

Document Citation

Title	A girl cut in two
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Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	2008 May 01
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	122
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Chabrol, Claude (1930), Paris, France
Film Subjects	La fille coupée en deux (A girl cut in two), Chabrol, Claude, 2007



A GIRL CUT IN TWO

LA FILLE COUPÉE EN DEUX

FRANCE/GERMANY

2007

115 MIN.

DIR Claude Chabrol

PROD Patrick Godeau

SCR Claude Chabrol, Cécile Maistre

CAM Eduardo Serra

ED Monique Fardoulis

MUS Matthieu Chabrol

CAST Ludivine Sagnier, Benoît Magimel, François Berléand, Mathilda May, Caroline Sihol, Marie Bunel, Valéria Cavalli

PRINT SOURCE IFC, 11 Penn Plaza, 15th floor, New York, NY 10001. FAX: 646-273-7250. EMAIL: kakalyka@ifcfilms.com.

Claude Chabrol has been at the top of his game for so many years we're beginning to suspect it's not a game after all but a serious, wicked sport. **A Girl Cut in Two** has a contemporary setting (almost all his films do) but a period mood; we can feel the ghost of Stendhal in the entrenched class warfare (or is it class trench-warfare?) at play as Chabrol moves his characters around an exquisite social setting. François Berléand stars as a jaded novelist and too happily married ladies man whose latest conquest is poor but honest TV weathergirl Gabrielle Deneige (Ludivine Sagnier). At once naïve and unstoppable, Gabrielle doesn't need to be convinced to enter into a sordid May-September relationship with a celebrated member of the intelligentsia. However, tugging at her other arm with the pull of the entire haute bourgeoisie is young Paul (Benoît Magimel), the cute but dangerously schizophrenic scion of a Lyon pharmaceutical magnate. What's a girl to do? Chabrol solves the problem in his usual methodical way, ending with a set piece worthy of Guy Maddin. Appropriately, the story takes as its starting point a famous Gilded Age crime of passion, the murder of Madison Square Garden architect and notorious womanizer Stanford White.

—Judy Bloch



CLAUDE CHABROL

With over 60 titles to his name, France's Claude Chabrol is cinema's premier director of socio-psychological thrillers. What he said about this film sums up the success of his approach (and why we can compare him to Hitchcock and Woody Allen): "We wanted to follow the reality of this small event closely, to emphasize, a bit like entomologists, the great revelation it makes about human nature."

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