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Furbelows

Falbalas

FRANCE 1945, 95 min.

DIR Jacques Becker **PROD** Jean Gehret **SCR** Maurice Abergé **CAM** Nicolas Hayer
ED Marguerite Renoir **CAST** Raymond Rouleau, Micheline Presle, Jean Chevrier,
 Gabrielle Dorziat

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 in association with the Consulate General of France, San Francisco*

Shot during the Occupation, after Becker's two-year incarceration in a German prisoner-of-war camp, *Furbelows*—a delicious rediscovery and the hit of the last Telluride Film Festival—is probably the best film ever made about the fashion world: certainly one of the most worldly, knowing portraits of milieu and métier ever put on celluloid. Raymond Rouleau, in a tour de force performance, plays a fascinating, fastidious, workaholic fashion designer obsessed with beauty incarnated in the female form. Disinterested in the emotions and needs of the models and society women he dates, his affairs don't last long—until he falls in love with a friend's fiancée, played by the fresh, spirited Micheline Presle. She wavers between attainable and unattainable, ideal and real, and this sends him around the bend. Meanwhile, priceless behind-the-scenes glimpses reveal the gritty working-class effort that supports the glossy, haute couture superstructure. Jean Renoir, Becker's mentor, said that he “possessed a talent for elegance. He understood fashion and knew how to adapt it to his own personality,” and the film's graceful frames, camera movements and composition are a testament to his stature as a master of the French cinema.

—*Phillip Lopate*

Jacques Becker (b. Paris, France, 1906–d. Paris, 1960) Selected Filmography:
Le Trou (1960), *Touchez pas au grisbi* (1954), *Casque d'or* (1952), *Rendez-vous
 de juillet* (1949), *Goupi-Mains rouges* (1943)



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