

**Language Laboratory Film Collection
Wagner College, Campus Hall 202**

Belgium/Canadian/French/Swiss Films (updated April 2011):

The 4 Musketeers (1974) Richard Lester

The Four Musketeers defend the queen and her dressmaker from Cardinal Richelieu and Milady de Winter.

35 shots of Rhum (2008) Claire Denis. France

Displaying poetic realism, "*35 shots of Rhum*" is an enchanting film by Claire Denis, one of the most underestimated filmmakers in the US. Set among a small circle of friends and neighbors in a Parisian suburb, the tale centers around the relationship between a father and daughter and the arrival of a handsome young man. Sumptuously filmed, this delicate, understated film deals with the issue of the difficulties involved in letting go of family ties, even when they are dictated by the natural progress of time.

The 400 Blows/ Les 400 coups (1959) François Truffaut. France

A young Parisian boy, Antoine Doinel, neglected by his derelict parents, skips school, sneaks into movies, runs away from home, steals things, and tries (disastrously) to return them. Like most kids, he gets into more trouble for things he thinks are right than for his actual trespasses. He inhabits a Paris of dingy flats, seedy arcades, abandoned factories, and workaday streets, a city that seems big and full of possibilities only to a child's eye. One of the main films of the nouvelle vague.

The Adversary/ L' Adversaire (2002) Nicole Garcia. France

Based on the 2000 book of the same name by Emmanuelle Carrère, this film is inspired by the real-life story of Jean Claude Romand who lived a lie for almost 20 years as he pursued an imaginary career as a doctor of medicine . The film was nominated for a Palme d'Or at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. Starring Daniel Auteuil and Emmanuelle Devos.

After Him/ Après lui (2007) Gaël Morel. France

Après Lui is the story of Camille (Catherine Deneuve), a loving mother whose 20-year-old son, Mathieu (Adrien Jolivet), dies unexpectedly in a car crash. Devastated by her loss and feeling a disconnect from those around her, Camille gravitates to her son's best friend, Franck, hoping to learn more about her boy and the night of his death. Franck was the one driving the car that night, and for whatever reason, he ran the vehicle off the road and into a tree, which is what killed Mathieu. Perhaps it's the sketchiness of the story--we never learn why they crashed--or just general grief that makes everyone else distrust Franck, but whatever it is makes it even harder for Camille's family to be understanding when her focus on the boy starts to border on obsession.

An Affair of Love / Une liaison pornographique (1999) Frédéric Fonteyne. France

They recount their impressions to the Interviewer. They met through a magazine ad She and He. They correspond through the internet. Frederic Fonteyne's beautifully realized modern day romance is a quietly stylish dissection of an unconventional sexual relationship. Starring Natalie Baye and Sergi Lopez.

A Few Days in September/ Quelques jours en septembre (2006) Santiago Amigorena. France

September the 1st, 2001. Elliot, an American C.I.A. agent holding top secret information on the immediate future of the world, disappears. His sole aim was to meet his daughter Orlando, whom he abandoned ten years before. Irène (Binoche), a French agent who used to work with him, and David, his adoptive son, will help him and lead the girl to her father. Chased by William Pound (Turturro), a strangely poetic psycho, they will defy the dangers of international espionage from Paris to Venice and finally get to Elliot on September the 11th 2001.

A la mode / Fausto (1993) Rémy Duchemin. France

Fausto enters an orphanage and is initially bullied, but then makes friends with a new bunkmate, Raymond. He is apprenticed to Mietek, a tailor in the Jewish quarter, who teaches him the trade. Fausto charms everyone in the quarter, and falls in love with Tonie, the mechanic's daughter. He starts making outrageous suits for publicity and, after dressing Tonie, decides that he wants to be a famous couturier.

Alexandre Dumas *The Count of Monte Cristo*/ Le Comte de Monte Cristo (2002) Josée Dayan. France

This French/Italian adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' Count of Monte Cristo began as a two-part film, the entire project running well over three hours. Only the second portion of the film was seen in America, and it is this half that currently carries the title of the Dumas original. Safely escaped from the Chateau D'If, the wronged Edmond Dantes (Jean Marais) returns to his old haunts, thirsting for revenge. In the guise of the Count of Monte Cristo, Dantes manages to drive all his old persecutors to ruin, or death, or both. He finally relents when he realizes that his long-ago sweetheart Mercedes (or "Mercedes-is-it?") is still in love with him. Director Robert Vernay coadapted the screenplay with Georges Neveux.

Alice et Martin / Alice and Martin (1998) André Téchiné. Belgium

In this meditation on family, romance, and the search for contentedness from French director André Téchiné, a troubled young man named Martin, rethinks his past. At age 20, Martin finds himself living with his bohemian brother Benjamin (Matthieu Amalric) in Paris, after fleeing from their father's house for an unexplainable reason. Benjamin's violinist roommate, Alice (Juliette Binoche) responds to Martin, who falls obsessively in love with her. Alice quickly becomes pregnant. Though Martin has a profitable modeling job, and is very close with Alice--who will do anything to help him--he cannot stop worrying about his past, and is tortured by it in his dreams at night.

Amélie/ Le Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain (2001) Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Belgium

Amélie is a shy waitress in a Montmartre café. After returning a long-lost childhood treasure to a former occupant of her apartment, and seeing the effect it has on him, she decides to set out on a mission to make others happy and in the meantime pursues a quirky guy who collects discarded photo booth pictures. A tender, nostalgic, fantastical and often comic romance.

The Apartment/ L'appartement (1996) Gilles Mimouni. France

Max is on his way to Tokyo. He lives in Paris and likes to flirt but has decided to get married. By chance, he seems to have seen Lisa, his greatest love, in a cafe. Max forgets everything, his trip to Tokyo and his fiancée. Obsessed with meeting Lisa he finds out where she lives and hides in the apartment. However, a different girl, called Alice, finds Max in the flat. Alice looks quite similar to Lisa, and they have sex. To complicate matters further, Alice is also the girlfriend of Max's buddy Lucien and Lisa is followed by an older man.

Around a Small Mountain/ 36 vues du Pic Saint Loup (2009) Jacques Rivette. France

On a winding mountain road, Vittorio (Sergio Castellito) stops to help Kate (Jane Birkin), whose car has broken down. After gallantly making the repair, without a single word spoken, he speeds off. Later in town, Vittorio learns that Kate has returned to join her family's traveling circus after leaving under mysterious conditions many years ago. Intrigued by her story, Vittorio stays for the show, and the next one, and little by little, is ingratiated in the circus and the lives of its performers. At under 90 minutes, the film is, by Mr. Rivette's standards, a small vignette, and as marvelous to contemplate as the Pic Saint Loup itself.

Artémisia (2007) Agnès Merlet. France-USA

Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1653) was one of the first well-known female painters. The movie tells the story of her youth, when she was guided and protected by her father, the painter Orazio Gentileschi (Michel Serrault). Her professional curiosity about the male anatomy, forbidden for her eyes, led her to the knowledge of sexual pleasure. But she was also well known because in 1612 she had to appear in a courtroom because her teacher, Agostino Tassi, was suspected of raping her. She tried to protect him, but was put in the thumb screws...

Art Nouveau: 1890-1914 (documentary)

This fast-paced, half-hour look at art nouveau, the Arts and Crafts Movement that sprang up at the end of the 19th century, would have benefited from a slower pace. Still, as a beginner's guide to understanding art nouveau, it does a credible job, quoting experts from around the world. Divided into 10 parts, the video traces the beginnings of the movement as a revolt against assembly-line sameness before explaining how it drew from other cultures (Japanese, Islamic, Celtic) and valued spirituality and nature. Many magnificent pieces featured in an exhibit at the National Gallery of Art are shown. Big and small examples abound, from architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright and Charles Rennie Mackintosh to the famed Lalique dragonfly ("one of the greatest pieces of jewelry of all time"). There's so much here, you'll need to watch it more than once, and hit the pause button, to truly revel in art nouveau's celebration of artistic freedom.

L'auberge Espagnole (2002) Cédric Klapisch, France

A strait-laced French student moves into an apartment in Barcelona with a cast of six other characters from all over Europe. Together, they speak the international language of love and friendship.

L' Audition (2005) Luc Picard. Canada

Quebecois actor and filmmaker Luc Picard takes the helm for this Genie-award winning drama about an actor in search of the perfect role, and the pregnant girlfriend forced to make a life-changing decision. A beautiful and touching film from one of the Quebec's leading directors.

Avenue Montaigne/ Fauteuils d'orchestre (2006) Danièle Thompson. France

Jessica, raised by her grandmother, comes to Paris and gets a job at a bar across from a performance complex where a play, a concert, and an art auction will occur the same evening. It's a world in flux: the play's star wants off a popular TV soap that's made her rich, and she covets the lead in a film about de Beauvoir and Sartre; the pianist hates the concert circuit, but his wife who's his manager may leave him if he quits; a self-made widower with a girlfriend less than half his age is selling his collection of modern art - his son, a professor, objects to his father's love life. The stage manager at the complex is resigning after 30 years. Jessica sets the tone for how all plays out.

The Barbarian Invasions/ Les Invasions barbares (2003) Denys Arcand. Canada

Having a difficult time accepting the reality of death and feeling regretful of his past, a man dying of cancer tries to find peace in his last moments. His estranged son, ex-wife, ex-lovers and old friends will all come to him to share his last breath. The sequel to *Le Déclin de l'empire américain*, by the same Québécois director.

The Beat that my Heart Skipped/ De battre mon coeur s'est arrêté (2005) Jacques Audiard. France

Twenty-eight-year-old Tom leads a life that might be termed as criminal. In doing so, he follows in the footsteps of his father, who made his money from dirty, and sometimes brutal, real estate deals. Tom is a pretty hard-boiled guy but also strangely considerate as far as his father is concerned. Somehow he appears to have arrived at a critical juncture in his life when a chance encounter prompts him to take up the piano and become a concert pianist, like his mother. He senses that this might be his final opportunity to take back his life. His piano teacher is a Chinese piano virtuoso who has recently come to live in France. She doesn't speak a lick of French so music becomes the only language they have in common. Before long, Jacques' bid to be a better person means that he begins to yearn for true love. But, when he finally has the chance of winning his best friend's wife, his passion only succeeds in scaring her. And then, one day, his dubious past comes to light...

The Beautiful Beast/ La belle bête (2006) Karim Hussain. Canada

La Belle Bête is a powerful study of the conflict between beauty and ugliness, hate and love. The story revolves around three main characters. At the center, Patrice, a beautiful but mindless youth stands gazing at his image in the water. Around him move his ugly sister Isabelle-Marie, and his frivolous mother Louise, the first lost in love and hate for her brother's beauty, the second seeing it as an adornment for herself. Into this small, obsessed universe come a blind boy and an elegant fop from the outside world. At once, the pattern breaks and events move forward into a terrifying denouement.

Beauty and the Devil/ La beauté du diable (1950) René Clair. France

The Faust story retold, with an aged alchemist accepting the gift of renewed youth from the devilish Mephistopheles.

La Bête Humaine (1938) Jean Renoir. France

Based on the classic Emile Zola novel, Jean Renoir's *La bête humaine* was one of the legendary director's greatest popular successes—and earned star Jean Gabin a permanent place in the hearts of his countrymen. Part poetic realism, part film noir, the film is a hard-boiled and suspenseful journey into the tormented psyche of a workingman.

Between Us/ Entre Nous (1983) Diane Kurys. France

In 1942 in occupied France, a Jewish refugee marries a soldier to escape deportation to Germany. Meanwhile a wealthy art student loses her first husband to a stray Resistance bullet; at the Liberation she meets an actor, gets pregnant, and marries him. Lena and Madeleine meet at their children's school in Lyon in 1952 and the intensity of their relationship strains both their marriages to the breaking point.

Blue White Red/ Bleu Blanc Rouge (1993) Krzysztof Kieslowski. France

Created by Kieslowski and his writing partner Krzysztof Piesiewicz for France's bicentennial, the titles-- and the themes of the films--come from the three colors of the French flag representing liberty, equality, and fraternity. Blue examines liberation through the eyes of a woman (Juliette Binoche) who loses her husband and daughter in an auto accident, and solemnly starts anew. White is an ironic comedy about a befuddled Polish husband (Zbigniew Zamachowski) who takes an odd path of revenge against his ex-wife (Julie Delpy). A Swiss model (Irène Jacob) strikes up a friendship with a retired judge (Jean-Louis Trintignant) who eavesdrops on his neighbors in Red. The trilogy is a snapshot of European life at a time of reconstruction after the Cold War, reflected through Kieslowski's moralist view of human nature and illumined by each title's palate color.

Boarding Gate (2007) Olivier Assayas. France

An Italian woman who lives in London has a passionate affair with a former financial big gun. She also had a second lover, a contract killer who has to kill the big gun. Her second lover's wife is behind the scenes, pulling the strings.

Breathless/ A bout de souffle (1960) Jean Luc Godard. France

Michel Poiccard, an irresponsible sociopath and small-time thief, steals a car and impulsively murders the motorcycle policeman who pursues him. Now wanted by the authorities, he renews his relationship with Patricia Franchini, a hip American girl studying journalism at the Sorbonne, whom he had met in Nice a few weeks earlier. Before leaving Paris, he plans to collect a debt from an underworld acquaintance and expects her to accompany him on his planned getaway to Italy. Even with his face in the local papers and media, Poiccard seems oblivious to the dragnet that is slowly closing around him as he recklessly pursues his love of American movies and libidinous interest in the beautiful American. Another prime nouvelle vague film.

Brief Crossing/ Brève traversée (2001) Catherine Breillat. France

Desire for a subject that functions like a brief fling with no future as such, yet embellished by that very fact. Because something fleeting and futureless is not necessarily pathetic or trivial. A brief crossing, perhaps an initiatory trip. Filming a guy's "first time", filming him like a girl. Gut level skin deep... Nostalgia for vast ocean liners, for places "beyond the law" where you can venture outside of life, safe within an interlude. Describing a passion while respecting classical tragedy's unity of time and place, setting the stage for the eternal play of Masculine/Feminine. A hot-blooded Latin temperament versus an apparently cool English one.

Carlos / Carlos the Jackal (2010) Olivier Assayas. France

Carlos is Olivier Assayas' five and a half hour epic tale of 70s punk rock terrorist Ilich Ramirez Sánchez, known by his non de guerre Carlos, and later dubbed by the press "Carlos the Jackal". The film brilliantly presents a character study of a man who uses his talent, attitude, addictive charisma and a whole lot of luck for questionable causes. In what is certainly his best work to date, French director Olivier Assayas adopts a fleet, ever propulsive style that creates an extraordinary you-are-there-sense of verisimilitude, while lead actor Edgar Ramírez inhabits the title role with the arrogant charisma of Brando in his prime.

Carnage (2002) Delphine Gleize. France

After a bull dies in an arena, its remains are transported throughout Belgium, France, and Spain, where various characters cross its path.

Catherine Deneuve 5-Film Collection: *Manon 70* (1968), *Le Choc* (1982), *Le Sauvage* (1975), *Hotel des Ameriques* (1981), *Fort Saganne* (1984)

Catherine Deneuve was one of the most interesting and iconic French actresses to emerge in the 1960s. Her fragile, porcelain beauty and bright blonde hair made her both alluring and somehow untouchable. For as close as a man could get, she would always be just out of reach. The parts she played often reflected this quality, and she also had a real knack for playing disaffected women.

C'est beau (1980) Nathalie Sarraute

Dramatizes the confrontation of generations and of different class, aesthetic, and educational backgrounds.

Changing Times/ Les temps qui changent (2004) André Téchiné. Belgium

Connections and personality: France and Morocco, sisters, mothers and sons, husbands and lovers. Antoine arranges a job in Tangiers so he can reconnect to Cécile, his first love, unseen for 30 years. Sami, her son, comes from Paris with his friend Nadia and her son to see his mother and his Moroccan boyfriend. Nadia wants to see Aïcha, her twin, a devout Muslim unwilling to see her pill-popping sister. Antoine harbors romantic fantasies; Cécile lives in the real world of an empty marriage to Natan, a Jewish doctor who's broke, drinks too much, and wants to move back to Casablanca. Cécile is a follower. Dogs and mud present dangers, as does complaisance. Will the earth move?

Chocolat (1998) Claire Denis. France

A young French woman returns to the vast silence of West Africa to contemplate her childhood days in a colonial outpost in Cameroon. Her strongest memories are of the family's houseboy, Protée - a man of great nobility, intelligence and beauty - and the intricate nature of relationships in a racist society.

The Chorus/ Les Choristes (2004) Christophe Barratier. France

Set in 1948, a professor of music, Clement Mathieu, becomes the supervisor at a boarding school for the rehabilitation for minors. What he discovers disconcerts him -- the current situation is repressive. Through the power of song, Clement tries to transform the students.

Clara et moi (2004) Arnaud Viard. France

Antoine has what every young single man could wish: a promising career, true and loyal friends, and an apartment of his own. However, he's a lonely man, until he meets Clara, a beautiful and exciting woman, and deeply falls in love with her. All his loneliness turns into joy... but then he finds out that Clara has got HIV.

The Class/ Entre les murs (2008) Laurent Cantet. France

Teacher François Marin and his colleagues are preparing for another school year teaching at a racially mixed inner city high school in Paris. The teachers talk to each other about their prospective students, both the good and the bad. The teachers collectively want to inspire their students, but each teacher is an individual who will do things in his or her own way to achieve the results they desire. They also have differing viewpoints on the students themselves, and how best to praise and discipline them. The administration of the school tries to be as fair as possible, which includes having student representatives sit on the student evaluation committee. Marin's class this year of fourteen and fifteen year olds is no different than previous years, although the names and faces have changed. Marin tries to get through to his students, sometimes with success and sometimes resulting in utter failure...

The Closet/ Le Placard (2001) Francis Veber. Belgium

A nebbish (Daniel Auteuil) who works at a condom manufacturer learns he's about to be fired; with the help of his neighbor, he pretends to be gay so his boss can't fire him without seeming prejudiced. Then a bigoted coworker (Gerard Depardieu) tries to worm his way into the nebbish's good graces because he's afraid of being fired. In the wrong hands, *The Closet* could be ham-fisted slapstick. What makes this movie truly delightful is the superb understatement with which every gag is handled; even the sight of Auteuil wearing a giant condom tip on his head has an impeccable deadpan grace. All the performances are excellent; Depardieu's smarm is particularly delicious. Each scene takes a new twist of social discomfort and befuddlement in this winning comedy.

Coco avant Chanel/ Coco Before Chanel (2009) Anne Fontaine. France

Audrey Tautou stars as legendary fashion designer Coco Chanel in this biopic penned by director Anne Fontaine and screenwriter Camille Fontaine in collaboration with Christopher Hampton. Based on the Chanel biography *L'Irrégulière (The Nonconformist)* by author Edmonde Charles-Roux, *Coco avant Chanel* features dresses from the Chanel collection. House of Chanel art director Karl Lagerfeld also steps onboard to supervise the creation of accessories and costumes.

Code Unknown: Incomplete Tales of Several Journeys/ Code inconnu: Récit incomplet de divers voyages (2000) Michael Haneke. France

Jean, a farm lad, wants to escape his silent father; he runs to Paris to his older brother, Georges, who's away covering the war in Kosovo. Angry, he throws a bag of half-eaten pastry into a beggar's lap. Amadou, a young Franco-African, berates him. The police arrive, arrest Amadou and deport the beggar. Georges's girlfriend Anne is upset; it colors her relationship with Georges when he returns from the war. Separate lives intersect for the one moment, around the pastry bag, and all are altered. We follow each as repercussions of the incident play out. Deaf children bookend the film pantomiming words, feelings, and situations: what they are expressing?

Cold as Summer/ Froid comme l'été (2002) Jacques Maillot. France

Director Jacques Maillot's gripping psychological thriller focuses on Rachel (the captivating Sarah Grappin) a young single mother seemingly devoid of maternal instincts. Abandoning her young child, she travels to the French Montpellier coast where she falls into a passionate affair with a young female thief. Meanwhile, Claire (Nathalie Richard) a police detective desperate but unable to conceive her own child, grows increasingly obsessed with finding her. Director Maillot brings a taut, suspenseful atmosphere and understated compassion to this riveting drama.

Collected Shorts of François Ozon (1998) François Ozon. France

Here are four provocative shorts from France's most acclaimed young director, Francois Ozon (Water Drops on Burning Rocks, 8 Women). "X2000" (1998, 5 min.) - Three naked couples sleep, make love, and awake in an empty skyscraper littered with millennium party debris. The world is silent and pregnant with new possibilities. "Truth or Dare" (1994, 4 min.) - Four teens discover the pain and excitement of emerging sexuality while playing a harmless children's game. "Little Death" (1995, 26 min.) - Paul, a young photographer, is estranged from his family. When his sister persuades him to visit his dying father in the hospital, Paul discovers that he can never escape his origins. "Bed Scenes" (1997, 26 min.) - A series of liberated comic sketches on sexual etiquette, unbridled passion, and post-coital after-tastes.

Comedy of Innocence/ Comédie d'innocence (2000) Raoul Ruiz. France

Today, Camille turns nine. He had sworn that on his 9th birthday he would show his parents the videos he was shooting on the side-the tail of a cat scampering away, a window, and a veiled woman's face - an intriguing picture... Later that day, Camille's mother, Ariane, meets up with her son in the park. The boys appears perturbed. He is leaning against a tree, eyes cast down. He says that now he wants to return to his "real home" and his "real mother."

Côte d'Azur/ Crustacés et coquillages (2005) Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau. France

It's Summer Rental meets Blame it on Rio when a French family heads off to the Mediterranean for a sultry summer vacation in the ensemble sex comedy Côte d'Azur, co-directed by Jacques Martineau and Olivier Ducastel (The Adventures of Felix). When the head of the clan, Marc (Gilbert Melki), decides to tote his wife, Béatrix (Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi), and his teenage children Laura (Sabrina Seyvecou) and Charly (Romain Torres) off to his childhood beach home on the Riviera, a number of sexy liasons ensue. Charly -- though straight -- must contend with the come-ons of his best friend, Martin, a closeted homosexual infatuated with him for years but too shy to say so. Meanwhile, as Laura takes up with a young biker, Béatrix re-encounters her old boyfriend Mathieu (Jacques Bonnaffé); Marc's ex-flame pops up, too, both former lovers expressing interest in rekindling affairs. Soon, the entire vacation becomes a surfeit of hilarious erotic complications.

The Convent/ Le Couvent (O Convento) (1995) Manoel de Oliveira. France-Portugal

The journey of Michael Padovic, an American professor who arrives with his wife, Helene, at a Portuguese convent where he expects to find the documents needed to prove his theory: Shakespeare was born in Spain, not in England. In French and Portuguese.

C.R.A.Z.Y (2005) Jean-Marc Vallée. Canada

Extraordinary lives of ordinary people in search of love and happiness – that's the premise of "C.R.A.Z.Y", a family drama unlike any other.

Cyrano de Bergerac (1990) Jean-Paul Rappeneau. France -USA

A dashing officer of the guard and romantic poet, Cyrano de Bergerac falls in love with his cousin Roxane without her knowing. His one fault in his life, he feels, is his large nose and although it may have been a forming influence in his rapier-sharp wit, he believes that Roxane will reject him. He resorts to writing letters to her on behalf of one of his cadets, Christian, who is also in love with Roxane but just doesn't know how to tell her. She falls for the poetic charm of the letters but believes that they were written by Christian.

Daybreak/ Le Jour se lève (1939) Marcel Carné. France

Francois, a sympathetic factory worker, kills Valentin with a gun. He locked himself in his furnished room and starts remembering how he was led to murder. He met once Françoise, a young fleurist, and they fell in love. But Françoise was gotten round by Valentin, a dog trainer, a machiavellian guy...

Days of Glory/ Indigènes (2006) Rachid Bouchareb. France

During WWII, four North African men enlist in the French army to liberate that country from Nazi oppression, and to fight French discrimination.

The Decline of the American Empire/ Le Déclin de l'empire américain (1986) Denys Arcand. Canada

Four men and four women, all from the academic world, discuss their professional and sex lives around a diner, revealing themselves and their society as the evening goes by. The film was nominated for the 1986 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Film.

Delicatessen (1991) Jean-Pierre Jeunet. France

An ex-clown turns up seeking work at an ancient tenement in the middle of nowhere. Little does he know that the landlord, a butcher, feeds his tenants, in these days of extreme food shortages, on fattened up handymen. A surreal, comic and haunting tale with some great cinematography.

Diary of a Chambermaid / Le journal d'une femme de chambre (1965) Luis Buñuel

This movie follows Celestine (Jeanne Moreau), an urban young woman who moves to the country in the 1930s to work as a chambermaid for the Monteils, a rich family with a few dark secrets. As soon as she arrives, problems start as she tries to adapt to her new life with the bizarre Monteils. This is one of Buñuel's finest films, ambiguous and stylish, like the master's own vision of life.

Diary of a Seducer/ Le Journal du séducteur (1996) Danièle Dubroux. France

A few stories are mixed, but all starts with Claire who one day brings back to Grégoire one of his books found at the university. Grégoire is the tenebrous romantic king, and Claire falls in love with him. But there is also Grégoire's circle, his disturbing neighbor, his maybe crazy grandmother Diane, his former teacher Hugo. And this is mixed up with Sebastien's attempts to seduce Claire then her mother Anne. And also Claire's psychiatrist.

The Dinner Game/ Le Dîner de cons (1998) Francis Veber. France

Every Wednesday night a few guys have a meal together. There is a game coupled with the meal: each one of them has to bring an "idiot". The game consists in making the idiots talk about their ideas and passions so that the hosts can have a good laugh. At the end they will choose the "idiot of the evening". One of the hosts has invited his idiot home so they could go to the dinner together, but unfortunately he gets a severe pain in his back due to an accident that day and can't go to the meal. Even worse is the fact that the idiot tries to help him, and naturally does everything wrong and aggravates every situation.

Discovering France

Explore the country where love, art and pleasure are considered national treasures. Visit the northern regions, with stops at Chartres Cathedral and Normandy's World War II battleground. See Paris, the "city of light," and the royal palace at Versailles. Tour the vineyards of Champagne, Burgundy and Bordeaux. Watch French chefs prepare mouth-watering delicacies. View the spectacular French Alps and the pastoral region of Provence. DVD extras: Romantic Paris, Carnival at Limoux, Favorite Cities & Regions.

The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie/ Le Charme discret de la bourgeoisie (1972) Luis Buñuel. France-Italy-Spain

A complex, shifting, virtually plotless web of dreams within dreams within dreams, centered around a group of six outwardly respectable upper-middle class members of society and their repeatedly thwarted attempts to have a meal together. As one would expect from Buñuel, the interruptions becoming more and more surreal as the film progresses.

The Double Life of Veronique/ La double vie de Véronique (1991) Krzysztof Kieslowski. France

Veronika lives in Poland. Veronique lives in Paris. They don't know each other. Veronika gets a place in a music school, works hard, but collapses and dies on her first performance. At this point, Veronique's life seems to take a turn and she decides not to be a singer... A mesmerizing film by legendary polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski. Starring Irène Jacob.

The Dreamlife of Angels / La Vie rêvée des anges (1998) Erick Zonca. France

In Lille, two penniless young women with few prospects become friends. Isa moves in with Marie, who's flat-sitting for a mother and child in hospital in comas following a car crash. Isa is out-going, unskilled, with hopes of moving south to warmer climes. Marie usually is either angry or detached. Then, while Isa begins to visit the child in whose flat they live, going to hospital to read to her, Marie slowly falls for a rich youth. At first Marie keeps him at bay, then she not only pursues him, she begins to dream he is her life's love. When Isa tries to warn Marie, their friendship flounders. How will Marie handle the inevitable? And once they lose the flat, where will they go?

East-West/ Est-Ouest (1999) Régis Wargnier. France

June 1946: Stalin invites Russian emigrés to return to the motherland. It's a trap: when a ship-load from France arrives in Odessa, only a physician and his family are spared execution or prison. He and his French wife (her passport ripped up) are sent to Kiev. She wants to return to France immediately; he knows that they are captives and must watch every step. By chance, she meets a touring French actress and pleads for help. She also takes a young swimmer under her wing, and several years later, he makes a bold attempt to escape. Meanwhile, the KGB is suspicious, and hope for freedom is dim. Patience, her husband's self control, and her good looks may be their only assets.

Eternal France

This tour of France includes some of the country's historical and cultural background. Video Visits: Eternal France looks at many of the major attractions of France, and gives a glimpse of a perfume factory, and of artisans of glass and lacemaking that are part of this lovely country. Narration and background music enhance the video that provides an opportunity to experience Reims Cathedral, the Arc de Triomphe, the Loire Valley, the Cote d'Azur, the Normandy coast, the Alsace canals, and other sights. This travel series also gives information about shopping and other activities of interest to tourists.

Family Resemblances/ Un Air de famille (1996) Cédric Klapisch. France

An upper middle-class French family celebrates a birthday in a restaurant. In one evening and during one meal, family history, tensions, collective and separate grudges, delights, and memories both clash and coalesce.

Fear and Trembling/ Stupeurs et tremblements (2003) Alain Corneau. France

French director Alain Corneau delves into the painfully irrational world of office politics, which are further complicated by a severe case of culture clash in his 2003 comedy, *Stupeur et Tremblements* (Fear and Trembling). Based on the similarly titled memoirs of author Amélie Nothomb and her employment experiences with a Japanese mega-corporation, *Fear and Trembling* begins with Amélie (Sylvie Testud) landing in Tokyo shortly after receiving her college education. The young Belgian chose to return to Japan where she spent the first five years of her life before her family relocated back to Europe for her first job in an entry-level position with the Yumimoto Corporation. Amélie diligently accomplishes her daily tasks with invention and ambition, but her work ethic proves threatening to her immediate supervisors who single her out as a deviant within the corporation's firmly entrenched power hierarchy. As she is led through a series of humiliations and demotions designed to destroy her individuality, Amélie is forced to submit to an endless stream of unreasonable demands issued by nearly every supervisor with seniority over her.

For Sale/ A Vendre (1998) Laetitia Masson. France

Letitia Masson wrote and directed this tale told in flashbacks as a detective tracks a young woman. After France Robert (Sandrine Kiberlain) steals cash and then leaves Marseilles nightclub owner Pierre (Jean-Francois Stevenin) at the altar, he still yearns for her, so he puts private investigator Luigi Primo (Sergio Castellitto) on her trail. Luigi, who married a French lawyer (Mireille Perier) but is now divorced, sends regular progress bulletins on tape. He begins the quest by talking to France's small-town parents and former boyfriend, traveling about in Paris, Grenoble, and Marseilles as he assembles the jigsaw of her past life.

François Ozon: A Curtain Raiser & Other Shorts (Un Lever De Rideau / Action Vérité / Une Rose Entre Nous / Scènes De Lit / La Petite Mort / Little Death / Victor) (1993) France

From director François Ozon (*Swimming Pool*) comes seven short but steamy and frank tales of love, lust and the need for both. In "A Curtain Raiser," a young Frenchman (Louis Garrel) is determined to end it with his tardy girlfriend (Vahina Giocante) if she is late one more time. "A Rose Between Us" finds a quirky British woman picking up a Parisian hairdresser for the night, and in "X200" and "Truth or Dare," couples explore their sexuality.

The French Revolution I and II

A historical film about the circumstances of the French Revolution.

Full Moon in Paris/ Les Nuits de la pleine lune (1984) Eric Rohmer. France

Louise, a young woman, who recently finished her studies in arts, is working as a interior decorator trainee. Playing the game of seduction, her life becomes more and more complicated.

Ghost River/ La Vie Promise (2002) Olivier Dahan. France

Living a rough existence in Niza, Sylvia has to prostitute herself in order to survive along with her daughter, Laurence. Sylvia and Laurence aren't getting along well, partly because Laurence is tired of her mother's rough off-limit life, with drugs and alcohol. One night, Laurence stabs Silvia's boss partner after a fight inside her house. Believing the man is dead, Silvia will run away with Laurence, hitch-hiking. She tries to reach her ex husband's house in the countryside, but things get a little bit difficult between Silvia and Laurence. Later, Silvia meets an ex bank robber, Joshua, who offers to give her a ride in a gas station. When they get separated, Joshua meets Laurence, who has a strange condition that paralyzes her, causing her severe attacks. Before Silvia arrives to Piotr's cabin in the wood, she and Laurence will have reconstructed their lost bond.

The Gleaners & I / Les Glaneurs et la glaneuse (2000) Agnès Varda. France

An intimate, picaresque inquiry into French life as lived by the country's poor and its provident, as well as by the film's own director, Agnès Varda. The aesthetic, political and moral point of departure for Varda are gleaners, those individuals who pick at already-reaped fields for the odd potato, the leftover turnip. In terms of Varda's treatment of herself in film, this is an innovative approach to autobiography on film.

Goodbye, Children/ Au Revoir les enfants (1987) Louis Malle. France (2 copies)

During WWII, in a Catholic boarding school in the French countryside, two boys become friends. One is a French boy, Julien Quintin, and the other is a Jewish boy, Jean Bonnet, who is being hidden from the Nazis by the friars who run the school. Louis Malle directed this film based on what actually happened when he was at a boarding school himself during the war.

The Good Time Girls/ Les bonnes femmes (1960) Claude Chabrol. France

Ginette, Rita, Jacqueline and Jane try to find fulfillment and love in their lives. Rita has a fiancé whose family is obsessed with social distinction; Jane has a boy-friend in the army, but does not hesitate to enjoy herself with chance encounters; Ginette has a mysterious passion that keeps her away from her colleagues at nights. Jacqueline is lonely; but who is that mysterious bike-rider who is constantly following her?

Good Work/ Beau travail (1999) Claire Denis. France

This film focuses on an ex-Foreign Legion officer, Galoup, as he recalls his once glorious life, leading troops in the Gulf of Djibouti. His existence there was happy, strict and regimented, but the arrival of a promising young recruit, Sentain, plants the seeds of jealousy in Galoup's mind. He feels compelled to stop him from coming to the attention of the commandant who he admires, but who ignores him. Ultimately, his jealousy leads to the destruction of both Sentain and himself.

The Grocer's Son/ Le fils de l'épicier (2007) Eric Guirado. France

Antoine Sforza, a thirty-year-old young man, left his village ten years before in order to start a new life in the big city, but now that his father, a traveling grocer, is in hospital after a stroke, he more or less reluctantly accepts to come back to replace him in his daily rounds. Back in the village, accompanied by Claire, a young woman he loves but who hesitates to commit herself, he does the job half-satisfactorily. Too blunt, not in harmony with the locals, he offends them more than he serves them. Fortunately Claire, who has more business acumen, helps him to improve his skills. On the other hand, the relationships are tense with his brother François and even worse with his father, who despises him. So when the latter is back in the village, the situation deteriorates...

Happily Ever After/ Ils se marièrent et eurent beaucoup d'enfants (2004) Yvan Attal. France

Is love compatible with coupledom? And what of freedom and fidelity? These are some of the questions facing two married men in this romantic comedy starring Yvan Attal and Charlottle Gainsbourg.

Heart in Winter/ Un Cœur en hiver (1992) Claude Sautet. France

Stéphane and Maxime run a well-respected violin making and repair business. When man-about-town Maxime falls in love with violin virtuoso Camille, Stéphane - whose only attachment is a platonic one with a bookshop owner - takes his own interest in this new girl in Maxime's life and in her music-making. Camille gradually becomes attracted to him, but finds his cold lack of response by turns puzzling and irritating. Bit by bit the odd ménage-à-trois becomes set on a collision course. Starring the legendary couple Emmanuelle Béart and Daniel Auteuil.

Heartbeat Detector/ La question humaine (2007) Nicolas Klotz. France

As a Parisian petrochemical company forges on into the 21st century, the in-house human resources psychologist leads a probe that proves the ghosts of the previous century still hold sway over current events in director Nicolas Klotz's labyrinthine drama. Simon (Mathieu Amalric) is a human resources worker who has spent the last seven years working at the Paris branch of a powerful German-based company called SC Farb. In addition to assessing the hiring and firing practices of the company, Simon was also charged with the task of conducting motivational workshops. When Assistant Director Karl Rose (Jean-Pierre Kalfon) implores Simon to conduct a clandestine assessment of firm director Mathias Jüst's (Michael Lonsdale) mental health after rumors of erratic behavior begin to circulate in the German head office, the shrewd human resources worker forms a factory orchestra as a means of stealthily gauging the stability of his violin-playing subject. Later, a comprehensive investigation of company archives and anonymous letters begin to snake ominously back in time to the darkest days of World War II.

Hélène Cixous

An interview with the prominent writer, critic and feminist theorist.

Hello Sadness/ Bonjour Tristesse (1958) Otto Preminger. USA

A film adaptation of the novel with the same name. Cecile, decadent young girl who lives with her rich playboy father Raymond. When Anne, Raymond's old love interest, comes to Raymond's villa, Cecile is afraid for her way of life.

Hidden/ Caché (2005) Michael Haneke. France

A married couple is terrorized by a series of videotapes planted on its front porch that may be the direct result from an event from years ago.

Hideaway/ Le refuge (2009) François Ozon. France

Mousse and Louis are young, beautiful, rich and in love. But drugs have invaded their lives. One day, they overdose and Louis dies. Mousse survives, but soon learns she's pregnant. Feeling lost, Mousse runs away to a house far from Paris. Several months later, Louis' brother joins her in her refuge.

Home (2008) Ursula Meier. France -Switzerland

Life for an isolated rural family is upended when a major highway next to their property, constructed 10 years before but apparently abandoned, is finally opened. Starring Isabelle Huppert, the film is a mesmerizing fable of modern family life.

The Horseman on the Roof/ Le Hussard sur le toit (1995) Jean-Paul Rappeneau. France-USA

In 1832, cholera ravages Provence (South of France). After several misadventures, Angelo, young Italian officer hunted by the Austrian secret police, meets Pauline de Theus, a young lady. After a second accidental meeting, both will start the search of Pauline's husband in a chaotic country.

In Love with Paris (1986)

Paris has its share of famous sights to see, including the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre, Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the palace at Versailles. Many travelers go there for the marvelous French cuisine, the elegant bakeries, the chocolatiers, and other temptations that beckon from bistros and restaurants. Video Visits: In Love With Paris gives an overview of the pleasures that await in the City of Lights. French fashions are the envy of the world, and many opportunities for shopping are available to the visitor.

In my Skin/ Dans ma peau (2002) Marina de Van. France

A woman grows increasingly fascinated with her body after suffering a disfiguring accident.

Innocence (2004) Lucile Hadzihalilovic. France

A look inside an offbeat boarding school for young girls.

In Paris/ Dans Paris (2006) Christophe Honoré. France

Anna has just left Paul who, annihilated by the separation, moves back with his father in Paris. His younger brother Jonathan, a casual student, still lives in his father's apartment and spends most of his time womanizing and fooling around. But what this apparent lightness conceals is a deep wound. Jonathan, in fact, has never been able to overcome the death of his beloved sister. Meanwhile Paul sinks into depression...

It's Easier for a Camel/ Il est plus facile pour un chameau (2003) Valeria Bruno Tedeschi. France

As a little girl, Federica fantasized about having beautiful long hair that would grow back as soon as she cut it, about never-ending cones of cotton candy and about countless adventures that took her to the far side of the world. Now a charming thirty-something-single woman, Federica's fantasies have evolved, adding lovers, stardom, and motherhood to her waking dreams. Unfortunately, Federica's daydreams can only provide a meager distraction from the reality she faces. Her career as a successful playwright is heading south, her boyfriend is pressuring her to start a family, a former lover wishes to rekindle an old affair, her sister is barely talking to her, her brother is self-centered and her loving father is terminally ill. As Federica struggles to find meaning in her life, she turns to her vivid imagination, where her reality grows wonderful and, if only fleetingly, gives her the sense that all is perfect in her world.

I've Loved You So Long/ Il y a longtemps que je t'aime (2008) Philippe Claudel. France

A woman struggles to interact with her family and find her place in society after spending fifteen years in prison. The presence of Kristin Scott Thomas in this literate French movie by Philippe Claudel is so powerfully distinctive that it's as if Claudel has not merely written the lead role for her, but extrapolated his film's entire narrative structure from Scott Thomas's personality. Her formidable bilingual presence, her beauty - elegant and drawn in early middle age - her air of hypersensitive awareness of all the tiny absurdities and indignities with which she is surrounded, coupled with a drolly lenient reticence: it all creates an intelligent, observant drama about dislocation, fragility and the inner pain of unshakeable memories. Scott Thomas is on screen for almost every minute of the film, often in close-up and her face is at once eloquent and deeply withdrawn.

Jean de Florette (1986) Claude Berri. France

In a rural French village an old man and his only remaining relative cast their covetous eyes on an adjoining vacant property. They need its spring water for growing their flowers, so are dismayed to hear the man who has inherited it is moving in. They block up the spring and watch as their new neighbor tries to keep his crops watered from wells far afield through the hot summer. Though they see his desperate efforts are breaking his health and his wife and daughter's hearts they think only of getting the water.

Jesus of Montreal/ Jésus de Montréal (1989) Denys Arcand. Canada

A group of actors put on an unorthodox, but acclaimed Passion Play which incites the opposition of the Catholic Church while the actors' lives themselves begin to mirror the Passion itself.

Jules et Jim (1962) François Truffaut. France

In Paris, 1900, two friends, Jules (Austrian) and Jim (French) fall in love with the same woman, Catherine. But Catherine loves and marries Jules. After WWI, when they meet again in Germany, Catherine starts to love Jim... This is the story of three people in love, a love which does not affect their friendship, and about how their relationship evolves with the years.

Kings & Queen/ Rois et reine (2004) Arnaud Desplechin. France

Parallel storylines tell the current state of affairs for two ex-lovers: Nora's a single mother who comes to care for her terminally ill father; holed in up in mental ward, Ismael, a brilliant musician, plots his escape.

The Last Metro/ Le dernier métro (1980) François Truffaut. France

In occupied Paris, an actress married to a Jewish theater owner must keep him hidden from the Nazis while doing both of their jobs.

Last Year at Marienbad/ L'Année dernière à Marienbad (1961) Alain Resnais. France

In a huge, old-fashioned luxury hotel a stranger tries to persuade a married woman to run away with him, but it seems she hardly remembers the affair they may have had (or not?) last year at Marienbad. Written by Alain Robbe-Grillet.

Lemming (2005) Dominik Moll. France

The automation engineer Alain Getty and his beloved wife Bénédicte have just moved to the suburb of Bel-Air. Alain has developed the prototype of a flying web-cam for Pollock S.A., a high-tech company. After a successful presentation of his project to their clients, Alain invites his boss Richard Pollock and his wife Alice for dinner at his home. The couple arrives late, and Alice is extremely rude, insulting her husband and the young couple, and forcing Richard to leave the house earlier. During the night, Alain finds a rare Scandinavian lemming stuck in the siphon of the sink in the kitchen. On the next night, Alice unsuccessfully tries to seduce Alain after-hours in the laboratory of the company. On the next afternoon, she visits Bénédicte to apologize her behavior and cynically tells her sexual harassment to her husband. Then she locks herself in a room and commits suicide. On the next days, Bénédicte changes her behavior and relationship with Alain, seeming to be possessed by Alice. And what of the lemming? An intense psychological thriller.

Life is a Long Quiet River/ La Vie est un long fleuve tranquille (1988) Etienne Chatiliez. France

Two babies are switched at birth. When the mistake is discovered 12 years later, it leads to complications in the lives of both families. One family is affluent, with dutiful and (apparently) contented children. The other family is poor, with rambunctious (even delinquent) children, often hungry, but with lots of laughter in the house.

Louvre 200 (1993)

Once a medieval fortress and home to France's kings, the Louvre in Paris has been a museum since 1793, making it one of the oldest museums in the world. Seven departments within the museum contain works dating back to the earliest civilizations of man. The Louvre 200 series consists of three programs created to celebrate this fine art museum's bicentennial anniversary.

Love After Love/ Après l'amour (1992) Diane Kurys. France

Lola is an independent woman, a professional writer with two men on a string. Both men are married with children. When the men, and Lola, have to make choices, Lola's comfortable life becomes less appealing.

Love Songs/ Les chansons d'amour (2007) Christophe Honoré. Belgium

This modernist musical about love and loss in Paris centers around a young couple, Ismael and Julie, who in the hope of sparking their stalled relationship, enter a playful yet emotionally laced threesome with Alice. When tragedy strikes, these young Parisians are forced to deal with the fragility of life and love. For Ismael, this means negotiating through the advances of Julie's sister and a young college student--one of which may offer him redemption. Starring Louis Garrel, Ludivine Sagnier and Chiara Mastroianni.

The Lover/ L'amant (1992) Jean-Jacques Annaud. France

It is French Colonial Vietnam in 1929. A young French girl from a family that is having some monetary difficulties is returning to boarding school. She is alone on public transportation when she catches the eye of a wealthy Chinese businessman. He offers her a ride into town in the back of his chauffeured sedan, and sparks fly. Can the torrid affair that ensues between them overcome the class restrictions and social mores of that time? Based on the semi-autobiographical novel *L'Amant* by Marguerite Duras.

Ma Mère (2004) Christophe Honoré. Belgium

Pierre, a youth, comes from his grandmother's in France to stay with his parents in the Canary Islands. His father talks oddly about his lost youth and leaves abruptly for France. Mom promises to take Pierre to a nightclub, remarking that people will think he's her lover. He prays. His father dies in France, and his mother wants him to empty his father's office; Pierre finds it full of pornography. His mother takes him in tow into a night world without morality, a world of sexual exploitation, exhibitionism, and wildness. What will Pierre make of this, and what, ultimately, will he make of his mother?

Madame Bovary (1949) Vincente Minnelli. France - Sweden (2 copies)

French author Gustave Flaubert is on trial for writing the "indecent" novel *Madame Bovary*. To prove that he wrote a moral tale, Flaubert narrates the story of beautiful Emma Bovary, an adulteress who destroyed the lives of everyone she came in contact with. A canonical nineteenth century French novel on film.

Mademoiselle Chambon (2009) Stéphane Brizé. France

Jean, his loving wife and son live a simple, happy life. At his son's homeroom teacher Mademoiselle Chambon's request, he volunteers as substitute teacher and starts to fall for her delicate and elegant charm. His ordinary life between family and work starts to falter.

The Man of My Life / L'homme de sa vie (2006) Zabou Breitman. France

Just like every summer, Frederic, his wife Frederique and their son spend the holidays in their country house in the South of France, along with their extended family. One night they invite their new neighbor for dinner. Hugo is a solitary, self-possessed gay man who openly parades his homosexuality. The two men will talk about their radically different visions of love until dawn and develop a powerful bond that will cast turmoil in their hearts and disconcert their entourage.

Manon of the Spring/ Manon des sources (1986) Claude Berri. France

In a rural French village an old man and his only remaining relative are successful flower growers using water from a spring on an adjoining property they now own. The grown-up daughter of the previous owner still lives in the hills as a goatherd and comes to realize that not only these two but the whole village knew of the existence of the spring when her father was desperately trying to water his crops. An accident with one of the goats leads her by chance to the source of the spring and the possibility of a terrible revenge. Starring Yves Montand, Daniel Auteuil and Emmanuelle Béart.

Marius and Jeannette/ Marius et Jeanette (1997) Robert Guédiguian. France

Pugnacious Jeannette lives in a convivial working class house in Marseilles, where she raises her two children with the meager pay from her precarious job in a supermarket. When she attempts to steal two buckets of paint from a derelict cement works, she is caught red-handed by Marius, the limp guard who lives there. A relationship between Marius and Jeannette develops, but they are both hesitant to become emotionally committed. The unavoidable involvement of Jeannette's talkative, sometimes quarrelling, mostly cheerful neighbors, brings additional - sometimes decisive - twists to her relationship with Marius, and with her children as well.

Matisse Centennial at the Grand Palace (2001) Documentary

The only film record of the historic Matisse exhibition in Paris covering all his major works.

Memories Unlocked/ Souvenirs intimes(1999) Jean Beaudin. Canada

La vie de Max est sans problèmes. Il s'active, il peint dans son vaste loft du centre-ville, il est entouré de gens qui l'aiment. La force de Max est celle des survivants: il a perdu ses jambes, des années auparavant, mais il s'est relevé, plus solide que jamais. Parmi ses visiteurs les plus assidus, il y a le jeune Laurel, qu'il aime comme un fils. Il y a son ami d'enfance Mortimer, un sculpteur talentueux et narcissique, il y a Pauline l'angoissée, il y a l'inoffensif Julius, et il y a la belle et fragile Maggie, le modèle privilégié de Max. Et bientôt, et surtout, il y a Lucie, une jeune femme rescapée du passé de Max, un fantôme dont la voix au téléphone commence à hanter ses nuits. Que veut-elle?

Merry Christmas/ Joyeux Noël (2005) Chrisitan Carion. France

Joyeux Noël captures a rare moment of grace from one of the worst wars in the history of mankind, World War I. On Christmas Eve, 1914, as German, French, and Scottish regiments face each other from their respective trenches, a musical call-and-response turns into an impromptu cease-fire, trading chocolates and champagne, playing soccer, and comparing pictures of their wives. But when Christmas ends, the war returns...Joyeux Noël has been justly accused of sentimentality, but if any subject warrants such an earnest and hopeful treatment, it's the horrors of trench warfare. The largely unknown cast--the more familiar faces include Diane Kruger (Troy), Daniel Bruhl (Good Bye Lenin!), Benno Furmann (The Princess and the Warrior), and Gary Lewis (Billy Elliot)--deliver low-key but effective performances as the movie dwells on the everyday elements of life in the face of war. Based on a true incident (though considerably fictionalized).

Modigliani of Montparnasse/ Modigliani Montparnasse 19 (1958) Jacques Becker. France

Biographic movie about the last year of the famous Italian painter Modigliani. Modigliani, a poor painter in Paris of 1919, falls in love with a daughter from a wealthy family. Her parents are against their relation and stop financial help.

Molière (2007) Laurent Tirand. Belgium

In 1658, playwright/actor Molière, having been given a theater in the capital by the King, is back in Paris after touring the kingdom of France with his company of players. One day, a young lady asks him to follow her to the deathbed of her mother... Thirteen years earlier, Molière already runs a troupe but goes broke and is thrown to prison. Fortunately (?) his debt is covered by Monsieur Jourdain, a rich man who wants him to help him rehearse a one-act play he has written with a view to seducing a beautiful bright young widow, Célimène. As Jourdain is married to Elmire, and is the "respectable" father of two daughters his design must remain secret so Molière is introduced into the house as Tartuffe, an austere priest...

Mon oncle d'Amérique (1980) Alain Renais. France-USA

Prof. Henri Laborit uses the stories of the lives of three people to discuss behaviorist theories of survival, combat, rewards and punishment, and anxiety. René is a technical manager at a textile factory and must face the anxiety caused by corporate downsizing. Janine is a self-educated actress/stylist who learns that the wife of her lover is dying and must decide to let them reunite. Jean is a controversial career-climbing writer/politician at a crossroads in life.

Monsieur Ibrahim (2003) François Dupeyron. France

In a street called Blue in a very poor neighborhood in Paris, Monsieur Ibrahim is an old Muslim Turkish owner of a small market. He becomes friend of the teenager Jewish Moises, tenderly nicknamed Momo, who lives with his father in a small apartment on the other side of the street. Monsieur Ibrahim gives paternal love and teaches the knowledge of the Koran to the boy, receiving in return love and respect.

Mont Saint Michel

An 80 metre high mound of granite in Normandy, Le Mont-Saint-Michel, with its historic buildings is like something from a fairy tale. Powerful fortifications surround both the small town and the abbey at top of the rock, remnants of Mont-Saint-Michel's dramatic past. The three-storey monastery in the northern section, La Merveille, is one of the finest examples of French Late Gothic design. In the middle of the 10th century Benedictine monks from Saint Wandrille took over this mountain pilgrimage that soon developed into an important pilgrimage destination.

My Father and I/ Comment j'ai tué mon père (2001) Anne Fontaine. Belgium

When his long-time disappeared father is entering his life again, Jean-Luc, a successful doctor, has no option but to face his own life story. Will he ever be able to forget and forgive?

My Favorite Season/ Ma saison préférée (1993) André Téchiné. France

Old woman Berthe leaves her house to live in her daughter Emilie's one. Emilie and her brother Antoine have fallen out three years ago and have not seen each other since, but Emilie invites him for Christmas. Memories will come up, and will be depicted both Berthe's destiny and the strange relationship between Emilie and Antoine.

My Life in Pink/ Ma Vie en rose (1997) Alain Berliner. France

Ludovic is a young boy who can't wait to grow up to be a woman. When his family discovers the little girl blossoming in him they are forced to contend with their own discomfort and the lack of understanding from their new neighbors. Their anger and impatience cave and Ludovic is sent to see a psychiatrist in the hopes of fixing whatever is wrong with him. A movie that addresses trans-gender and gender issues in general through the eyes of a child.

My Name is Sabine/ Elle s'appelle Sabine (2007) Sandrine Bonnaire. France (documentary)

A sensitive portrait of Sabine Bonnaire, the autistic sister of the French actress Sandrine Bonnaire.

Nelly & Monsieur Arnaud/ Nelly et Monsieur Arnaud (1995) Claude Sautet. France

Nelly is underemployed, in debt, and married to a slacker. She meets Arnaud, a wealthy retired magistrate and businessman whose wife lives in Geneva with another man and whose children hardly speak to him. He offers to pay her debts, no strings attached. She leaves her husband and accepts Arnaud's gift. He then offers a job typing and editing his memoirs, which she takes. She is beautiful, amused, detached; he is observant and probing. She meets his youthful publisher, and they begin a love affair. When that ends and it is also clear that her husband and she are irreconcilable, Nelly's delicate friendship with Arnaud is her refuge. Then his wife returns and things must change.

The New Eve/ La Nouvelle Eve (1999) Catherine Corsini. France

La Nouvelle Eve is a bittersweet comedy about an independent woman, thirty-ish and single, and her unexpected need for the affections of a forty-ish balding family man with no interest in acquiring a mistress. Camille (Karin Viard) works as a lifeguard at an indoor swimming pool in Paris. The idea of domesticity bores her to tears; she would rather see herself having kinky sex in elevators or restrooms than carrying a baby in her arms. But something has been missing in her life, and she's absent-minded and irritable. When she trips on the street and falls, Alexis (Pierre-Loup Rajot) offers her his handkerchief. Camille is self-destructive in her obsession to possess Alexis. But Alexis is not totally indifferent, either. Acting is quite remarkable, particularly the performance of Karin Viard as a modern woman who is completely confused with her old-fashioned emotions. The film pokes fun at the bourgeois family life as well as the singles scene. La Nouvelle Eve, which was produced by Paolo Bronco, was screened as part of the Panorama section of the 49th International Berlin Film Festival, 1999.

Olga's Chignon/ Le Chignon d'Olga (2002) Jérôme Bonnell. France

Jerome Bonnell's Le Chignon d'Olga looks at the lives of a French family after the death of their beloved mother. Her son Julien (Hubert Benhamdine) deals with the grief in part by losing an interest in his musical studies. Daughter Emma (Florence Loiret) begins to experiment with her sexuality. Husband Gilles (Serge Riaboukine) faces a brutal case of writer's block

The Page Turner/ La Tourneuse de pages (2006) Denis Dercourt. Belgium

Ten year-old Melanie has a special gift for the piano. But during her entrance recital for the Conservatory, she is distracted by the thoughtless behavior of Ariane, a well-known concert pianist. Melanie fails the exam and decides to give up the piano forever...

Paris (2008) Cédric Klapisch. France

Pierre, a professional dancer, suffers from a serious heart disease. While he is waiting for a transplant which may (or may not) save his life, he has nothing better to do than look at the people around him, from the balcony of his Paris apartment. When Elise, his sister with three kids and no husband, moves in to his place to care for him, Pierre does not change his new habits. And instead of dancing himself, it is Paris and the Parisians who dance before his eyes.

Paris 36/Faubourg 36 (2008) Christophe Barratier. Belgium

A man is charged with murder. He is Pigoil, the aging stage manager at Chansonnia, a music hall in a Paris faubourg. His confession is a long flashback to New Year's Eve, 1935, when he discovers his wife is unfaithful and Galapiat, the local mobster, closes the music hall. Over the next few months, Pigoil loses custody of his beloved son, Jo-Jo, and must find work. Pigoil and his pals take over the Chansonnia as a co-op; Galapiat is momentarily benign. Their star is the young Douce, a girl from near Lille for whom Galapiat lusts. She in turn falls in love with Milou, a local Red. There are ups and downs, but mostly ups - but what about Jo-Jo and what about the murder?

Paris 1900 (1947) Nicole Védres. USA

Producer Pierre Braunberger offers a nostalgic journey into "Fin de Siècle" Paris in this diverting documentary. Probing into the Pathe stock footage labs, Braunberger assembles precious film clips of the City of Light in the 14 years prior to World War I. Among the famous personages pictured in this feature-length effort are Leon Blum, Edmond Rostand (the author of Cyrano de Bergerac) and even Buffalo Bill. The film is wryly narrated by actor Claude Dauphin.

Paris, I Love You/ Paris je t'aime (2006) Olivier Assayas. France

In *PARIS, JE T'AIME*, celebrated directors from around the world, including the Coen Brothers, Gus Van Sant, Gurinder Chadha, Wes Craven, Walter Salles, Alexander Payne and Olivier Assayas, have come together to portray Paris in a way never before imagined. Made by a team of contributors as cosmopolitan as the city itself, this portrait of the city is as diverse as its creators' backgrounds and nationalities. With each director telling the story of an unusual encounter in one of the city's neighborhoods, the vignettes go beyond the 'postcard' view of Paris to portray aspects of the city rarely seen on the big screen. Racial tensions stand next to paranoid visions of the city seen from the perspective of an American tourist. A young foreign worker moves from her own domestic situation into her employer's bourgeois environs. An American starlet finds escape as she is shooting a movie. A man is torn between his wife and his lover. A young man working in a print shop sees and desires another young man. A father grapples with his complex relationship with his daughter. A couple tries to add spice to their sex life. These are but a few of the witty and serendipitous narratives that make up *PARIS, JE T'AIME*.

Paris through the Ages

From its beginnings as a small fishing village inhabited by the Parisii during the third century B.C. through Caesar's conquest of Gaul and its acquisition of the name Lutetia, from its consecration as the capital of Capetian France in the 10th century through Villon to the student rebellion of 1968, Paris has been synonymous with France as no other national capital is. This program tells the story of Paris and its people: kings and councilors, poets and painters, architects and gardeners...rich and poor, aristocrats of ancient lineage and new immigrants, people of exquisite and those of execrable taste—Parisians all.

Perfect Love/ Parfait amour! (1996) Catherine Breillat. France

Perfect Love begins with the reenactment of a violent crime. It then moves back in time to the evening, several months before, when 37-year-old mother and divorcée Frédérique (Isabelle Renaud in an accomplished performance) and 28-year-old man-about-town Christophe (Francois Renaud) first got together. For a while, the couple is able to make their unlikely union work, but then it all starts to unravel. There is no one incident, rather a series of petty jealousies and cruel comments. By the end, one of the two has murdered the other. As with her controversial 1999 feature, *Romance*, the title of author and director Catherine Breillat's 1996 predecessor isn't meant to be taken literally. If it's slightly less shocking and sexually explicit than 2001's acclaimed *Fat Girl*, it's just as disturbing and thought provoking and seems to suggest that an obsession with "perfect love" can only end in failure--if not death.

Persepolis (2007) Vincent Paronnaud and Marjane Satrapi. France

A fascinating and wholly unexpected take on Iran's Islamic revolution beginning in the 1970s, *Persepolis* is an enthralling, animated feature about a spirited young woman who spends her life trying to deal with the consequences of her nation's history. Based on an autobiographical comic book by Marjane Satrapi, the story concerns Marji (voiced as a teenager and woman by Chiara Mastroianni), whose natural fire and precociousness are slowly dampened by the rise of religious extremists. Marji grieves over the imprisonment and execution of a beloved uncle, then begrudgingly adapts to ever-tightening rules about dress, social mores, education for women, and expectations about marriage and divorce. Along the way, her grandmother (Danielle Darrieux) and mother (Catherine Deneuve) help keep Marji grounded during her rebellious teens and encourage her to find life beyond Iran's borders, a decision that proves both a blessing and curse. An unique window onto a crucial chapter of 20th century history, *Persepolis* is graphically engaging with its black-and-white, bold lines and feeling of repressed energy, fit to burst. The emotional content is so strong that after awhile, one almost forgets the film is a cartoon. Satrapi co-wrote the screenplay and co-directed the film along with animator Vincent Paronnaud.

Place Vendôme (1998) Nicole Garcia. Belgium

Catherine Deneuve delivers an award-winning performance as Marianne, the alcoholic wife of a famous diamond jeweler who must pick up the pieces of her broken life when her husband suddenly commits suicide.

Ponette (1996) Jacques Doillon. France

An extremely captivating movie on how a little girl copes with her mother's death. She withdraws from all the people around her, waiting for her mother to come back. She tries waiting, and when her mother still doesn't appear, tries magic chants, praying to God, and then becoming a child of God, to have some power over Him. All to no avail. But then, when she is in despair, her mother does come back ...

Portrait of an Artist Raoul Dufy: Painter and Decorator (1987 Documentary)

Raoul Dufy was considered the last of the fauvists. His ample use of color and brightness distinguished his work in the early 20th century. *Portrait of an Artist: Raoul Dufy -- Painter and Decorator* examines his life and career. Dufy was tentatively embraced by the fauvists as he experimented with light and form. After a brief foray into cubism, Dufy began to develop a more personal style. His fondness for perspective included both landscapes and seascapes. Dufy used a free hand in his work, incorporating shallow space and angular forms. His series of black freighters foreshadowed the American expressionist movement. *Portrait of an Artist* pays tribute to Dufy's prolific and multi-mediumed art.

Private Fears in Public Places/ Coeurs (2006) Alain Resnais. France

A handful of characters struggle to hold on to relationships with the people they care for in this collaboration between playwright Alan Ayckbourn and filmmaker Alain Resnais. Dan (Lambert Wilson) has recently finished up a hitch in the Army, but rather than deal with his emotional issues, Dan prefers to get drunk. While he barely communicates with his girlfriend Nicole (Laura Morante), she's convinced they will still marry and opts to ignore his obvious problems. Lionel (Pierre Arditi) is a bartender who has become increasingly isolated and cut off from his friends as he looks after his father Arthur. Arthur, however, is in failing health and has little appreciation of his son's sacrifices. Thierry (Andre Dussollier) is a real estate salesman who has fallen for one of his co-workers, Charlotte (Sabine Azema); however, Charlotte's mild-mannered exterior hides a personality that thrives on emotional gamesmanship. And Gaelle (Isabelle Carre), Thierry's sister, is lonely and looking for a relationship, but her efforts bring her neither joy nor companionship. *Coeurs* (aka *Petites Peurs Partagees*) received its world premiere at the 2006 Venice Film Festival.

Red Lights/ Feux rouges (2004) Cédric Kahn. Belgium

Antoine and Helene drive to South France to return their kids from a holiday camp. The traffic is dense and the atmosphere growingly tense; he is an alcoholic and becomes increasingly drunk the more often they stop. After a fierce discussion they split and both have to face great danger during the night.

Red Riding Hood/ Le Petit Chaperon Rouge. France

A classic version of the Perrault tale.

Rendez-vous (1985) André Téchiné. France

A provocative erotic drama, stylishly rendered by Andre Techine, who won the Best Director award at the Cannes Film Festival for this compelling investigation into the intersection of sexual and artistic passion.

Rendez-vous in Paris/ Les rendez-vous de Paris (1995) Eric Rohmer. France

When she sets sail for Lisbon, Catherine Laurence, a famous classical singer has but one wish: to be left alone. Unfortunately she soon gets bothered by a rude, invading man. Later she gets to know him better and becomes susceptible to his charm. She realizes that Michel is in love with her and it is not long before she goes beyond her disastrous first impression. Although not quite sure he is a perfectly honest man she entrusts him with a delicate assignment: keep her precious pearl necklace coveted by Van Coolart, a fake Dutch diamond-merchant, and give it back to her in Paris. If he is a robber himself, so much the worse for her. But if Michel keeps the Paris rendezvous love is in store for both of them. Nevertheless there is a crucial factor she regrettably disregards, composer Raymond Aubour, a faithful friend who has been her suitor for ten years...

Ridicule (1996) Patrice Leconte. France -USA

In Patrice Leconte's cool, precise moral comedy Ridicule, the corrupt, sycophantic court of King Louis XVI is invaded by a provincial nobleman, Ponceludon de Malavoy (Charles Berling), who with the help of his own sharp tongue, the coaching of the retired courtier Marquis de Bellegarde (Jean Rochefort), and the love of the Marquis's beautiful, nature-loving daughter (Judith Godrèche) hopes to win funds for his project to drain the fever-infested swamps of his homeland. But first he has to get by the cunning, sexually manipulative Madame de Blayac (Fanny Ardant, imperious and superb) and her waspish, priestly ally, the Abbot de Vilecourt (Bernard Giraudeau).

Romance (1999) Catherine Breillat. France

Like Nagisa Oshima's erotic masterpiece In the Realm of the Senses (1976), this film's shockingly graphic depiction of sex blurs the line between art and pornography. Marie (Caroline Ducey) is unfulfilled by her relationship with Paul (Sagamore Stévenin), her narcissistic male model boyfriend, who refuses to show her any kind of physical affection, much less make love to her. Frustrated, she decides to take matters into her own hands, and she finds one night of tenderness and passion in the arms of Paolo, a man she met in a bar, played by Italian porn star Rocco Siffredi. Later, she is seduced by an older man, Robert (François Berléand), who introduces her to bondage and sadomasochism. As she allows herself to be bound, gagged, and forced into bizarre contortions, her flirtation with the wild side pushes her into increasingly frightening and degrading situations.

Russian Dolls/ Les poupées russes (2005) Cédric Klapisch. France

Five years after their summer together in Barcelona, Xavier, William, Wendy, Martine and Isabelle reunite.

The Sanguinaires (1997) Laurent Cantet. France

One of eight medium-length films sponsored by France's Channel 7 television network designed to commemorate or comment upon the upcoming millennium, Laurent Cantet's Les Sanguinaires represents France. It is set in December, 1999 and centers upon Francois, a Parisian travel agent who decides to travel to the title island (located off the coast of Corsica) to get away from the celebratory chaos in Paris. Traveling with a few friends and their many children, Francois arrives upon the island on Christmas day and must wait five hours for Stéphane the caretaker to show up. His lateness puts the fussy Francois in a bad mood that does not improve when he discovers that the house has no heat and that his bedding is

damp. The others decide to make the best of things and enjoy themselves. They find Stéphane charming, which only makes Francois even madder. As New Year's approaches, Francois gets more and more tense. The story's underlying message remarks upon the protagonist's inability to escape the trappings of humanity he supposedly loathes.

Scarlet and Black/ Rouge et noir (1954) Claude Autant-Lara. France

It's no holds barred for Julian in pursuit of upward mobility. Although expected to channel career aspirations into the Church of the post- Napoleonic era, his intensely romantic liaisons propel him forward at a pace he cannot control.

The School of Flesh/ L'école de la chair (1998) Benoît Jacquot. France

Fashion executive Dominique's obsession for Quentin, a young bisexual hustler, fills her desire for physical love but leaves her taxed emotionally. Twists and turns in the relationship, along with the man's violent and abusive nature, force Dominique to reconcile the conflicts created by her passion. In this quest, Dominique is aided (and sometimes hindered) by friends, clients, and Quentin's former and current acquaintances.

Seducing Dr. Lewis/La grande seduction (2003) Jean-François Pouliot. Canada

A much-needed boost in the form of a new factory is promised to the residents of the tiny fishing village St. Marie-la-modern provided they can lure a doctor to take up full-time residency on the island. Inspired the villagers devise a scheme to make Dr. Christopher Lewis a local.

La Sentinelle (1992) Arnaud Desplechin. France-USA

Mathias, whose dead father was a diplomat in Germany, decides to study forensic medicine in Paris. In the train, he has difficulties with the border police, and is insulted and threatened by a strange man, who quickly disappears. Next day, he discovers in his luggage a shrunken human head. He soon becomes fascinated by it, feeling responsible, and starts his own investigation.

Seraphine (2008) Martin Provost. France

Séraphine Louis, 42, lives in Senlis, a small town fifty kilometers outside Paris. She earns a living doing household chores and cleaning. In her spare time, Séraphine paints, on anything that comes to hand (plates, furniture, small wooden panels). She works as a maid for Madame Duphot, who rents an apartment to a German art critic and dealer, Wilhelm Uhde, an enthusiastic advocate of modern and 'primitive' artists. At a dinner party given by Madame Duphot, Wilhelm comes across a small painting that Séraphine brought over a few days previously. Mesmerized, he snaps it up and insists that Séraphine show him the rest of her work. He buys it all and encourages her to continue developing her talent. The Great War breaks out. Uhde is forced to flee France and abandon Séraphine. 1927. Back in France, Wilhelm Uhde visits an exhibition of amateur painters in Senlis, where, at the far end of one of the rooms, he glimpses huge, shimmering, mystical canvases. Wilhelm immediately recognizes Séraphine's style. Overcome with emotion, he decides to take the elderly woman under his wing once more. After the holidays, Caussat and Bruel are going back to the boarding school, where their life is sad, dull, and akin to imprisonment. But there is plot setting up for a revolt... A caricature of power, authority and religion, with elements of surrealism and cinematic experimentation, this is a prime example of poetic realist film.

Shadow Play/ Portraits Chinois (1996) Martine Dugowson. France

Ada and Lise are both costume designers, the first is around 20, the other around 30. Both are working hard on their break through. There are also jobs for the movies. This is where Lise meets producer Alphonse, who is nearly 20 years older than she. Because he is unhappy with his girlfriend a secret relationship evolves. Ada has problems as well, but she's not the only one. There are also the young Emma and Nina, as well as Yves and Guido - enough people to get into complicated relationship entanglements.

She's One of Us/ Elle est des nôtres (2003) Siegrid Alnoy. France

One of French cinema's boldest debut films, *She's One of Us* is a stylish, sardonic glimpse at a woman perpetually hovering on the edge of life. So socially inept that she steals bits of conversation and hobbies from others, Christine Blanc is a temp who drifts from one dead-end job to another. Desperate for connection, she reaches out to her boss and forms a tenuous friendship, leading to an explosion of rage when Christine's phony persona is exposed. Yet, in an ironic twist, her life changes, and as she becomes more and more confident, Christine becomes "one of us" ... with chilling results.

Simone de Beauvoir (1979) Josée Dayan, Malka Ribowska. France (2 copies)

Philosopher Simone de Beauvoir is best known for her two feminist books, *The Second Sex* and *Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter*. In 1979, her five-decade relationship with Jean-Paul Sartre was the subject of a documentary.

Skirt Day/ La journée de la jupe (2008) Jean-Paul Lilienfeld. France

A troubled and emotionally fragile woman finds herself at the center of a firestorm, in this gut-wrenching psychological drama from France. Screen veteran Isabelle Adjani (*Les Soeurs Brontë*, *Ishtar*) stars as Sonia Bergerac, an instructor at a school for "difficult" children. As if that role were not demanding enough, Sonia's husband suddenly and inexplicably leaves her, and she encounters considerable problems adjusting to her work environment. She thus finds herself careening toward a nervous breakdown, with seemingly no way to stop. Compounding matters is Sonia's decision to buck the principal's rule of no skirts for female teachers, a policy she resents. Sonia's world explodes into chaos one afternoon when she discovers a gun in one of her students' bags. Acting spontaneously and indignantly, she seizes it and fires an accidental shot, wounding one pupil's leg. The incident gets misread and draws untoward attention, and before long parents, politicians, law officers and the media surround the school and turn an unfortunate incident into a full-blown hostage crisis that may well push Sonia over the edge of sanity.

Someone Loved You/ Je l'aimais (2009) Zabou Breitman. Belgium

An unabashed paean to the pleasures of an illicit, adulterous love affair, this melodrama stars Gallic screen legend Daniel Auteuil (*Sostiene Pereira*) as Pierre, an elderly Frenchman. At the outset of the tale, Pierre's son, Adrien (*Antonin Chalon*) leaves wife Chloe (*Florence Loiret-Caille*) and their two daughters following an ongoing affair with a mistress. In response, Pierre whisks Chloe and the girls away to a cabin for a few days of consolation, then sits down with his daughter-in-law and recounts a series of events from his past. The film flashes back in time to Pierre's middle-aged years, when as a businessman he attempted to close a deal with a cadre of Chinese executives but couldn't quite manage to do so, given his constant distraction by the gorgeous (and much younger) translator at the meeting, Mathilde (*Marie-Josée Croze*).

Summer Hours/ L'heure d'été (2008) Olivier Assayas. France

Two brothers and a sister witness the disappearance of their childhood memories when they must relinquish the family belongings to ensure their deceased mother's succession. With its richly-detailed script and nuanced performances by Juliette Binoche and Charles Berling, this film illuminates the private experience of loss, as well as the practical concerns of settling and estate, with insight and poetry.

A Sunday in Kigali/ Un dimanche à Kigali (2006) Robert Favreau. Canada

Spring 1994. Kigali, Rwanda's capital city, deep in the heart of Africa. Bernard Valcourt is a man divided between hope and disillusionment. In Africa to shoot a documentary on the devastation weakened by AIDS, Valcourt watches on as tensions rapidly escalate between Tutsis and Hutus. At the Hôtel Des Mille Collines, home to expatriates, Valcourt falls madly in love with Gentille, a beautiful Rwandan waitress. Though she feels the same way, their romance grows in fits and starts; she is so young and he - he is so white... In spite of their differences, Gentille and Valcourt throw caution to the wind and marry. And then war breaks out. Amidst the ensuing chaos the lovers are brutally separated. Valcourt searches desperately for his wife, but because of his status as a foreigner, is forced to leave the country. Months later. Rwanda is stained with the blood of close to a million Tutsis but order has been restored. Valcourt returns to Kigali in search of his wife. But with many survivors displaced from their homes and some living in refugee camps across borders, his task is a difficult one. Amidst this chaos, will Valcourt find Gentille? And if he does, will they recapture their love or will the scars of Africa's most brutal war run too deep? A beautiful love story set against the horror of genocide, A Sunday in Kigali paints, with clarity and compassion, a picture of the horror and the hope that reside in the human heart.

La Symphonie Pastorale (1946) Jean Delannoy. France-USA

This adaptation of classic novel tells of a pastor's forbidden love for a blind girl and the tragic consequences of that passion. The cleric takes charge of an orphaned Gertrude, and devotes all his care and affection to her. As she grows to womanhood, his initially charitable behaviour becomes compromised by romantic desire. Gertrude, however, remains literally blind to her guardians emotion, and their effects on his wife and family. Until one day, everything change.

A Tale of Springtime/ Conte de printemps (1990) Eric Rohmer. France

Jeanne is open and even-tempered, a philosophy teacher at a lycée. Her fiancé is away and she doesn't want to stay at his messy flat; she's loaned hers to a cousin, so she accepts the invitation of Natasha, a music student whom she meets at a party, to sleep in her father Igor's bedroom because he's always with his young girlfriend, Eve. Natasha tells Jeanne a story of a missing necklace and her suspicions of Eve. They all meet at dinner, then again at Igor's country house. Is Natasha scheming to get Igor and Jeanne together alone? Once alone, what determines how they choose to act? And what about the necklace?

A Tale of Winter/ Conte d'hiver (1992) Eric Rohmer. France

Félicie and Charles have a serious if whirlwind holiday romance. Due to a mix-up on addresses they lose contact, and five years later at Christmas-time Félicie is living with her mother in a cold Paris with a daughter as a reminder of that long-ago summer. For male companionship she oscillates between hairdresser Maxence and the intellectual Loïc, but seems unable to commit to either as the memory of Charles and what might have been hangs over everything.

Thank You for the Chocolate / Merci pour le chocolat (2000) Claude Chabrol. France

Claude Chabrol directs a well-crafted thriller, which recalls the style and themes of his best-known work in the 1960s. Marie-Claire Muller, who has inherited control of a large and successful Swiss chocolate company, is married to well-known musician André Polonski . One day, André receives a visit from a beautiful young woman named Jeanne who claims to be his daughter. Based on a novel by American crime novelists Charlotte Armstrong.

Time of the Wolf/ Le Temps du loup (2003) Michael Haneke. France

Immediately before a global cataclysm, Anna and her family arrive at their holiday home in the countryside only to find it is occupied by a group of complete strangers. This confrontation is just the beginning of a painful learning process, as they discover that nothing will ever be the same again.

Time Out/ L'emploi du temps (2001) Laurent Cantet. France

An unemployed man finds his life sinking more and more into trouble as he hides his situation from his family and friends.

Time Regained/ Le Temps retrouvé (1999) Raoul Ruiz. France

Marcel Proust (1871-1922) is on his deathbed. Looking at photographs brings memories of his childhood, his youth, his lovers, and the way the Great War put an end to a stratum of society. His memories are in no particular order, and move back and forth in time. Marcel at various ages interacts with Odette, with the beautiful Gilberte and her doomed husband, with the pleasure-seeking Baron de Charlus, with Marcel's lover Albertine, and with others; present also in memory are Marcel's beloved mother and grandmother. It seems as if to live is to remember and to capture memories is to create a work of great art. The memories parallel the final volume of Proust's novel. Rather than filming the content of Proust's great work, Ruiz creates a film that mirrors the way in which Proust represents memory and reality.

Towards Evening / Dans la soirée (1991) Francesca Archibugi. France

This film stars screen legend Marcello Mastroianni as Professor Brusci, a widower who has become rather set in his ways. His tranquility is disrupted when his 4-year-old granddaughter Papere is suddenly thrust into his life and deposited at his doorstep.

The Triplets of Belleville/ Les triplettes de Belleville (2003) Sylvain Chomet. France

When her grandson is kidnapped during the Tour de France, Madame Souza and her beloved pooch Bruno team up with the Belleville Sisters--an aged song-and-dance team from the days of Fred Astaire--to rescue him.

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg/ Les parapluies de Cherbourg (1964) Jacques Demy. France (2 copies)

Geneviève, 17, lives with her widowed mother, who owns an umbrella shop in Cherbourg. She and Guy, a twenty-year-old auto mechanic, are secretly in love and want to marry, but when she reveals this to her mother, her mother objects on the grounds that Geneviève is too young and Guy is not mature or well-established enough, particularly since he has not yet done his required military service. Shortly after this, Guy is drafted to serve in the war in Algeria. Before he leaves, he and Geneviève consummate their love for each other, which results in her becoming pregnant. While Guy is away they drift apart, and Geneviève, strongly encouraged by her mother, accepts a marriage proposal from a well-to-do gem dealer named Roland Cassard, who has fallen in love with her at first sight and has promised to bring up her child as his own.

Under the Sand/ Sous le sable (2000) François Ozon. France

Marie, a professor of English literature in a Paris university, has been happily married to Jean for 25 years, although they have no children. During their summer vacations in the southwest of France, Jean leaves Marie sunbathing on the beach and goes to swim in the sea. When Marie turns back, she cannot find Jean. Has he left her? committed suicide? drowned? With no clue and no body to mourn over, Marie acts as her husband was still alive.

Vagabond/ Sans toit ni loi (1985) Agnès Varda. France

In winter in the south of France, a young woman is found frozen in a ditch. She's ill kempt, a vagabond. Through flashbacks and brief interviews, we trace her final weeks, as she camps alone or falls in with various men and women, many of whom project their needs onto her or try to give her life direction. She squats in an old house smoking hash with a man, falls for a Tunisian laborer and works beside him pruning grape vines, stays with a couple shepherding goats, meets an agronomist trying to save plane trees, gets tipsy with an old woman, and has an offer to appear in porn films. the military, becomes so unhinged that she must be sent away for treatment.

Venus Beauty Institute/ Vénus beauté (institut) (1999) Tonie Marshall. France

A visually stylish comedy with dramatic overtones from director Tonie Marshall, *Vénus Beauté (Institut)* looks at the lives of three women who work at a small but successful beauty salon. Angele Nathalie Baye is an attractive woman just edging into middle age who is looking for companionship without commitment, even when it comes knocking. Her co-worker Samantha (Mathilde Seigner) has more boyfriends than she knows what to do with, and Marie (Audrey Tautou), the youngest of the group, is still learning the ropes of both love and beauty treatment.

A Very Long Engagement/ Un long dimanche de fiançailles (2004) Jean-Pierre Jeunet. France

The star (Audrey Tautou) and director (Jean-Pierre Jeunet) of *Amelie* reunite for a charming and elegant drama set in a small French village during the waning days of WWI. The whimsical Tautou plays Mathilde, who anxiously awaits her husband's return from the front lines. When she hears news of his death, Mathilde is loathe to accept it, and sets out with a private detective (Ticky Holgado) to learn the truth. A wholly unusual mix of quirky romanticism and war-time somberness, Jeuneut's film is "a series of pleasures stumbling over one another in their haste to delight us" (Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times*).

Violette/ Violette Nozière (1978) Claude Chabrol. France

From the very first moments of this Claude Chabrol film, we are held spellbound by a combination of stunning artistry and brute suspense that never relaxes its grip until the final frame two hours later. This is an enthralling movie, virtually certain to become a classic, and in the performance of the title role it establishes Isabelle Huppert as one of the most enchanting actresses currently to be seen on the screen. The story is based on a sensational murder case that caused a great stir in France in the 1930's. At the age of eighteen, Violette Noziere was put on trial for the murder of her father and the attempted murder of her mother. She was found guilty, and sentenced to death. (Later the sentence was changed to life imprisonment.) The time was 1933, and Violette Noziere became a heroine of the Left and a particular object of veneration by the Surrealists, who proclaimed her a symbol of liberation from "bourgeois" morals.

Une Visite à Paris

This live-action video program is narrated in French that is simple enough for beginners to understand. Here's an opportunity to tour the French capital and learn French, as well.

Water Drops on Burning Rocks / Gouttes d'eau sur pierres brûlantes (2000) François Ozon. France

Germany in the 1970s. Léopold, a 50-year-old businessman, meets Franz, who is 20. He invites him back to his place and a love affair begins. One day, something of little importance leads to a difference of opinion. And from this moment on, there's no such thing as "we" anymore.

When Night is Falling (1995) Patricia Rozema. France

An uptight and conservative woman, working on tenure as a literacy professor at a large urban university, finds herself strangely attracted to a free-spirited, liberal woman whom works at a local carnival which comes to town.

The Widow of Saint-Pierre/ La Veuve de Saint Pierre (2000) Patrice Leconte.France

1849, on the cod islands of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, two drunk men commit a senseless murder. One is sentenced to death and must wait in the custody of the captain of the island's guard until a guillotine can arrive from Martinique. During the months of waiting, the convict Neel Auguste becomes the protégé of the captain's wife, Madame La. As she guides Neel to redemption through good works, sobriety, and study, the men of the small French elite who govern the islands criticize the captain for the latitude he gives his wife. He offends them further through his extraordinary love for her, his abrupt manner, and his growing defense of Neel. What will he do when the guillotine arrives?

Wild Reeds/ Les Roseaux Sauvages (1994) André Téchiné. France

This is a nostalgic French coming-of-age drama from director Andre Techine set in a Provence deeply divided over the war for independence being waged against French colonialism in Algeria. In 1962, Francois (Gael Morel) and Maite (Elodie Bouchez) are best friends and students at a boarding school in southwestern France, where Maite's mother Madame Alvarez (Michele Moretti) is an instructor. Francois is realizing he's gay because of his attraction to his working class roommate Serge (Stephane Rideau). Although Serge seduces Francois one night, he is not gay and is actually attracted to Maite. So is Henri (Frederic Gorny), a radically-politicized Algerian-born Frenchman who supports France in the war, an unpopular position, particularly with Madame Alvarez, a communist. The classroom sparring between Henri and Alvarez galvanizes the school, but then word comes that Serge's older brother has been killed in the war. Madame Alvarez, who loved him but refused to help him desert

The Witnesses/ Les Témoins (2007) Andre Téchiné. France

A dramatic relationship between four characters: a homosexual police inspector who crosses paths with a doctor, a writer and an opera singer.

Women/ Elles (1998) Luís Galvão Teles. Luxembourg

Five women, all near the wrong side of forty, face life's ups and downs together with laughter, tears, and sometimes irony. Their only imperative: live, love and live some more.

Xavier Lombard et Le fils perdu/ The Lost Son (1999) Chris Menges. France

Xavier Lombard is a world-weary private eye in London, in exile from his native Paris; his best friend is Nathalie, a high-class call girl. He gets a call from an old friend from the Paris police department, now a businessman whose brother-in-law is missing. The missing man's parents hire Xavier over their daughter's objections, and quickly he finds himself in the realm of children's sexual slavery. He guesses that the lost son is dead and shifts his focus to finding and breaking this lucrative business of child trafficking. He involves a reluctant Nathalie to hunt "the Austrian," the shadowy head of the business. Violence erupts quickly, and Xavier soon has little more to lose.

The Young Girls of Rochefort/ Les demoiselles de Rochefort (1967) Jacques Demy. France

Delphine and Solange are two sisters living in Rochefort. Delphine is a dancing teacher and Solange composes and teaches the piano. Maxence is a poet and a painter. He is doing his military service. Simon owns a music shop, he left Paris once month ago to come back where he fell in love 10 years ago. They are looking for love, looking for each other, without being aware that their ideal partner is very close... A film whose scenario is much less important than its feeling of euphoria, according to the director Jacques Demy.

Zéro de conduite (1933) Jean Vigo. France

After the holidays, Caussat and Bruel are going back to the boarding school, where their life is sad, dull, and akin to imprisonment. But there is plot setting up for a revolt... A caricature of power, authority and religion, with elements of surrealism and cinematic experimentation, this is a prime example of poetic realist film.