

Document Citation

Title	Folies bourgeoises
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Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1976 Jul 21
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Folies bourgeoises (Twist), Chabrol, Claude, 1976

Folies Bourgeoises

(The Twist)

7-21-76
Variety (FRENCH-COLOR)

Paris, July 15.

UGC/Parafrance release of Barnabe Productions, Gloria Films-CCC production. Stars Bruce Dern, Sydne Rome, Ann-Margret, Stephane Audran. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Screenplay, Ennio De Concini, Maria Pafusto, Norman Enfield, Chabrol from the book by Licie Faure; camera (Eastmancolor), Jean Rabier; editor, Monique Rossignol. Reviewed by UGC Biarritz, Paris, July 6, '76. Running time, 105 MINS.

Writer	Bruce Dern
Wife	Stephane Audran
Charley	Ann-Margret
Nathalie	Sydne Rome
Jacques	Jean-Pierre Cassel
Jeweller	Curt Jurgens
Gretel	Maria Schell
Doctor	Charles Aznavour

Claude Chabrol is still the most prolific of the oldtime New Wavers. He still uses the so-called bourgeoisie, the upper middle class, for his pix that veer from gross satire to drama and even deep insights into this seemingly parasitic, puerile class.

Here he embroils a Yank writer, played in a bewildered way by Bruce Dern, with a self-dramatizing French well-to-do woman. The latter Stephane Audran fantasizes about a lover probably carrying on with a comely translator, with Ann-Margret playing it cool and looking well, but then shifts her suspicions to her husband.

The husband is having an affair but it ends and he then begins a like suspicion of his wife. Pic rarely gains a comedic edge. With top production dress, and a bevy of name thespis, even in little roles, it just misses edge and insight and shapes as a well-produced but laggard comedy of manners that appears geared for fast urban payoff for best results.

Made with English and French versions, former might get the aforementioned quick city payoff abroad and also cash in on the small but faithful Chabrol following.

— Mosk.