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# THE DEVIL PROBABLY

Directed by Robert Bresson

Cast: Antoine Monnier, Tina Irissari,  
Henri de Maublanc, Laetitia Carcano.

France, 1977.  
In French with English subtitles.

95 mins. Color.

Rental: Apply.

**New Release**



Made in 1977, but never before released in the U.S., the legendary Robert Bresson's penultimate film is a prescient cry of despair against a world going to the devil. Opening with newspaper headlines about a teenager's suicide—or possible murder—this proto-*Slacker* centers on the last days in the life of Charles: a disaffected adolescent who declares that he has "no desire to be useful in a disgusting world." Obsessed with encroaching pollution, the destruction of the environment and the nuclear threat, he flirts with revolutionary groups, the church, psychoanalysis, and two different girlfriends in his search for solace and redemption. Though bleakly fatalistic and punctuated by documentary images of waste dumps, seal killings and nuclear blasts, Bresson's film is nevertheless impeccably beautiful. Filmed in a somnambulist Paris, ***The Devil Probably*** has moments of ecstatic lyricism, such as a rapturous opening shot of an illuminated boat on the Seine, a breathtaking montage of falling trees, and a devastating moment in which a melancholic Charles, on the way to his death, stops to listen to Mozart at an open window. The work of a 70-year-old grand master as concerned as ever with the hopes and fears of youth, ***The Devil Probably*** remains supremely relevant to our current ecology-wary world and now looks way ahead of its time.

"It may be the portrait of the end of a civilization...but when a civilization can produce a work as exalting as this one, then it is hard to believe there is no hope."  
— Richard Roud, *Film Comment*.