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FILM AT THE PUBLIC TO PRESENT
JEAN-LUC GODARD'S
A WOMAN IS A WOMAN
IN SPECIAL RE-ISSUE ENGAGEMENT
STARTING FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1987

Jean-Luc Godard's giddy musical comedy A WOMAN IS A WOMAN (UNE FEMME EST UNE FEMME, 1961) will be re-issued after a long absence by Joseph Papp's Film At The Public from Friday, May 8th through Thursday, May 28th. The uncharacteristically wacky Godard film will be shown at 6:00 and 7:40 nightly, except Mondays, with an additional matinee at 4:20 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Shown at the Second New York Film Festival (1964), the film had earlier won honors for Best Actress (Anna Karina) and a Special Jury Award at the 1961 Berlin Festival. Largely improvised, shot in 'Scope and color, the film stars Jean-Paul Belmondo and Jean-Claude Brialy in addition to Karina. In The Films of Jean-Luc Godard, filmmaker/critic Edgardo Cozarinsky points out that the story line can be read as an updated variation on Lubitsch's DESIGN FOR LIVING. (The Belmondo character is named Lubitsch.) Godard's own description of the plot is as follows: "A young stripteaser wants a child. Her boyfriend doesn't; he prefers motorcycles. So she asks another young man to oblige. He does."

The music is by Michel Legrand and the photography by Raoul Coutard. In the essay mentioned above, Cozarinsky comments: "The film has a beauty that is brash and pathetic...musical, sad, uproarious, definitely frail. It is this simultaneous celebration of beauty and its frailty, of gaiety and its ephemerality, of the transient nature of all emotion, that reveals in UNE FEMME EST UNE FEMME a peculiar romantic attitude, reserved and self-denying, which is perhaps the only possible romanticism for a contemporary sensibility."

The film is released by Interama.

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