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LOLA MONTES, the legendary masterpiece of the late Max Ophuls made in 1955 but released only this year in a complete version, opens an exclusive first-run engagement at the SURF, Irving at 46th Avenue, San Francisco, Wednesday, Nov. 26.

The famous French classic, an impressionistic biography of the affairs of the notorious 19th century dancer and courtesan, initiates a 10-week Festival of French Film Classics that is the most ambitious and extensive ever undertaken by the Surf, according to Mel Novikoff, its managing-owner. The series will concentrate on the great classics of the 1930's and will include, in addition to works of such directors as Renoir, Rene Clair, Marcel Carne and Jean Vigo, rare revivals of Ophuls' LA RONDE and the major works of Marcel Pagnol, including the Trilogy -- MARIUS, FANNY and CESAR -- and such revered classics as THE BAKER'S WIFE and THE WELL-DIGGER'S DAUGHTER.

The opening film, LOLA MONTES, is noted for its color, spectacle and swirling camera movement, a trademark of its director. The principal role is played by the late Martine Carol, with leading portrayals by Peter Ustinov, Oskar Werner and Anton Walbrook.

Accompanying LOLA MONTES is a 20-minute film, UNCLE YANCO, by Agnes Varda about the noted Sausalito artist, Jean Varda. The film, made during a visit by Miss Varda, reveals the discovery of her kinship to the Sausalito artist.

Further details on the Surf's French Classic Festival will be announced shortly.

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