

## Document Citation

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# Casque D'Or

(Golden Helmet)

(FRENCH)

Paris, May 6.

Discina release of Spava-Paris Films production. Stars Simone Signoret, Serge Reggiani, Claude Dauphin; features Raymond Bussieres, Paul Azais, Gaston Modot, Pierre Gujas. Directed by Jacques Becker; screenplay, Jacques Campaneez, Becker; camera, Robert Lefebvre; editor, Marguerite Renard. At Balzac, Paris. Running time, 92 MINS.

Marie.....	Simone Signoret
Manda.....	Serge Reggiani
Leca.....	Claude Dauphin
Raymond.....	Raymond Bussieres
Paul.....	Paul Azais
Georges.....	Pierre Gujas

Film is an excellent recreation of a colorful French period. Brisk in style and full of pictorial interest, it soberly recounts a famous turn-of-the-century love affair. This love, which ends in murder and the guillotine, takes place in the Gallic gangster apache milieu. It has fine atmospheric quality, brilliant thesisping and topflight production and technical values. Film would need slotting in a specialized house stateside for best results. Word-of-mouth and crix should build a good rep for the pic among the art house set. It has good exploitation value on theme and period.

Based on a true story, it recounts the love of apache moll Marie for the honest, direct and sympathetic Manda. The affair is spiked by the sly, brutal Leca, head of the mob, who wants Marie for himself. Manda, following the apache code, is forced to kill a rival to gain his Marie. Leca has him hauled off to prison on a frame. Manda escapes, and finding that Marie has given herself to Leca to help get him free, tracks down Leca to kill him in a police station before the startled gendarmes.

Though there is brutality and a bedroom scene, this shouldn't have censorship problems, for it is part of the locale and character of the film without any suggestive overtones.

Jacques Becker's direction is perfectly controlled and free of artifice. He makes his characters human and moving. The enticing period costuming, biting language and social pattern of the group aren't overdone. Simone Signoret gives Marie a cynical, sensual exciting appeal that makes this a standout role. Serge Reggiani is excellent as the forthright Manda who follows his passion to the guillotine. Claude Dauphin is perfect as the oily Leca who poses as an honest wine merchant while cheerfully masterminding his band of cutthroats. Lensing is tops and editing gives fine tempo. "Casque D'Or" is the gang name for Marie, who wears her golden mane like an old Spanish helmet. Mosk.

May 28 '52