

## Document Citation

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JACQUES BECKER'S

# Casque d'Or

SIMONE SIGNORET  
CLAUDE DAUPHIN

Though Jacques Becker directed 13 films, his reputation today is based on CASQUE D'OR which is considered his masterpiece. A beautifully stylized tragic love story set in Paris at the turn of the century, it is a haunting and evocative film which re-creates both the decorative charm of its period and a world of terror and violence. Its great visual beauty and the purity of its images are reminiscent of the painter Renoir, and the depiction of Parisian low life relates to realist writer Eugene Sue.

*"Marvellously perceptive"*  
NEW YORKER

*"Memorable"*  
NEWSWEEK

*"—A Triumph . . ."*  
PAULINE KAEI





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STORY

Marie is the mistress of Roland, one of a group of cut-throats who operate under the orders of Leca—who himself desires Marie. Tiring of her lover, Marie's eye falls on Manda, a friend of one of the gang, an ex-convict now working as a carpenter at the riverside cafe which the apaches and their girls visit in the course of a Sunday outing to Joinville.

Marie gives Manda a lead, to which he instantly responds. From then on, his road leads precipitately to tragedy. He is forced to fight for his life in a knife fight against Roland, whom he kills. He and Marie flee the police and enjoy a few idyllic days in the country, but Leca arranges it so that suspicion for the murder of Roland falls on Raymond, Manda's best friend.

Manda returns to Paris on a mission of justice. He kills Leca and turns himself in to the police. He and Raymond attempt to make their escape from prison and Raymond is killed. Manda dies on the guillotine while Marie watches from a neighboring building.

CAST

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Marie             | Simone Signoret   |
| Manda             | Serge Reggiani    |
| Leca              | Claude Dauphin    |
| Raymond           | Raymond Bussieres |
| The Old Carpenter | Gaston Modot      |
| Inspector Juliani | Paul Barge        |
| Julie             | Dominique Davray  |

CREDITS

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Director    | Jacques Becker                      |
| Screenplay  | Jacques Becker<br>Jacques Companeez |
| Dialogue    | Jacques Becker                      |
| Photography | Robert LeFebvre                     |
| Music       | Georges Van Parys                   |
| Editor      | Jacques Becker                      |

A Janus Films Release

COMMENT

"Simone Signoret had her finest role (until ROOM AT THE TOP) as the gigolette with the glorious helmet of golden hair in Jacques Becker's sultry, poetic account of the Paris underworld of 1900. Her performance — a triumph of sensuality and physical assurance— took the British Film Academy Award for 1952."

Pauline Kael, KISS KISS BANG BANG

"Not only Becker's best film, but one of the most arresting in the postwar French cinema."

Jean Mitry, Dictionnaire du Cinema

"The spirit of Renoir is present chiefly in the portrait of Casque d'Or herself, most obviously in her coiffure and dress, but also in her generous and challenging sensuality, her delighted response to the physical joy of love; and it is there as well in the presentation of the happier phases of the story—the slow procession of boats, oars dipping and voices singing, laden with apaches and their 'filles', down the river at Joinville; and the pastoral idyll, with its blowing grass and trees, which is Marie's and Manda's short experience of life together."

SIGHT AND SOUND

"The performances of Simone Signoret as Marie and Serge Reggiani as Manda are remarkable above all for their complete fusion, at a level of great intensity, of their own personalities and acting styles into a shared conception. Signoret's Marie, in particular, shows a radiant blossoming of talent: a creation entrancingly feminine, with a range of intuition that compasses the arrogant (and irresistible) willfulness of the earlier sequences as persuasively as the later warmth of a woman passionately and constantly in love."

Lindsay Anderson

Casque d'Or

94 Minutes. Black and white. France, 1952. Subtitled.