

Document Citation

Title	Les anges du péché
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Cinematheque Ontario/a division of Toronto International Film Festival Group</i>
Date	1999 Jun 16
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	14
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Les anges du péché (Angels of sin), Bresson, Robert, 1943



LES ANGES DU PECHE

ALL NEW 35MM PRINTS!

LES ANGES DU PÉCHÉ

Director: Robert Bresson

France 1943 80 minutes

Cast: Jany Holt, Renée Faure

A revelation. None other than Alain Resnais selected Bresson's first feature as a personal favourite, calling it "a filmgoer's dream come true," and Roland Barthes wrote a lovely essay about it in which he praises its authenticity, its formal beauty, and its dialogue: "To listen to this film is a great pleasure for both mind and heart." The film that made Bresson a major figure in French cinema, and that is now seen as one of his key works, LES ANGES DU PÉCHÉ thematically and visually prefigures many of his later films. When it was rereleased a decade ago in Britain, critics hailed it as "one of the most extraordinary first feature films in the history of the cinema" (Jill Forbes). LES ANGES is about a young woman from an affluent family who enters a Dominican convent and commits herself to saving a bitter, self-hating delinquent. (It is one of the great "nun films.") As with so many of Bresson's subsequent characters, the nun's search for salvation through sacrifice becomes a Calvary, ending in humiliation, death, and redemption. Bresson authority Richard Roud counts LES ANGES among Bresson's great works: "Films had been made before about religious orders, but never one of such spiritual intensity and rigour. . . . The great originality of the film lies in the fact that for once a director is really concerned with religion, and has succeeded in giving it dramatic life – even for non-believers."

Wednesday, June 16 6:30 p.m.

cinematheque Ontario 6/99 p.14