4 The Daily Tar Heel Toesday, February 3 1981

Godard returns to mainstream of filmmaking

B₁ TOM MOORE Arts Editor

Jean-Luc Godard, the most critically esteemed and least commercially successful director of the French New Wave, returns to mainstream filmmaking after an cight-year hiatus with Every Man for Himself, a demanding film essay about love, work, the media and a host of other subjects.

Every Man for Himself, which Godard calls "my second first film," is about three characters in a nameless Swiss town whose empty lives are loosely intertwined.

Paul Godard, played by Jacques Dutronc and named after Jean-Luc Godard's father, is a TV director whose life is at loose ends. Nathalie Baye plays Denise, Godard's girlfriend, who is about to leave him. Isabelle, played by Isabelle Hubert, is a prostitute who has a rendezvous with Paul and wants to rent Denise's apartment.

Godard, in his shifts between the three characters, explores the boredom and monotony of modern life, His three main characters all feel trapped and unfulfilled by their lives. Each character is searching for some pleasure, some meaning in this Godardian world of absurdity. Yet, there is none to be had.

The love affair between Paul and Denise is frustratingly empty because they are afraid to connect. As Paul says, "We can't seem to touch without bruising." Isabelle's life is monotonous - the metaphor of work as prostitution is one of Godard's favorites; he used it before in Vivre Sa Vie and Two or Three Things I Know About Her. For Isabella, going through the rigors of sex is mechanized. There are no feelings of love or excitement.

What Godard seems to be saying about the modern world is a bit obvious - anyone who has not felt the meaninglessness of our world at some time must have been raised in Disneyland. His message, if you haven't seen the film, may seem too depressing. It's not really.

Though the film is somewhat bleak it is at least tempered by Godard's wit. There are scenes where events are carried to the point of comic absurdity as

'Locally," "The State " and "At Large" every Friday on the The Daily Tar Heel editorial page.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION?

ernment agencies.

when Isabelle and another prostitute solicit two businessmen for a rather perverse act. Godard's characters say "What's that music?" when they hear the background, music on the soundtrack, which adds another touch of levity to the film. Godard constantly, questions, as he has always done in the past, the nature of cinema. In Every Man for Himself a number of visual techniques, most notably slow motion, are used to demonstrate his questions.

Since Peckinpah used slowed-down action in The Wild Bunch this technique has become a bit of a cinematic cliche, often misused by directors. With Godard, the technique becomes fresh again (though I'm sure others will poorly imitate what he's done with it). The action speeds up and slows down. Sometimes a frame is held for a few seconds, a beautiful technique that emphasizes the grain and colors in the picture.

Godard's credit on Every Man for Himself reads "A Film Composed By Jean-Luc Godard" and justly so. His work here is more than mere direction; it is an orchestration of image, sound, humor and insight not to be missed by anyone who takes film seriously.



Campus Calendar Public service announcements must be turned in at the box outside the DTH offices in the Caroline Union

by 1 p m, if they are to run the next day. Each item will be run at least twice

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Come to the general meeting of the Association for Numen Mudents at 7 p.m. in 107 Greenlaw. Dr. Hurold C. Deutch will deliver a lecture m the Snell

Lecture Series, department of history, at 7:30 in Gerrard Hall. Has title is: "The Historian and the Living Witness: Dealing with the Leaders of I wo World Wars," Campus V pollack supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Campus Y

will meet in anticipation of opcoming livee elections anyone who has participated in a Y event may run. Sign up at the Y.

The Crew Club Meeting for today is cancelled. The Campus Governing Council is meeting at 7 p.m. in Hancs 107. Please he prompt. The Chapel Thrill hudget will he discussed. All are invited to attend

There will be a Carolina Indian Circle meeting at the YMCA building. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend.

ECOS, the campus environmental group, will have a meeting at 7:30 in 204 of the Union. All are invited.

Interested in marriage? Phil Laughling will be speaking on the subject at 7 p.m. at the Campus Christian Fellowship House.

The Pre-Professional Health Nociety will meet in 107. Berryhill Hall at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in a health field is welcome to attend.

CHEC - Informal and anonymous small group disc



Come to a meeting of the UNC Salling Club Wednesday at 7 p.m. maxim. and 1 hur and swear shurts have come in. Pick up your copy of Lebruary-s farlieel Tradewinds Everyone is invited.

The UNC Ski Club will have a ski tuning clinic ... discuss plans for Spring Break trip, as well as other trips. Everyone is invited. Come to 221 Greenlaw at 7:30 Wednesday.

There will be a brief mandatory meeting for everyone helping out with Nocturnal Sensation Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Activities Office. Contact Jennifer if you cannot altend. Dr. Peter Curtese, director of the office of Comprehensive School Health, U.S. Department of Education, will speak at noon in Rosenthal Hall on "Impact of New Politics and Conservation in Washington on School Health Education." Meet at the Department of Health in room 331.

Morting for all past staff of The Alchemist and any persons interested in working on UNC's science publica For more information call 929-1735. Room 225 Greenlaw. The Astronomy Club and the Space Advocacy Organization will meet together at 6:45 Thursday in Phillips 247. Our program is a lecture on the history of rockets. All are

welcome.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Order of the Golden Florer is accepting nominations for selection until Feb. 20. Nomination forms are available at the Carolins Union desk. Please return completed forms to Box 10 of the Union soon.

Feb. 13. Cost is only \$45 for two nights and ski equipment. Applications are at the Hillel House. Call 942-4057 for more

dinner for two at Jordan's. The deadline for application is

Friday's 2.5-inch snowfall contributed to 29 car accidents Friday and Saturday, resulting in estimated total damages of more than \$18,000, according to Chapel Hill police reports. No serious injuries.

