

Claude Chabrol – Behind the Mirror: Family Secrets

Film Retrospective

November 2024 - March 2025 at Ciné Lumière



The French Institute in London presents *Behind the Mirror: Family Secrets*, the first major retrospective in the UK dedicated to one of the most prolific French directors, Claude Chabrol, from 10 November 2024 to March 2025.

Spanning nearly 50 years of Chabrol's career, this retrospective aims to reassess Chabrol's cinematic legacy as a keen observer of French society and one of France's most accomplished filmmakers.

On 10 November, **Professor Catherine Dousteysier-Khoze** (Durham University), co-curator of this film season and Chabrol expert, will present *Le Beau Serge* (1958), arguably the first full-length film of the groundbreaking New Wave cinema movement.

The season has also been organised in collaboration with Chabrol's daughter, **Cécile Maistre-Chabrol**, who will be introducing the screening of *Story of Women* on 15 November. She will come back to London in January to present her documentary dedicated to her father, *Chabrol, l'anticonformiste*.

A master of suspense, Claude Chabrol depicted the vices and torments of the *petite bourgeoisie* like no others. Through his genres of choice, the thriller and the melodrama, his films delve into family dynamics and societal taboos.

A central pattern in his work, strong female characters have been embodied by the likes of **Isabelle Huppert**, **Bernadette Lafont**, **Stéphane Audran** or **Sandrine Bonnaire**, in memorable performances.

The retrospective includes:

- *Le Beau Serge* (1958)
- *Story of Women* (1988)
- *Good Times Girls* (1960)
- *La Cérémonie* (1995)
- *The Cousins* (1959)
- *The Colour of Lies* (1999)
- *Betty* (1992)
- *Inspector Lavardin* (1986)
- *The Flower of Evil* (2003)
- *Hell* (1994)
- *Madame Bovary* (1991)
- *Masks* (1987)
- *Twisting the Knife* (1997)
- *Violette* (1978)

Venue: Ciné Lumière at the Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT

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