

STUDIOCANAL

JACQUES BECKER titles:

EDWARD AND CAROLINE (UK premiere)

CASQUE D'OR

TOUCHEZ PAS AU GRISBI

And a new 4k restoration of

LE TROU

All available to buy on DVD/Blu-ray/EST - 14th August 2017



Following on from the Jacques Becker season at the BFI (March 2017), **Studiocanal** celebrates one of the great unsung heroes of French cinema with the release of four classic **JACQUES BECKER** titles on DVD and Blu-ray: **CASQUE D'OR**, **TOUCHEZ PAS AU GRISBI**, the UK premiere of **EDWARD AND CAROLINE** and his final masterpiece **LE TROU**, in a pristine new 4k restoration. Each title will feature brand new extras and be released on DVD/Blu-ray and EST from **14th August 2017**.

A director of rare passion and invention **Jacques Becker** made only thirteen feature films in a relatively short period of time but his body of work contains some of the acknowledged masterpieces of French cinema in the post-war period.

Born in Paris in 1906, he began his career as principal assistant to the great Jean Renoir during the 1930s. After surviving a year in a German POW camp in 1942, he started to direct his own films during the Occupation. His mentor's fondness for realism and an unwavering sense of human decency greatly imbued his work.

His films were eclectic and he tackled a variety of different genres putting his own unique spin on comedy, film noir and social drama. A creator of unmatched, intense atmospheres, Becker practiced impressionism and realism equally, paying as much attention to the historical periods of his tales as he did to the psychology of his characters. Sadly, full appreciation of his work came after his death, and it was his technical and artistic mastery that soon earned him the 'auteur' accolade and particularly garnered the admiration of the Nouvelle Vague and its exponents such as Jean-Luc Godard, Francois Truffaut, Claude Chabrol and Eric Rohmer.

The films of Jacques Becker are currently enjoying a long overdue renaissance with screenings at the Bologna and San Sebastian Film Festivals last year and a retrospective at the Cinémathèque Française in April 2017.

EDWARD AND CAROLINE (France, 1950)

Becker's offbeat comedy about a failing marriage stars Daniel Gélin as Edward, a poor pianist married to Caroline (Anne Vernon), a beautiful girl from a middle-class family. Caroline's uncle Claude (Jean Galland), a complete snob who looks down on Edward like the rest of his family, invites the couple to a party at which he is expected to play for his supper in front of Claude's important friends. Add the fact that Claude's son Alain (Jacques Francois) is in love with Caroline and this evening is destined for disaster.

Extras: Interview with **Ginette Vincendau**; Edouard Et Caroline on *Au Cinema Ce Soir* (1974); Jacques Becker on *Le Jazz Et La Jeunesse* (1955)

Ginette Vincendeau is a Professor in Film Studies at King's College London and a regular contributor to Sight and Sound. She has written widely on French cinema, in particular on stars and popular genres.

CASQUE D'OR (France, 1952)

Casque D'Or is a poetic tale of doomed romance, based on the true-life Leca-Manda scandal. Fresh out of prison Manda (Serge Reggiani) intends to keep his head down and go straight, but then inadvisably falls for Maria (Simone Signoret), gang member Roland's moll. After Roland is accidentally killed in a fight, Manda's treacherous best friend and gang leader Lece (Claude Dauphin) tips off the police to ensure Manda's removal from the picture so that he can have Maria to himself. However Manda escapes custody, and events head to an inevitable showdown... Moodily evocative of its Belle Epoque setting, *Casque D'Or* is a dramatic and richly visual love story that won Signoret the BAFTA for Best Foreign Actress and is rightly recognized today as a classic.

Extras: Interview with **Ginette Vincendau**; "*Casque d'Or: Au Coeur des sentiments*" featurette; Simone Signoret on *Le Dernier Des Cinq* (1973)

TOUCHEZ PAS AU GRISBI (France/Italy, 1954)

Touchez Pas Au Grisbi is a haunting, witty and masterful film about honour and ageing, starring Jean Gabin. Max (Gabin) and Riton (René Dary) are two ageing gangsters who

manage to pull off their final heist, a spectacular gold bullion robbery at Orly airport. All is well until Max's former girlfriend Josy (Jeanne Moreau) tips off a rival gangster, Angelo (Lino Ventura). The latter kidnaps Riton and threatens to kill him unless Max hands over the spoils from his robbery...

Helping to birth the French policier, *Touchez Pas au Grisbi* exerted a huge influence on subsequent directors such as Jean-Pierre Melville, not least in its spectacularly staged robbery and conniving female protagonist. Impeccably performed, director Becker brings characteristic artistry and flair to the proceedings.

Extras: New interview with Ginette Vincendau; New interview with Jean Becker; Jeanne Moreau on *Gros Plan* (1957)

LE TROU (France/Italy, 1960)

Becker's outstanding parting gift to cinema was this gripping tale of a prison escape, based on the novel by former convict Jose Giovanni. *Le Trou* tells the true story of a group of inmates' escape from La Santé prison in Paris and features several non-actors including Jean Gerady, who actually took part in a similar escape attempt in real life. Becker made this film whilst he was dying - the inmates' quiet determinism perhaps reflecting the filmmaker's stoicism in finishing the film. As a result *Le Trou* is a taut, lean drama; minimal use of dialogue and music along with the stunning black and white photography make for an intensely emotional filmic experience that was nominated for awards at both the BAFTAs and the Cannes Film Festival upon its release.

Extras: Interview with Ginette Vincendau; Interview with Jean Becker; Interview with Philippe Leroy; *L'Envers du décors* behind-the-scenes featurette; Original trailer

About STUDIOCANAL

STUDIOCANAL is a subsidiary of the CANAL+ Group. It is one of Europe's leading companies in the market for co-production, acquisition, distribution and sale of international feature films. STUDIOCANAL is the only studio operating simultaneously in the three main European territories: France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Australia and New Zealand. The company distributes a total of more than 50 films a year. Additionally, STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important libraries in the world, with more than 5,000 international titles.

For further press information about THE JACQUES BECKER COLLECTION please contact Emfoundation

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