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→ **Friday, June 24**



*Gaumont Presents:
A Century of Cinema*

ANTOINE AND ANTOINETTE

(ANTOINE ET ANTOINETTE)

1946, Jacques Becker, France,
87 min.

6:00

"Jacques Becker was already an established director when the war ended. ANTOINE AND ANTOINETTE was ostensibly about a lost lottery ticket but in fact this served as little more than a pretext for Becker to give a sympathetic portrayal of the film's working class milieu and the young couple of the title, played by Roger Pigaut and Claire Maffei. The misunderstandings, quarrels and reconciliations of this pair are treated with affectionate insight and a marked lack of sentimentality. The background of life in a Parisian suburb throbs with life and the various strands of the plot are admirably woven together, including a wedding party observed with a satiric eye worthy of Rene Clair himself. To capture this setting Becker has used a technique of accumulating a mass of tiny details (the film

contains twice the normal number of individual shots). While the film makes its impact largely in visual terms there are occasional outstanding touches in the use of soundtrack too (the jangling chords produced by the piano tuner for instance as Antoine visits the lottery headquarters). . . it remains one of the director's most satisfying works."—Roy Armes, French Cinema