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THE ACADEMY CINEMA

presents
DROLE DE DRAME (A)

DROLE DE DRAME, adapted from an English novel by J. Storer Clouston, is the film that initiated the long and brilliant partnership between Marcel Carné and Jacques Prévert. To this partnership — which produced such films as *LE JOUR SE LEVE*, *LE QUAI DES BRUMES* and *LES ENFANT DU PARADIS* — are owed some of the finest achievements of the French cinema. DROLE DE DRAME, however, was their first and, regrettably, their only comedy; it demonstrates the subtlety and satiric wit which Carné and Prévert could command when they used their remarkable imaginative talents for comedy instead of tragedy.

The result is a film which stands in a class of its own, though it may broadly be fitted into the tradition of farcical and satirical wit to which the French cinema has made such outstanding contributions. Prévert's early *L'AFFAIRE EST DANS LE SAC*, René Clair's *THE ITALIAN STRAW HAT* and Jean Vigo's *ZERO DE CONDUITE* may be named as examples.

In DROLE DE DRAME Marcel Carné had the advantage of being able to assemble for his film a cast which is probably unique in the history of the French film: the main parts are played by Francoise Rosay, Jean-Louis Barrault, Jean-Pierre Aumont, Louis

Jouvet and Michel Simon. Special mention must also be made of Alcover, who gives a superb burlesque of all heavy-footed Scotland Yard inspectors who have ever pushed their way through the pages of detective fiction. There is no need for further comment on the quality of this cast, which represents the cream of the acting talent available to the French screen.

DROLE DE DRAME has not been publicly shown until now in this country. Owing to its sophisticated and satirical brand of humour, it was regarded at the time of its première as rather a highbrow production. Its technique, too, was far in advance of its time, and the film quickly acquired the status of a screen classic among film-lovers all over the world. Now, however, that time and the taste of audiences have caught up with DROLE DE DRAME, it may be expected that a wide and appreciative public will enjoy this perennially fresh and exciting masterpiece of the comic screen. The fact that the scene is laid in London, and is peopled with such pillars of English life as an Express Dairy milkman, a bishop of the Church of England and a Scotland Yard inspector, will add an extra piquancy to the occasion, and one that only English audiences are fully able to savour.

The programme will include John Desmond Sheridan's *W. B. YEATS — A TRIBUTE*, which deals with the life and achievement of this great Irish poet. This film was first booked by Film Traders to the Polytechnic Cinema, but was removed from their programme after only one day's showing because of noisy interruptions by rowdy elements in their audience. It is hoped that the Academy Cinema may prove a more suitable home for a tribute to a man who was beyond doubt one of the greatest poets of modern times.

Also included in the programme is a colour cartoon *L'EPOUVANTAIL* (The Scarecrow) by Paul Grimault, whose *LE PETIT SOLDAT* received such favourable notices when it was shown in the last Academy programme.

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(To be continued.)

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, April 27th, 1951. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscription: Swiss Club, Dunfermline, G. Groatz, E. Luterbacher, E. Oggier, E. Belart, Mrs. S. Dubs, A. Aubonne, L. Moore, Miss M. Wirz, Mrs. H. Ellison, A. Kunzler, P. Moll, R. H. Zwink.



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