REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM

Although the French cinema has long been acknowledged as one of the world's most varied and accomplished, the number of pre-New Wave films available for viewing in this country is astonishingly small -- barely hinting at the scope and richness of France's film achievements. REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM will present a wide assortment of significant yet unfamiliar films, spanning sixty-five years from the earliest films made at the end of the nineteenth century to the advent of the New Wave in 1960.

REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM is a two-part retrospective of over 200 films. Part One, to be seen from November 5, 1981 through January 2, 1982, features 45 new prints, with English subtitles, furnished through the French Ministry of External Relations; these films date from 1930, the arrival of sound in France, to 1960. This program will serve as a prologue to the more extensive array of films in Part Two, commencing in April, 1982, which will comprise the silent period as well as the first three decades of the French sound film.

PART ONE's ambitious program will spotlight the lesser-known films of such major directors as Jean Renoir, Marcel Pagnol, Max Ophuls, Jean Cocteau, Marcel Carné and Abel Gance, while also calling attention to the remarkable work of many directors heretofore neglected in the United States, including Marcel L'Herbier, Jean Grémillon, Sacha Guitry, Jacques Becker and Yves Allégret.

Most of the films scheduled for Part One of REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM have long been unavailable for distribution in this country. These unusual works exemplify many qualities with which the French cinema has long been associated -- a sophistication of attitude and subject matter, stylish and subtle acting, and a brand of technical skill and inventiveness which have rarely been surpassed elsewhere.

The films to be shown during this program's first week sum up the diversity of this series -- these include such works as Marcel L'Herbier's glamorous yet strikingly timely LE BONHEUR (1935), featuring Charles Boyer;
Max Ophuls bittersweet recreation of the Austrian court before World War I, DE MAYERLING À SARAJEVO (1940), and Jean Grémillon's LE CIEL EST À VOUS (1944), which touchingly evokes the aspirations of a devoted married couple during the less troubled times which preceded the Occupation. Among the other notable films to be shown in November are Robert Bresson's second film, LES DAMES DU BOIS DE BOULOGNE (1945), Sacha Guitry's effervescent comic saga, LES PERLES DE LA COURONNE (1937), Marcel Pagnol's moving pastoral, ANGÈLE (1934), Jean-Pierre Melville's influential gangster film BOB LE FLAMBEUR (1956), and Jacques Becker's harshly naturalistic study of prison life, LE TROU (1960), shown for the first time in the United States in its uncut version. The rediscoveries will continue through the month of December.

For some, REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM will serve as the first exposure to the work of France's most accomplished directors, screenwriters, actors, cameramen and art directors; yet even to those already familiar with the acknowledged classics of the French screen, this series should provide a long-overdue new perspective on one of the greatest of all national cinemas.

REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM is made possible by a generous grant from Thomson CSF. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. The Department of Film acknowledges its gratitude to the French Ministry of External Relations, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the Centre Nationale de la Cinematographie, Unifrance Film and the French Film Office, for their aid and cooperation in organizing REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM Part One.

REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM is co-directed by Adrienne Mancia, Curator of Exhibitions, Department of Film, and Stephen Harvey, Coordinator of Special Film Projects.

Part One of the exhibition will travel to the American Film Institute, Washington, D.C.; the Pacific Film Archives, Berkeley; the Los Angeles County Museum and U.C.L.A.; The Museum of Fine Arts and Rice University Media Center, Houston; and the Art Institute of Chicago.

TWO SYMPOSIA: In order to provide audiences of REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM with further cultural and historical background of the period covered in this series, the Department of Film has scheduled two panel discussions:
Saturday, November 7 at 8:00 p.m.: FRENCH FILM DURING THE 1930's
Monday, November 9 at 8:30 p.m.: FRENCH FILM UNDER THE OCCUPATION
Noted film historians and directors from France, as well as distinguished film critics from this country, will participate in these symposia, to be moderated by Stephen Harvey of the Department of Film. Tickets will be on sale one week in advance at the Lobby Information Desk at MoMA. For further information on the symposia, the public may call 956-7284.

A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM PART I IS ENCLOSED.

Further information on PRESS SCREENINGS and Symposia will be forthcoming.

For further information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, 956-7289.
REDISCOVERING FRENCH FILM

Part I

November 5, 1981 - January 2, 1982

L'AIGLE A DEUX TETES. 1948. Jean Cocteau.
With Edwige Feuillère, Jean Marais, Jean
Debucourt. 95 minutes.

ANGELE. 1934. Marcel Pagnol. With Orane
Demazis, Fernandel. 150 minutes.

L'ASSASSINAT DU PERE NOEL. 1941. Christian-
Jaqué. With Harry Baur, Raymond Rouleau,
Renée Faure. 105 minutes.

With Jean Gabin, Charles Vanel, Viviane
Romance. 101 minutes.

With Roger Duchesne, Isabelle Corey.
95 minutes.

LE BONHEUR. 1935. Marcel L'Herbier. With
Charles Boyer, Gaby Morlay, Michel
Simon. 105 minutes.

CES MESSIEURS DE LA SANTE. 1933. Pierre
Colombier. With Raimu, Edwige Feuillère,
Lucien Baroux. 115 minutes.

With Maria Casarès, Gerard Philipe, Renée
Faure, Lucien Coëdel. 170 minutes.

LE CIEL EST A VOUS. 1944. Jean Grémillon.
With Madeleine Renaud, Charles Vanel.
105 minutes.

LES DAMES DU BOIS DE BOULOGNE. 1945. Robert
Bresson. With Maria Casarès, Paul Bernard.
90 minutes.

DE MAYERLING A SARAJEVO. 1940. Max Ophuls.
With Edwige Feuillère, John Lodge,
Gabrielle Dorziat. 90 minutes.

LES DISPARUS DE SAINT-AGIL. 1938. Christian-
Jaqué. With Erich von Stroheim, Michel
Simon. 99 minutes.

Friday, December 18 (6:00)
Sunday, December 27 (2:30)

Friday, November 13 (6:00)
Thursday, November 19 (2:30)

Saturday, December 19 (2:30)
Sunday, December 27 (5:00)

Thursday, December 17 (6:00)
Sunday, December 20 (2:30)

Friday, November 20 (6:00)
Monday, November 30 (2:30)

Saturday, November 7 (5:00)
Thursday, November 12 (2:30)

Sunday, December 6 (5:00)
Thursday, December 24 (2:30)

Tuesday, December 22 (2:30)
Monday, December 28 (6:00)

Monday, November 9 (6:00)
Tuesday, November 17 (2:30)

Thursday, November 19 (8:30)
Tuesday, December 1 (2:30)

Sunday, November 8 (2:30)
Friday, November 13 (2:30)

Thursday, November 5 (2:30)
Friday, November 6 (6:00)


LE GRAND JEU. 1933. Jacques Feyder. With Pierre-Richard Willm, Françoise Rosay, Marie Bell, Charles Vanel. 120 minutes.

GRIBOUILLE. 1937. Marc Allegret. With Raimu, Michèle Morgan. 95 minutes.


JULIETTE OU LA CLEF DES SONGES. 1951. Marcel Carné. With Gérard Philipe. 93 minutes.


LE MYSTERE DE LA CHAMBRE JAUNE. 1930.
Marcel L'Herbier. With Huguette Duflos Roland Toutain. 108 minutes.

NOUS LES GOSSES. 1941. Louis Daquin.
With Louise Carletti, Gilbert Gil. 95 minutes.

LA NUIT FANTASTIQUE. 1942. Marcel L'Herbier.
With Fernand Gravey, Micheline Presle. 103 minutes.

PARADIS PERDU. 1939. Abel Gance. With Fernand Gravey, Micheline Presle, Elvire Popesco. 95 minutes.

LES PARENTS TERRIBLES. 1948. Jean Cocteau.
With Jean Marais, Josette Day, Yvonne de Bray. Courtesy Macmillan Audio-Brandon. 105 minutes.

LE PARFUM DE LA DAME EN NOIR. 1931.
Marcel L'Herbier. With Huguette Duflos, Roland Toutain. 109 minutes.

With Suzy Delair, Paul Bernard, Fernand Ledoux. 92 minutes.

With Françoise Rosay, Paul Bernard, Arletty. 109 minutes.

LE PERE TRANQUILLE. 1946. René Clement.
With Noël-Noël. 95 minutes.


PRIX DE BEAUTE. 1930. Augusto Genina.
With Louise Brooks. 109 minutes.

QUATORZE JUILLET. 1932. René Clair.
With Annabella. 97 minutes.


TROIS VALSES. 1938. Ludwig Berger.
With Yvonne Printemps, Pierre Fresnay.
104 minutes.

With Michel Constantin, Philippe Leroy. 126 minutes.

UNE SI JOLIE PETITE PLAGE. 1949.
Yves Allégret. With Gérard Philipe, Madeleine Robinson, Jean Servais.
95 minutes.

With Maria Schell, Christian Marquand.
105 minutes.

LA VIE EST A NOUS. 1936. Jean Renoir.
With Julien Bertheau, Nadia Sibirskaia.
62 minutes.

85 minutes.

Saturday, November 21 (2:30)
Thursday, December 3 (2:30)
Monday, November 30 (6:00)
Friday, December 18 (2:30)
Friday, December 4 (6:00)
Sunday, December 13 (2:30)
Thursday, December 3 (6:00)
Saturday, December 5 (2:30)
Thursday, December 17 (8:30)
Sunday, December 20 (5:00)
Sunday, November 29 (5:00)
Monday, December 14 (2:30)

All films have English subtitles except where noted.