

# The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



NO. 9

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## 7th "PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA" PRESENTED AT MOMA

For the seventh year, PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA will offer New York audiences previews of some of the latest films and newest talent in French cinema. Opening at the Museum of Modern Art on February 19 and running through March 2nd, PERSPECTIVES will present nine feature films and a program of five shorts selected by the Société des Réalisateurs de Films in Paris (the Association of French Film Directors). Six of the films to be presented at MoMA were included in the 1980 Cannes Film Festival program "Perspectives du Cinema Francais."

The films will be publicly screened in New York for the first time. Five of the nine full-length films are feature-film directorial debuts.

Three directors will introduce screenings of their films at MoMA: RAPHAËLLE BILLETDOUX will introduce LA FEMME-ENFANT (THE CHILD-WOMAN) Feb. 19 at 6:00 and Feb. 21 at 5:00; JÉRÔME LAPERROUSAZ will introduce THIRD WORLD, PRISONNIER DE LA RUE (THIRD WORLD, PRISONER OF THE STREET) Feb. 19 at 8:30 and Feb. 21 at 2:30; and CLAUDE VAJDA will introduce CES MALADES QUI NOUS GOUVERNENT (THE SICK MEN WHO GOVERN US) Feb. 20 at 6:00 and Feb. 23 at 2:30. All features in PERSPECTIVES will be screened twice; a complete schedule is attached.

CES MALADES QUI NOUS GOUVERNENT is CLAUDE VAJDA's provocative 3½-hour study of one of our recent history's best-kept secrets: the physical and mental health of prominent world leaders. From Yalta to Kennedy's White House, the degree to which these leaders' infirmities may have affected their competency is examined in an extensive and compelling essay. The film was made in 1980.

The reggae band Third World provides the focus for JÉRÔME LAPERROUSAZ' 1980 documentary THIRD WORLD, PRISONNIER DE LA RUE (PRISONER OF THE STREET), an examination of music, culture and politics in today's Jamaica.

RAPHAËLLE BILLETDOUX's first feature film, LA FEMME-ENFANT (THE CHILD-WOMAN), made in 1980, charts delicate emotional terrain in its story of a young girl's secret friendship with a mute gardener, played by Klaus Kinski.

EXTERIEUR NUIT (EXTERIOR NIGHT), which received much critical acclaim at Cannes, is the fourth feature by the 32 year-old Jacques Bral, whose fresh style is distinguished by humor, insolence, and a strong visual impact. EXTERIEUR NUIT tells of the difficult, intense and passionate romance between Léo, a jazz musician, and Cora, a beautiful and independent young woman who drives a taxi by night.

The first feature film directed by Robert Pansard-Besson, LE ROSE ET LE BLANC (THE PINK AND THE WHITE) was awarded the 1980 Prix Georges Sadoul. An aging writer of adventure stories, a little boy who reads the adventures avidly, and the boy's mother (Bulle Ogier) are among the group of neighbors who share a Paris courtyard in this 1980 film. Their lives are portrayed with a poetic tenderness and offbeat viewpoint.

The work of three more first-feature directors will be included in PERSPECTIVES: ANTHRACITE, made by EDOUARD NIERMANS in 1980, takes place in a Jesuit boarding school in the 1950's. Drawing upon his own experience, Niermans etches a portrait of the relationship between a young student and a Jesuit priest, whose nickname, Anthracite (the hardest type of coal) belies his spiritual nature, which manifests itself in a desire for humility and mortification.

VACANCES ROYALES (ROYAL VACATION) is Gabriel Auer's feature directorial debut. Made in 1980, it concerns a group of Spanish expatriot radicals living in France. The French authorities, fearful of demonstrations during King Juan Carlos' visit, sequester the group in a posh seaside hotel. Auer treats this gesture of governmental paranoia with irony and wit.

ANTOINE PERSET's first full-length film, LES TROIS DERNIERS HOMMES (THE LAST THREE MEN) is a documentary about rural life, dying traditions, and the three old men who stubbornly maintain the old ways. Speaking about the making of the film, Perset said "I wanted to film these images which had so profoundly marked and moved me...

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visionary and fatalistic, these men saw our (the filmmakers) arrival like the coming of a new season. The rigor of their work was like a slap to my own."

A ninth feature film in PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA is to be announced.

The program of short subjects is comprised of five films: LA PETITE ENFANCE DU CINEMA (THE BIRTH OF CINEMA) by Joel Farges; MONTASTRUC by Jean-Claude Larrieu; L'ABECEDAIRE DU MARECHAL (THE MARSHAL'S ABC'S) by Atahualpa Lichy; L'EPHEMERE (EPHEMERA) by Annick Lanoe; and NORMANDS, BARBARES ET BATISSEURS (NORMANS, BARBARIANS AND BUILDERS) by Jean-Noel Christiani.

PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA is presented by the Department of Film of the Museum of Modern Art in association with the French Film Office/Unifrance USA.

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\* Feb. 21 (2:30) see Feb. 19 (8:30)

\* Feb. 21 (5:00) see Feb. 19 (6:00)

Feb. 22 (2:30) see Feb. 19 (2:30)

\* Feb. 23 (2:30) see Feb. 20 (6:00)

Feb. 26 (2:30) LES TROIS DERNIERS HOMMES (THE LAST THREE MEN)  
Antoine Perset. 87 min.

Feb. 26 (6:00) ANTHRACITE. Edouard Niermans. 90 min.

Feb. 26 (8:30) EXTERIEUR NUIT (EXTERIOR NIGHT) Jacques Bral. 110 min.

Feb. 27 (2:30) Program of 3 short films. 87 min.

Feb. 28 (2:30) To Be Announced.

Feb. 28 (5:00) see Feb. 26 (8:30)

March 1 (5:00) To Be Announced. (same as Feb. 28 at 2:30)

March 2 (2:30) same as Feb. 26 (2:30)

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For daily film schedules, the public may call (212) 956-7078 or 956-7284. For further press information, please call Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, 956-7289.

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\*Director will be present to introduce the film.

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA

February 19 - March 2, 1981

The PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH CINEMA Series will be held in the Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium of The Museum of Modern Art.

- Feb. 19 (2:30) LE ROSE ET LE BLANC (THE PINK AND THE WHITE)  
Robert Pansard-Besson. 100 min.
- \* Feb. 19 (6:00) LA FEMME-ENFANT (THE CHILD-WOMAN)  
Raphaëlle Billetdoux. 100 min.
- \* Feb. 19 (8:30) THIRD WORLD, PRISONNIER DE LA RUE (THIRD WORLD,  
PRISONER OF THE STREET) Jérôme Laperrousaz. 80 min.
- Feb. 20 (2:30) VACANCES ROYALES (ROYAL VACATION)  
Gabriel Auer. 86 min.
- \* Feb. 20 (6:00) CES MALADES QUI NOUS GOUVERNENT (THE SICK MEN WHO  
GOVERN US) Claude Vajda. 210 min.
- \* Feb. 21 (2:30) see Feb. 19 (8:30)
- \* Feb. 21 (5:00) see Feb 19 (6:00)
- Feb. 22 (2:30) see Feb. 19 (2:30)
- \* Feb. 23 (2:30) see Feb 20 (6:00)
- Feb. 26 (2:30) LES TROIS DERNIERS HOMMES (THE LAST THREE MEN)  
Antoine Perset. 87 min.
- Feb. 26 (6:00) ANTHRACITE. Edouard Niermans. 90 min.
- Feb. 26 (8:30) EXTERIEUR NUIT (EXTERIOR NIGHT) Jacques Bral. 110 min.
- Feb. 27 (2:30) Program of 5 short films. 87 min.
- Feb. 28 (2:30) To Be Announced.
- Feb. 28 (5:00) see Feb 26 (8:30)
- March 1 (5:00) To Be Announced. (same as Feb. 28 at 2:30)
- March 2 (2:30) same as Feb 26 (2:30)
- March 2 (6:00) see Feb. 26 (6:00)

Program subject to change without notice.

\*Director will be present to introduce the film.