

unifrancefilm

information

All Enquiries c/o:

FRENCH EMBASSY - QUEENSBERRY PLACE - SOUTH KENSINGTON - LONDON, S.W.7

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FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL—LONDON, 1953

Princess Margaret will be joining the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in the Royal party which is to attend a performance of Rene Clair's "Les Belles de Nuit" on the second night of the French Film Festival at the Rialto, London, on February 11th.

French actors and directors who will be definitely coming to London for the Festival are:

Actresses: Cecile Aubry ("Barbe-Bleue" "Manon")
Martine Carol ("Les Belles de Nuit" "Caroline Cherie")
Brigitte Fossey ("The Secret Game")
Maria Mauban ("La Table aux Creves")
Dany Robin ("Young Love")
Madeleine Robinson ("Le Garcon Sauvage")
Simone Simon ("La Ronde" "Olivia")
Magali Vendeuil ("Les Belles de Nuit")

Actors: Gerard Philipe ("Fanfan la Tulipe" "Les Belles de Nuit")
Jean Marais ("Orphee" "La Belle et la Bete")

Directors: Rene Clair ("Les Belles de Nuit")
Jean Delannoy ("La Minute de Verite")
Max Ophuls ("La Ronde")
Henri Verneuil ("La Table aux Creves")

French Film Officials:

M. Jacques Flaud	Director General of the National Centre of Cinematography.
M. Henri Durant	Inspector General to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
M. Georges Lourau	President of Unifrance Film.
M. Adrien Remauge	President of the National Confederation of the French Cinema.
M. Roger Weil-Lorac	Delegate General of the National Federation of the French Cinema.
M. Jean-Pierre Frogerais	President of the French Syndicate of Film Producers.
M. Adolphe Trichet	President of the National Federation of French Cinemas.
M. Robert Cravenne	Delegate General of Unifrance Film.

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FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL—LONDON, 1953

January 16, 1953

When Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend the French Film Festival on the night of February 11th, it will be for a special Gala performance of "Les Belles de Nuit", the René Clair fantasy starring Martine Carol and Gérard Philipe.

The director and stars of the film will be among the special invited audience at the Rialto Cinema that night, together with many other personalities who are coming to London especially for the occasion, including:

Cecile Aubry (star of "Barbe Bleue")

Jean Delannoy, (Director of "La Minute de Vérité" (The Moment of Truth"))

Henri Verneuil, (director of "La Table Aux Crevés")

Genevieve Page, (who appears in Fanfan-la-Tulipe")

Maria Mauban (one of the stars of "La Table Aux Crevés")

Magali Vendeuil (one of the stars of "Les Belles de Nuit")

Six films have now definitely been chosen for presentation during the Festival. They are:

Les Belles de Nuit (Night Beauties)
Fanfan-la-Tulipe
Don Camillo
La Table Aux Crevés
La Minute de Vérité (The Moment of Truth)
Barbe Bleue

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FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL—LONDON, 1953

26th January 1953

For your guidance in connection
with the French Film Festival,
London, February 10th - 16th.

Some Facts About The French Film Industry

Number of films produced in 1952: 114 (little change from pre-war). Roughly the same number is projected for 1953, with the addition of several co-productions (i.e. films made in association with producers in Italy, Germany, etc).

Recent colour films made in France include "Barbe Bleue," "Agonie des Aigles," "Violettes Imperiales," "Le Carrossi d'Or," "Caprice de Caroline," "La Caraque Blonde" and "Lucrece Borgia." Only the last-named was in the Technicolor process, a camera being imported into France for the purpose. The French laboratories are equipped for all the colour processes with the exception, of Technicolor and a special factory is shortly going to be established by Kodak for the direct application of the Eastman-colour process.

Production Costs: A small-budget French film in black-and-white costs around £40-50,000. A very high budget film would cost around £150,000.

French artists who have starred in Hollywood films include:

Annabella	Leslie Caron
Michele Morgan	Corinne Calvet
Simone Simon	Georges Guetary
Micheline Presle	Claude Dauphin
Jean-Pierre Aumont	Suzanne Cloutier
Danielle Darrieux	

Of the 332 films exhibited in France during the year 1951-52, 197 were American (a little over half of these in dubbed versions), 103 were French and 32 were British.

Annual receipts to French producers from the showing of French films abroad are in the order of £1,300,000.

cont'....

In Britain, French films are experiencing a boom at the box-office. The number of French films shows in London has risen from 46 in 1948 to 60 in 1949, 69 in 1950, 104 in 1951, and 137 in 1952. Last year there were 115 cinemas in London including French films in their programmes. In 1948 the figure was only 19. And look what has happened in the provinces. In 1950, 56 French films were shown outside of London in towns where French films had never been seen before. Last year the number rose to 110. And the number of cinemas showing French films in the Provinces has grown from 68 in 1950 to 376 in 1952.

Schedule of films to be shown at the Rialto during the French Film Festival, February 10-16, 1953

Tuesday, February	10,	Fanfan la Tulipe
Wednesday, "	11,	Les Belles De Nuit (private showing to be attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh)
Thursday "	12,	Les Belles De Nuit (Night Beauties)
Friday "	13,	Barbe Bleue
Saturday "	14,	La Table Aux Crevés (The Village Feud)
Sunday "	15,	La Minute de Vérité (The Moment of Truth)
Monday "	16,	The Little World of Don Camillo

The Festival is presented by UNIFRANCE FILM

Unifrance Film, with headquarters in Paris is a national organization appointed under the provisions of the French Cinematographic Act of 1948 to further the interest of the French film industry abroad. The Board includes representatives of the Ministers in charge of information, Commerce and Industry and the French Foreign Office, the Centre National de la Cinematographie. The Industry itself is represented by the Film Producer's Association, Film Exporters, and the Union of Technicians, Players etc.

All Press inquires to
Mullally & Warner, Reg. 2051-2

For the festival

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Brigitte Fossey has been recruited for the French Film Festival in London next month. She appeared in a recent film and is now to present the Queen with a bouquet at a special festival film performance.

The French are going all out to make the festival a success. Part of the programme is a temporary export of as many lovely stars as they can find.

The reason is that last year the Italians held a film festival in London. Not the least part of its attractions was the presence of three beautiful girls.

And the French are determined that what the Italians can do they can do better.

D. Express.

26/1/53.

FIRST FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

in
London

February 10-16, 1953

Rialto Cinema, W. 1

Presented by

UNIFRANCE FILM

Fanfan la Tulipe Directed by Christian-Jaque, Starring
Gérard Philipe and Gina Lollobrigida

A high-spirited young lover of life and women, living in the days of Louis XV, is duped by a recruiting sergeant and his seductive daughter into joining the army in the belief that he is destined for a glorious military career and a royal marriage. Realising he has been deceived, he sets out to challenge fate and make the "prophesies" come true. After a series of thrilling escapes from death in battles of war and love, the intrepid little soldier achieves legendary fame and lasting happiness with the woman chosen for him by destiny.

London Films Ltd.

Les Belles De Nuit (Night Beauties) Directed by René Clair
Starring Gérard Philipe, Martine Carol,
Gina Lollobrigida and Magali Vendeuil.

Claude, a struggling young composer beset by popular delusions of "the good old days," is the central figure of this René Clair fantasy-satire. In a series of dream sequences, Claude escapes from the monotony of his real life into the thrilling and romantic past. But as these dreams begin to assume reality for Claude they also develop the quality of nightmares. His struggle to escape the "good old days" is finally rewarded and he returns with delight, and a new appreciation of values, to his "commonplace" friends and the pleasant - even thrilling - world of reality.

International Film Dist.

Barbe Bleue Directed by Christian-Jaque, Starring Cécile Aubry
and Pierre Brasseur
In Colour

"Bluebeard", the terrible Count Amédée of Salfère, has "buried" his sixth wife and now searches for a seventh. Aline, inquisitive and audacious daughter of the village innkeeper contrives, by a ruse, to win favour with the Count and, on her wedding night, steals the key of the forbidden tower in his castle. She discovers the secret of Bluebeard's six wives and, in the nick of time, is saved from a fate worse than marriage by the gallant blacksmith, Giglio, and the Ambassador of the Emperor. "Bluebeard" is banished, and the wives released, and Aline and Giglio live happily ever after.

Douglas Fairbanks Ltd.

La Table Aux Crevés Directed by Henri Verneuil, Starring Fernandel

Urbain Coindet, a farmer in a typical Provençal village where half the inhabitants go to church and the other half are Republicans, and don't, is suspected of having caused Frederic's arrest for tobacco smuggling. Jeanne, Frederic's sister, is in love with Coindet whose wife recently hanged herself. Aided by the villagers, Coindet and Frederic - (now released from prison) wage a private war. When they both wound, by accident, the real culprit, all ends well in this story of alternating comedy, drama and sentiment in the sun-drenched Midi of France.

Films de France

La Minute de Vérité (The Moment of Truth) Directed by Jean Delannoy
Starring Michele Morgan, Jean Gabin, Daniel Gelin

A doctor and his actress wife find suddenly, after ten years of assumed happiness in marriage, that they have in fact reached a "turning point". The wife's infidelity and the husband's own defaults have brought a crisis in their lives which will be solved either by separation or by a fresh start. Before they decide the right course, they must go back over their lives and try to compile a balance-sheet. We go back with them, retracing the years which have led them to this "moment of truth", probing into their marriage from two approaches, from the approach of the police inquiring into the suicide of the wife's lover and from the approach of the writer of a love story.

International Film Dist.

Don Camillo Directed by Julien Duvivier,
Starring, Fernandel and Gino Cervi

The village - the little world of Don Camillo - is somewhere in Italy between the river and the mountain. The sun beats down fiercely and excites men's passions, but its brilliant light lends even the sharpest conflicts a trace of gentleness and more than a trace of comedy. Don Camillo, the Parish priest, and his deadly rival, the Communist Mayor Peppone, fight their bitter battles - though each is profoundly conscious of the other's fundamental honesty. In short, this is the comforting and amusing story of two strong and generous-hearted enemies who manage finally to compromise and agree on essentials.

London Films Ltd.

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Press representatives for the French Film Festival
Mullally and Warner, 1-11 Hay Hill, London, W. 1 Regent 2051/2

The Queen & Duke To See French Film

"Star" Reporter

THE QUEEN and the Duke of Edinburgh are to see Rene Clair's "Les Belles de Nuit" at the Rialto Cinema, Coventry-street, on February 11, as the guests of the French Ambassador M. Massigli.

The film is one of a series being shown at the cinema for the first Festival of French films in London.

Star of the film is Martine Carol, 29, whose roles in 15 films have earned her the title "Most Beautiful Wicked Lady in France." She is coming to London and hopes to meet the Queen and the Duke.



Martine Carol

The Queen and the Duke will see the film at a private performance.

It was shown at the Venice Festival and is about a young composer distracted by the noise of the machine age who decides to escape in his dreams to a more romantic sphere.

Italian beauty Gina Lollobrigida is also in the film

Star
16/1/53.

MR. STAGG

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GLITTER-NIGHT IN LONDON

Thanks for the Pretty Flowers, Said the Queen

by PETER WILDEBLOOD

OUTSIDE the Rialto Cinema in London the snowflakes fluttered last night and the lamplight shone on wet pavements. Inside all was warmth and Gallic gaiety.

Mme. Massigli, wife of the French Ambassador, stood in the foyer—a symbolic figure of elegance, in black taffeta embroidered with gold coins, a black stole shrugged over her shoulders.

Beside her was five-year-old Mlle. Brigitte Fosse, self-possessed, but chilly in embroidered organdie and knee-length white stockings—a film star, but definitely a French one, with a typically “realistic” gap in her front teeth.

At nine o'clock the Queen arrived, wearing a magnificent gown of champagne-coloured lace embroidered with gold, and a necklace of diamonds and rubies.

She forgot speech

BRIGITTE, in response to loud cries from her *maman* of “Take off your coat,” did so, and presented a simple bouquet of pink and blue flowers with a low curtsy. In her excitement she forgot the three-word speech she had been practising all day (fortified by a lunch-time glass of watered red wine)—“How are you?”

But the Queen, smiling, stooped down and said to her, in French: “Thank you, little one, for the pretty flowers.”

Before seeing the film chosen for last night's gala performance, *Les Belles de Nuit*, the Queen was presented to 11 French film stars—many of whose faces were familiar to her from private showings of their films at Balmoral and Windsor.

Velvet and taffeta

AMONG the belles of last night were Miss Yvonne de Carlo, who wore a green velvet cloak with a huge taffeta bow, and was escorted by the Earl of Lanesborough, and Mlle. Simone Simon, in shimmered grey tulle with an oyster-coloured stole.

Miss Ann Todd was in grey satin, with a bodice covered with brilliants; Mlle. Martine Carol, star of the film, had a coil of rhinestone over each ear; and Miss Helen Cherry wore a striking, draped black velvet gown with a stole striped in lavender and yellow.

In the Queen's party were the Duke of Edinburgh, Lady Palmer, her Lady-in-Waiting, who wore a magnificent necklace of drop pearls and garnets, and Viscount Althorpe.

The audience inside the tiny white and gold cinema was full of great names and beautiful women—Ambassadors, film stars, peers, and actresses. But, unlike many such functions, it had a genuine air of excitement and enjoyment about it.

The difference was typified by the fact that little Brigitte, instead of being whisked back to her hotel after making her curtsy, was taken in by her *maman* to see the film—a very grown-up film indeed.



A shoulder revealed; a shoulder concealed. . . .
Danielle Godet, French actress, arrives for the première
in shimmering satin, long white gloves.

D. Mail
12/2/53