

Document Citation

Title	Back to the wall
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Ellis Films, Inc.</i>
Date	1959
Type	exhibitor manual
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	3
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Le dos au mur (Back to the wall), Molinaro, Edouard, 1958

**A MAN...HIS WIFE ...HER LOVER
...the wall held their secret**

BACK TO THE WALL

THE SHOCKING
STORY OF A MAN
WHO FINANCED
HIS WIFE'S
LOVE AFFAIR . . .
AND THEN MADE
HER LOVER
PAY WITH
HIS LIFE!

**"SMART AND SIZZLING!
A CRACKLING FRENCH
THRILLER."**

— *New York Times*

**"SUPERIOR...Clever,
Devilish, Ironic."**

— *Saturday Review*

**"KEEPS PATRONS ON
EDGE OF SEATS."**

— *New York World
Telegram & Sun*



Starring

**JEANNE MOREAU • GERARD OURY
• PHILLIPE NICAUD**

Directed by EDOUARD MOLINARO

An Essex-Universal Release

Distributed by

ELLIS FILMS 1501 Broadway, New York 36, N. Y.

BEST SUSPENSE FILM SINCE 'DIABOLIQUE'!

An ESSEX - UNIVERSAL Presentation

Released by ELLIS FILMS

JEANNE MOREAU

in

BACK TO THE WALL

with

GERARD OURY • PHILIPPE NICAUD
CLAIRE MAURIER • GERARD BUHR • GEORGES CUSIN
JEAN LEFEBVRE • COLETTE RENARD

Adaptation and Screenplay

FREDERIC DARD • FRANCOIS CHAVANE • JEAN BEDON
Dialogue by: FREDERIC DARD • J. I. RONCORONI

Photography ROBERT LEFEBVRE
Settings GEORGES LEVY
Music RICHARD CORNU
Film Editors ROBERT & MONIQUE ISNARDON
Production Managers ROBERT SUSSFELD, IRENEE LERICHE
Production Supervisors FRANCOIS CHAVANE, ALAIN POIRE

IN ENGLISH

Synopsis

In the dead of night, Jacques covers the dead body of a man with cement, and walls up the corpse in a building in course of construction. As he works, he goes over in his mind everything that led up to his present predicament . . .

Returning unexpectedly one night to his home, he makes an unpleasant discovery: he finds his wife with her lover. Jacques makes enquiries, and finds out that his rival is a man named Yves Normand.

Then Jacques plans a fiendish scheme: he begins to write his wife threatening letters, blackmailing her, signing the letters with an assumed name. But his wife, Gloria, engages two private investigators to find out who is writing these letters.

However, Jacques is ready, and bribes the men to do as he instructs. Through them, he gives Gloria the idea of noting down the serial numbers of the notes she pays the blackmailer. Again, with the help of the two men, Jacques then passes some of the notes to Yves.

When Gloria discovers what she thinks is the truth, she kills Yves — and then her husband, with apparently wonderful generosity, takes charge of the affair, and gets rid of the body.

And everything is fine . . . that is, until the day when Gloria discovers that her husband has been behind the whole business. And then . . .

YOUTH

BACK TO THE WALL is a film in which young people are in the majority: — director Edouard Molinaro is twenty-nine; the assistant-director is twenty-one, and the average age of the cast and unit is 30. 'Grandad' of the unit is famous Chief Cameraman Robert Lefebvre, aged 50. He has worked with every big name director for the last twenty years, but admits that Edouard Molinaro, whose first film this is, has a grasp of tension and suspense that he has never before seen in any director.

MYSTERY

Director Edouard Molinaro, making BACK TO THE WALL was determined that the suspense element of the plot should be maintained, even for the cast. And so the last ten pages of the script were not handed to them until the day when they actually shot the ending to the film. BACK TO THE WALL stars Gerard Oury, Jeanne Moreau and Philippe Nicaud.

Produced By
FRANCOIS CHAVANE
and the
SOCIETE NOUVELLE DES
ETABLISSEMENTS
GAUMONT

Directed by
EDOUARD MOLINARO

Running Time: 94 Minutes



THE NEW YORK TIMES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1959. Screen: French Thriller

'Back to the Wall' Has
Premiere at Paris

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

THERE are all kinds of ways for husbands and wives to drive each other mad, from reading newspaper at the breakfast table to perspiring in bed. But eating crackers have got a particular dandy in the new film, "Back to the Wall" ("Dos au Mur"), which had its premiere at the Paris yesterday. In this crackling little thriller, which begins cryptically with a man's hauling a corpse out of an apartment in Paris and entombing it in a concrete wall, secretly in a concrete wall, the man gets even with his wife for being unfaithful to him by blackmailing her and her lover until he literally drives her daft. And, in doing so, he accomplishes the revenge he had intended in another way. But he also allows, through a small error, for the settling of his own doom.

It is a smart and sizzling melodrama that Edouard Molinaro has prepared in a style of intense realism now much favored by young directors in France. And it whips along in a fashion that keeps the interest supremely occupied, with the uncertain trivia of details very much in close-up and to the fore.

So critical, indeed, are these details that we hesitate to start to tell of them for fear of tipping off what happens in this highly suspenseful film. But it's safe to reveal that the husband takes the passport when he begins his campaign of attrition on the nerves of his wife and her gigolo friend. And, to give you a clue as to what to watch for, we might add that the error he makes is failing, at the end, to destroy the last shred of that false identity. Keep a sharp eye on Gerard Oury as the husband who plots this shrewd and most convincing sadist we have seen in a long time. And Jeanne Moreau is extraordinarily agile and credibly looking his wife, thoroughly looking the part of a woman who would be as foolish as this

one is. Philippe Maurier as a lover and Claire Maurier as a cafe hostess who gets involved in a plot of delicious complexity are French and flavorful.

So, we might add, is the dialogue, which English subtitles translate with striking sound track with striking musical passages and staccato effects is in the groove.

Also on the bill at the Paris is an appealing eight-minute short that takes us into a world of animated toys and a world of "Toccata for Toy Trains." Elmer Bernstein wrote the music, which is only "narration" the action conceived, produced and photographed with toys from museums by Charles and Ray Eames.

Gerard Oury in "Back to the Wall," at Paris Theatre.

The Cast

BACK TO THE WALL (Dos au Mur): adaptation and dialogue by Frederic Dard, Francois Chavane, Jean Bedon and J. I. Roncoroni; from the novel "Le Dos au Mur" by M. Dard, directed by Edouard Molinaro; produced by M. Chavane and the Societe Nouvelle des Etablissements Gaumont; presented by Essex-Universal. All the scenes here by Ellis Films. At the Paris Theatre. A West Fifty-eight Paris Theatre. Running time: Ninety-four minutes.

Starring: Jeanne Moreau, Gerard Oury, Philippe Nicaud, Claire Maurier, Georges Cusin, Jean Lefebvre, Jean Renard, Colette Renard.

"Best Suspense Film Since
'DIABOLIQUE'!"

"SMART AND SIZZLING!
A CRACKLING FRENCH
THRILLER."

— New York Times

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Devilish, Ironic."

— Saturday Review

"KEEPS PATRONS ON
EDGE OF SEATS."

— New York World
Telegram & Sun

starring Jeanne Moreau • Gerard Oury • Philippe Nicaud
Directed by Edouard Molinaro • An Essex-Universal Release
Distributed by Ellis Films

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A most unusual
case of
unadulterated
mystery

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"Best Suspense Film Since
'DIABOLIQUE'!"

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STORY OF A MAN
WHO FINANCED
HIS WIFE'S
LOVE AFFAIR...
AND THEN MADE
HER LOVER
PAY WITH
HIS LIFE!

"Best Suspense
Film Since
'DIABOLIQUE'!"

BACK
to THE
wall

...with hell
just beyond
PLEASE! See it
from the
beginning
and
please don't
tell what's in
the wall!

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STORY OF A MAN
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EDOUARD MOLINARO • An Essex-Universal Release • Distributed by ELLIS FILMS

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2 RECORD BREAKING MONTHS 2

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"A PARTICULAR DANDY.

It is a smart and sizzling melodrama that Edouard Molinaro has prepared in a style of intense realism. And it whips along in a fashion that keeps the interest supremely occupied. A crackling French thriller."

—Bosley Crowther, New York Times

"The sense of atmosphere and concern for consistency of tone, characteristic of good French directors Molinaro has in abundance. And his virtuosity is two-fisted for he can punch with his soundtrack as effectively as with his camera.

—Paul V. Beckley, Herald Tribune

"Don't miss 'Back To The Wall'.

A brilliant tale, grippingly told. The picture opens with a breath-catching sequence, then moves at a relentless pace to a shattering climax."

—Robin Turkel, World Tele-Sun

"Has all the earmarks of another Diabolique

—Lee Mortimer, Daily Mirror

"★★★★. An excellent story, an entertaining, absorbing and suspenseful mystery drama."

—Wanda Hale,
Daily News

BACK to THE wall

A most unusual case of
unadulterated mystery
No one will be seated
during the
last 30 minutes

A film to be seen from the very beginning at 12:40 3:20 5:00 6:45 8:30 10:20
An Essex-Universal Release • Distributed by Ellis Films

MAT 303

CRITICS ACCLAIM

"It is a smart and sizzling melodrama that Edouard Molinaro has prepared in a style of intense realism. And it whips along in a fashion that keeps the interest supremely occupied. A crackling French thriller."

—BOSLEY CROWTHER, New York Times

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