

## Document Citation

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## *The Films: Synopses, Credits, and Notes*

### 12 PARADE (1973)

#### Synopsis

"[Parade] is the story of a great festival in the course of which Tati organizes an encounter between spectators, artists, clowns, children and himself. In the course of this encounter, adults and young people form a single enthusiastic mass, united by the spectacle. From the beginning of the film, a little girl and a little boy symbolize, in a single exchanged glance, the joy of the entire ensemble, and, during the course of the spectacle, which borders . . . on circus and music-hall, the public participates directly, and Tati, as M. Loyal, leads and animates the encounter.

The entrance of the public into the circus presents a series of observations typical of Tati's art, such as the incredible confusion which reigns in the cloak-room, or the woman, charged with all the worries of the world, who finds herself in the midst of hundreds of motorcycle helmets belonging to the spectators, or the scene in which a woman spectator, whose vision is blocked, asks a young girl, seated in front of her, to take off her helmet; the latter accedes courteously, but her hairdo, liberated from the helmet, blocks the spectator's field of vision even more . . .

The spectacle goes on before the eyes of the public and all the symbols of modern life, which Tati rejects, are transformed by him in the pure joy and harmony of the music hall. In the course of the spectacle, Tati presents his great numbers: . . . football, tennis of today and yester-year, the horse and rider, fishing. Tati's numbers alternate with other exceptional music-hall acts, of which the chief attraction is the sequence with the mule, and the triumph of children over adults.

At the end of the film Tati puts the gigantic circus spectacle in the hands of the two children who appear at the beginning of the film, and, in the hall, empty of all spectators but the parents, they realize, in their own manner, some colorful, rhythmic numbers. The film ends on a night scene, in front of the great circus; the lights go out, the wind carries off some balloons . . ." (From the Cannes Film Festival program, 1974; Museum of Modern Art, NYC Study Center Files; my translation)

#### Credits

Producer:	Gray-Film, Sveriges Radio and CEPEC
Director:	Jacques Tati
Screenplay:	Jacques Tati
Photography:	Jean Badal and Yunnar Fisher
Art direction:	François Bronett
Music:	Charles Dumont

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Orchestration: Armand Migiani; "Tax Free" by Jan Carlson  
Sound: Jean Neny  
Editors: Sophie Tatischeff, Per Carlessen, Siv Lundgren, Jonny Mair, Aline Fress  
Production directors: Louis Dolivet, Michel Chauvin  
Executive producer: Karl Haskel  
Cameramen: René Chabal, Jens Fisher, Bengt Nordwall  
Cast: Jacques Tati (M. Loyal), Karl Kossmayer and his mule, The Williams, The Veterans, The Sipoles, Norman and Ladd, Los Argentinos, Johnny Lonn, Bertilo, Jan Swahn, Bertil Berglund, Moniqa Sunnerberg, Pierre Brama, Michèle Brabo, Pia Colombo, Hall  
Running time: 83 minutes  
Technical process: Color  
Note: Most of Parade was originally shot on videotape for a television show in Stockholm, Sweden. The film was shown on French television in 1973 and again at the Cannes Film Festival of 1974 out of competition. It has not been in commercial distribution in the United States and is, therefore, difficult to see. The film won the following award: Gold Medal in the Children's Film Competition at the Moscow Film Festival of 1975.