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The Avant-Gardes

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Peter Wollen Lecture with Imagining October and L'Age d'or 7:00

Derek Jarman (U.K., 1984)/Luis Buñuel (France, 1930)

Peter Wollen is a screenwriter, filmmaker and film theorist who is currently teaching at UCLA in the Film Department. His most recent books are Raiding the Icebox and Singin' in the Rain. Tonight's program is the first of a four-part lecture series exploring the history of the avant-garde followed by screenings of films from the PFA collection.

Derek Jarman's Imagining October, inspired by a trip to the late U.S.S.R, centers on the creation of a painting. On returning to England, Jarman commented, "In the evenings on the TV I watched the police charging miners with a gusto I never expected to see in this country. At this moment, the eighties seemed more ominous than the thirties..." (27 mins, Color, 16mm, thanks to James Mackay)

Luis Buñuel reflected, "L'Age d'or is the only film in my career conceived and created in a state of euphoria and enthusiasm, of vertigo for overthrowing things and deliberate seeking of scandal, dedicated to attacking the representatives of 'order' and tidiculing their 'eternal' principles. The period called for such a spirit..." After its release, L'Age d'or was banned for over fifty years.

Written by Buñuel, Salvador Dali. Photographed by Albert Duverger. With Gaston Modot, Lya Lys, Max Ernst, Pierre Prevert, Jacques Brunius, Paul Eluard. (63 mins, In French with English subtitles, B&W, 35mm, permission Centre Georges Pompidou)

• (Total program : c. 135 mins, PFA Collection)

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