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Time Regained

Le temps retrouvé

FRANCE/ITALY/PORTUGAL 1999, 162 min.

In French with English subtitles

DIR Raoul Ruiz **PROD** Paulo Branco **SCR** Gilles Taurand, Ruiz **CAM** Ricardo Aronovich **ED** Denise de Casabianca **CAST** Catherine Deneuve, Emmanuelle Béart, Vincent Perez, John Malkovich, Pascal Greggory, Marcello Mazzarella, Marie-France Pisier, Chiara Mastroianni **US DIST** Kino International

Presented in association with the Consulate General of France, San Francisco

Raoul Ruiz achieves the seemingly impossible with this adaptation of the final volume of *In Search of Lost Time*. It is a film at once wholly faithful to Proust and to the distinctive vision of its director. Inventing a cinematic equivalent to the novelist's "involuntary memory," Ruiz creates a permeable fiction in which every image opens on another and every level of the remembrance—from Marcel's cozy childhood memories to his struggles to recall the past—exists on the same plane. The film is a casting miracle, as the actors (leading figures of the contemporary French cinema) are perfect physical and emotional matches for Proust's characters: Catherine Deneuve as the aging Odette, Emmanuelle Béart as Gilberte, Vincent Perez as the vain Morel, Pascal Greggory as the effete Saint-Loup, Marie-France Pisier as the braying Madame Verdurin. And John Malkovich, delivering his own French dialogue, finds a soul mate in the grandly decadent Baron de Charlus. For those who know the novel, Ruiz's film sets off its own chain of memories and associations; for those who do not, it serves as a superb introduction to the shape and texture of the Proustian universe.

—Dave Kehr

Raoul Ruiz (b. Puerto Montt, Chile, 1941) Selected Filmography: *Genealogies of a Crime* (SFIFF 1997), *Three Lives and Only One Death* (1996), *The Three Crowns of the Sailor* (SFIFF 1984), *The Hypothesis of the Stolen Painting* (1978), *Trés tristes tigres* (1968)



PAMELA GENTILE

S.F. Film Festival