

Scott Langley

# 'Mother and Whore' skillful

Though largely ignored by students and faculty here, the Alternative Cinema has built a national reputation among film distributors.

An article written by Vincent Canby in the *New York Times* was passed through all levels in Films, Incorporated. This same article has prompted Daniel Talbot of *New Yorker* films to offer the Alternative Cinema the American campus premiere and the second booking in the nation of *The Mother and the Whore*. Other films (*Playtime*, *Visions of Eight*, *Such A Gorgeous Kid Like Me*) have had their American campus premieres here, and some (*Belated Flowers*, *If I Had a Gun*) have had their second booking in the nation, but this is the first time such an important movie has been shown on campus so soon after its initial release.

Fortunately, the film does not need to be an event to be important. It is a titanic masterpiece on its own account. Recipient of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival,

this film centers around three people who might be called, in cinematic terms, part of the post new-wave generation.

"In the sixties there was Maoism, there were riots and demonstrations... now there's nothing," one of the characters says. Separated from any sort of meaning, they fill their time with perverse conversations and sexual fun and games. The conversations are bright and interesting. "Like all imitations don't drag around their myths with them." One person plans to cut off his hand and exhibit it as "My hand: 1940-1972."

The picture centers around the sexual fun and games. And here director-writer Jean Eustache shows a perception that is truly extraordinary. Alexandre, played by Jean-Pierre Leaud (*Day for Night*, *400 Blows*), is the main character, a charming but totally selfish individual. He has many outbursts of emotion which at first seem touching and sincere, but after a while it becomes obvious that he is playacting, drawing on the movies

about which he is a fanatic and carefully calculating for affect. He lives with Marie, played by Bernadette Lafont. Marie is by turns the nagging bitch and the complacent bed partner, and it is difficult to tell when she is acting. The third character is Veronika, Alexandre's pick-up, who comes to live with him and Marie. She is a very self-consciously liberated and makes frank declarations of her sexual desires. Late in the picture, she has a startling monologue in which she spits out her hatred of sex without love, and sex whose purpose is not to conceive a child. Even though Francoise Lebrun does not give this speech as much force as it deserves, it is one of the most memorable moments on film.

By putting these people together, Eustache achieves what must be the definitive statements on certain aspects of sex and love in modern life. Example: Alexandre says to a former mistress, "I don't want to let go of the pain. In fact, I cling to it. For when the pain leaves, I will have lost you completely. We will no longer be a part of

each other."

The writing throughout is magnificent. During certain speeches delivered by Leaud, I had the feeling that this is surely the greatest script ever written. As it is, I cannot imagine any script this year or perhaps next year surpassing it.

The acting is mostly worthy of the script. Leaud, known mostly for his charm, proves that he can really act. He gives a truly great performance that manages to give meaning to every line, quite an accomplishment since his may be the longest film role ever written. Bernadette Lafont etches perfectly the shallow Marie, and if Francoise Lebrun doesn't rise to the level of her co-stars, she is generally adequate.

This is a three-and-a-half hour film that manages to rise to the same height of dramatic revelation that one might ascribe to an O'Neill play. Ads always say that if you see only one movie this year, you must see so-and-so. Here it's true. I cannot imagine that anyone would not find something here that reaches quite deeply into his life.

*The Mother and the Whore* will be shown at 5:30 and 9:30, Wednesday and Thursday, in Murphy Hall, and at 5:30 and 9:30, Friday and Saturday, in Carroll Hall. A matinee at 1:30 Saturday in Carroll Hall is also scheduled. Because of the enormous guarantee involved, the admission price will be \$2.

## Taster's Choice

### Cinema

"The Sting." Carolina Theatre. Con comedy is itself a con with some pretty moldy material being turned into excellent entertainment by some talented hands. 1:50, 4:10, 6:30 and 8:50. \$2. Ends Thursday.

American Film Theatre: "Rhinoceros." Varsity Theatre. 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets, \$2.50 for the matinee, \$5 for the evening showing. Today and Tuesday only.

"Dirty O'Neal." Plaza I. Love life of a cop. Could you possibly be interested? 3, 5, 7 and 9. \$2. Ends Thursday.

"Conrack." Plaza II. Martin Ritt's tale of a teacher and poverty stricken students has many touching and beautiful moments but is, as a whole, a self-congratulatory collection of embarrassing and syrupy old-fashioned liberal sentiments. 3, 5:05, 7:10 and 9:15. \$2. Ends Thursday.

"The Exorcist." Plaza III. 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:30. \$3.

Free flicks: Friday, "Spellbound." Vintage Hitchcock film of a doctor with amnesia and his quest to discover his own identity. Dream sequence designed by Salvador Dali. 9 p.m. showing only in Memorial Hall. Saturday, "Frenzy." Hitchcock's most recent film follows a series of necktie murders in London. Sunday, "L'Atalante." Story of a newlywed couple aboard an ocean liner. An all-time great. 6:30 & 9 in the Great Hall.

Alternative Cinema: "The Mother and the Whore." A titanic masterpiece that strips bare three people as they discuss their lives, sexual and otherwise. Today and Thursday at 5:30 and 9:30 in Murphy Hall. Friday at 5:30 & 9:30, Saturday at 1:30, 5:30 & 9:30 in Carroll Hall. \$1.50.

Chaplin Series: "The Great Dictator." Chaplin's satire of Hitler. Not his best film, but

definitely a comedy classic. 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30. Sunday in Carroll Hall. \$1.

Chapel Hill Film Friends: "Mother." (U.S.S.R. 1926) Pudovkin's adaptation of a revolutionary novel by Maxim Gorki. Friday at 9:30, Saturday at 11:30 p.m. in 101 Greenlaw. "A History of the Cartoon." 19 mind blowing cartoons from 1902 to 1961. 7 & 9:30. Thursday through Saturday in Hamilton Hall. \$1.

### Theatre

"The Tempest." An abridged version presented for high school students by the Carolina Playmakers. 1:30 p.m. Today in the Playmaker's theatre. Tickets available in the Playmakers Box Office. \$1.50. Public is invited.

"Sticks and Bones." Controversial play by David Rabe presents domestic comedy in new light. Presented by the Carolina Playmakers. April 16-21 at 8 p.m. in the Graham Memorial Lounge. Tickets for season ticket holders available now at the Playmakers business office or at Ledbetter-Pickard in Chapel Hill. General ticket sales begin Thursday.

### Concerts

The Carpenters. Monday, April 15 at Reynolds Coliseum, Raleigh. Tickets, \$4, \$5 and \$6 in advance; \$5, \$6 and \$7 at door. Available at Record Bars in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Greenville, Rocky Mount and Reynolds Coliseum box office.

John Denver. Saturday, April 27 at the Dorton Arena, Raleigh. 8 p.m. Tickets, \$4, \$5 and \$6, available at Record Bars in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

## "Big Receivership Sale"

Everything Goes Except Real Estate  
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456 West Franklin St. Chapel Hill, N.C.

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At Premises Above-Rain or Shine

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Starting 10:30 a.m.

Sale Starts with sale of 1972 Ford Econoline Van-low mileage and in A-1 condition. All the remaining stock of over 6,000 phonograph albums; 4,000-45 rpm phonograph records; 2700 plus 8 track and cassette tape recordings; 31 assorted pieces of stereophonic equipment; and assorted stereophonic and tape accessories. All furniture and fixtures suitable for most types of other businesses; 3 natl-cash registers; variety of office equipment and furnishings; and numerous record and tape display fixtures which are suitable for other uses also.

We are cataloguing the sale now and there will be many more items and a complete list of all items in this receivership sale will be available on or before the day and date of the auction.

Terms of Sale: cash or check day of auction

Buyers in sale will have reasonable time to remove their purchases in the sale.

William V. McPherson, Jr., Attorney and Receiver of the Record and Tape Center of Dur., Inc.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN USED TO DO HIS HOMEWORK ON THE BACK OF A COAL SHOVEL.

ONE DAY, HIS DAD SAID TO HIM, "SORRY, SON, I HAVE TO USE THE SHOVEL," AND WIPED OUT POOR AB'S ENGLISH REPORT!

WELL, IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED!!

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**DOONESBURY**

WELL, WELL - OUT FOR YOUR MORNING STREAK, I SEE...

YUP, I HIT THE LOWER MEADOWS THIS MORNING. PUT UP A COUPLE COVEYS OF QUAIL!

YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY GETTING NICE AND WARM OUT - PERFECT WEATHER FOR US JOGGING BUFFS!

I GOTTA SAY, THIS STREAKING BUSINESS IS TERRIFIC! I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL TO THE PRESS FOR HAVING DISCOVERED IT - I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH GOOD THINGS ABOUT IT!

BUT YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS.

YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS CALLED!