Stephane Audran, Jean-Pierre Cassel, Michel Bouquet. NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES.

Friday, October 9

2:00 and 5:30--LA FEMME INFIDELE. 1968. Written and directed by Claude Chabrol. With Stephane Audran, Michel Bouquet, Maurice Ronet. 98 minutes.

Saturday, October 10

3:00 and 5:30--LA LIGNE DE DEMARCATION. 1966. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Written by Chabrol and Colonel Remy. With Jean Seberg, Maurice Ronet, Daniel Gelin, Stephan Audran, Jacques Perrin. 120 minutes.

Sunday, October 11

2:00 and 5:30--LA MUETTE (Episode from PARIS VU PAR...). 1966. Directed by Claude Chabrol. With Claude Chabrol, Stephane Audran. 15 minutes.
L'OEIL DU MALIN (see October 8 at 2:00 p.m.).

Monday, October 12

1:30--THE CHAMPAGNE MURDERS (English version of LE SCANDALE, 1966). 1966. Directed by Claude Chabrol. With Anthony Perkins, Yvonne Furneaux, Stephane Audran. 98 minutes.

Tuesday, October 13

5:30--LES BICHES (THE DOES). 1968. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Written by Chabrol and Paul Gegauff. With Stephane Audran, Jacqueline Sassard, Jean-Louis Trintignant. 99 minutes.

wednesday, October 14

2:00--QUE LA BETE MEURE (THIS MAN MUST DIE). 1969. Directed by Claude Chabrol. With Michel Duchaussoy, Caroline Cellier, Jean Yanne. 110 minutes.
5:30--LE BOUCHER. 1969. Written and directed by Claude Chabrol. With Stephane Audran, Jean Yanne, Roger Rudel. 90 minutes.

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York 10019. Tel: (212) 956-7296.