



May / June / July 2011

from *Small Change*
(*L'argent de poche*)



webster university
film series



This Quarter: *The Films of Nicholas Ray • Global Lens • John Sayles Book Signing • The Classic French Film Festival • The Return of The Celluloid Couch, and dozens of films you won't see elsewhere.*

ST. LOUIS' CINEMATIC
ALTERNATIVE SINCE 1979

The Classic French Film Festival

July 14 – 31

Presented by
Cinema St Louis

Special admission
\$10 general/
\$8 Cinema St. Louis
& Alliance Francaise
members



The Last Metro (Le dernier metro)

July 14 at 7:30 pm
(François Truffaut, 1980, France 131 min.) Gérard Depardieu and Catherine Deneuve star as members of a French theater company living under the German occupation during World War II. Against all odds—a Jewish theater manager in hiding, a leading man who's in the Resistance, increasingly restrictive Nazi oversight—the troupe believes the show must go on. Equal parts romance,

historical tragedy, and even comedy, *The Last Metro* (*Le dernier metro*) is Truffaut's ultimate tribute to art overcoming adversity.



Mississippi Mermaid (La sirène du Mississipi)

July 15 at 7:30pm
(François Truffaut, 1969, France 123 min.) Beauty is by no means rare on the lush, tropical Isle de Reunion. Yet when island resident and tobacco tycoon Louis Mahe (Jean Paul Belmondo) first meets Julie Rouselle (Catherine Deneuve), his mail-order fiancée, he's completely enraptured by her radiance. But it soon becomes clear that Julie is hiding a dark secret. And when she disappears without a trace, Louis vows to stop at nothing to find her, a resolution that lures him into a tangled web of relentless obsession, uncontrollable passion, and ultimately cold-blooded murder!



Small Change (L'argent de poche)

July 16 at 7:30pm
(François Truffaut, 1976, France, 104 min.) Filmed in Thiers in south-central France, each vignette of this episodic comedy/drama is seen from the point of view of a kid from two

weeks to 14 years old. There is no real plot, just little scenes flowing together dealing with personal joys and pains of the children in a small town. A few choice moments involve a double date at the movies, brothers who give a friend a haircut, and a toddler who falls from a window. Patrick (Georges Desmouceaux) discovers girls and helps care for his father, Sylvie (Sylvie Grizel) rebels against her parents, and Julien (Philippe Goldmann) comes from a painful home life. While mostly focusing on developing the personal perspectives of children, adults get some screen time to share their wisdom.



Soft Skin (La peau douce)

July 17 at 7:30pm
(François Truffaut, 1964, France, 113 min.) While traveling to Lisbon for a lecture, the famous middle-aged publisher and lecturer Pierre Lachenay (Jean Desailly) has a one night stand with the young Panair do Brasil stewardess Nicole (as Françoise Dorleac). They start a love affair traveling to Reims together, and Pierre hides from his unbalanced wife Franca Lachenay (Nelly Benedetti), trying to spare his daughter Sabine Lachenay (Sabine Haudepin) from a separation.



The Young Girls of Rochefort (Les demoiselles de Rochefort)

July 21 at 7:30pm
(Jacques Demy & Agnès Varda, 1967, France, 120 min.) Delphine and Solange (Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac) are two sisters living in Rochefort. Delphine is a dancing teacher and Solange composes and teaches the piano. Maxence (Jacques Perrin) is a poet and a painter. He is doing his military service. Simon owns a music shop, he left Paris once month ago to come back where he fell in love 10 years ago. They are looking for love, looking for each other, without being aware that their ideal partner is very close....



Donkey Skin (Peau d'âne)

July 22 at 7:30pm
(Jacques Demy, 1970, France, 90 min.) Jacques Demy's ode to the classic fairy tale by 17th Century author Charles Perrault (Cinderella) comes to life with breathtaking brilliance. Catherine Deneuve stars as a Princess whose father, the King (Jean Marais), seeks her hand in marriage after promising his dying wife to only wed a woman

more beautiful than she. Listening to her godmother, the Fairy of Lilacs (Delphine Seyrig), the frightened Princess flees to a neighboring farm and hides as a scullery maid, while wearing the skin of her father's prized donkey as a disguise. A visiting Prince passes by, and an unlikely romance is born.



The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Les parapluies de Cherbourg)

July 23 at 7:30pm
(Jacques Demy, 1964, France, 91 min.) Jacques Demy's haunting romantic musical is an enchanting, one-of-a-kind experience. It's basically a movie operetta, in which the characters sing all the dialogue to Michel Legrand's lovely score. The story spans five years (1957-1962) in the life of Geneviève (the ethereally beautiful Catherine Deneuve in the role that launched her to international stardom), the teenage daughter of a woman who owns a Cherbourg umbrella shop. After Geneviève's boyfriend Guy (Nino Castelnuovo) is drafted and sent off to Algeria, she discovers she's pregnant and complications ensue. With its dazzling candy-colored palette, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* looks sweet and dreamy.



The Cousins (Les cousins)

July 24 at 7:30pm
(Claude Chabrol, 1959, France, 112 min) The first of several films that would win international awards for New Wave director Claude Chabrol. Charles (Gerard Blain) is the cousin from the provinces with 'bourgeois' values. His steadfast determination unfortunately does not help him pass exams or, at first, succeed with women. Paul (Jean-Claude Brialy) is the urbane, rather debauched and decadent cousin who appears to conquer all. Appearances can be deceiving as they soon discover when Charles falls for Paul's friend Florence (Juliette Mayniel)—and tragedy waits in the wings.



Le sauvage (Call Me Savage)

July 28 at 7:30pm
(Jean-Paul Rappeneau, 1975, France, 103 min.) In this romantic adventure comedy from French writer/director Jean-Paul Rappeneau, Catherine Deneuve stars as Nelly, a young French bride who gets cold feet and flees the altar with her irate Italian groom Vittorio (Luigi Vannucchi) in hot pursuit. While she is on the run in Venezuela, Nelly carries with

her a priceless stolen painting and meets Martin (Yves Montand), a financially and personally troubled middle-aged French perfume maker who is fleeing both his marriage and his failing business. Together the unlikely pair form a bond upon finding themselves in need of each other's assistance.



Diary of a Country Priest (Journal d'un curé de campagne)

July 29 at 7:30pm
(Robert Bresson, 1951, France, 115 min.) A new priest (Claude Laydu) arrives in the French country village of Ambricourt to attend to his first parish. The apathetic and hostile rural congregation rejects him immediately. Through his diary entries, the suffering young man relays a crisis of faith that threatens to drive him away from the village and from God. With his fourth film, Robert Bresson began to implement his stylistic philosophy as a filmmaker, stripping away all inessential elements from his compositions, the dialogue and the music, exacting a purity of image and sound.



Every Man for Himself (Sauve qui peut (la vie))

July 30 at 7:30pm
(Jean-Luc Godard, 1980,

France, 87 min.) The 1980 film, which found JLG returning to cinema after working in video through the 70's, is a complicated exploration of relations. A work which Godard considered his "second first film," the film charts the intertwined lives of three characters: Paul Godard (Jacques Dutronc), a filmmaker whose marriage is on the rocks; his ex-girlfriend Denise Rimbaud (Nathalie Baye), who wants to escape to the country; and Isabelle Rivière (Isabelle Huppert), a prostitute who sells her body to lead a free life.



Story of Women (Une affaire de femmes)

July 31 at 7:30pm
(Claude Chabrol, 1988, France, 108 min.) From acclaimed director Chabrol comes this compelling true story of working-class housewife Marie (Isabelle Huppert), who performs illegal abortions in France during World War II, evading the Nazis, and betraying those she loves. Brought to life by Chabrol on actual locations, *The Story of Women* is an honest, original, and utterly absorbing film, which won Isabelle Huppert Best Actress at the 1988 Venice Film Festival.