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Angels of Sin (Les Anges Du Péché)

BOOK - Oct 31 - 20:45 National Film Theatre / NFT2 [map] [add to my planner]

Robert Bresson's neglected first full-length feature, made in 1943 in German-occupied France after the director had spent a year in a prison camp, was finally restored in 2005 and re-presented to great acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival by the film archives of the Centre Nationale de la Cinématographie in Bois d'Arcy. *Angels of Sin* is important in that it immediately establishes Bresson's singular style of film-making: austere, private, anti-glamorous, suspicious of professional acting, yet deeply spiritual and humanistic in its mesmerising and remorselessly detailed observation of the human struggle. If there is a cinematic influence, it might be Carl Dreyer. With a rare screenplay by Jean Giraudoux - as formal and laconic as the film itself - Bresson's remarkable debut film tells of Anne-Marie, a proud middle-class girl, who enters the convent of the Sisters of Bethany, which is devoted to the rehabilitation of young women from prison, tries to save one of them and clashes with the mother superior. Bois d'Arcy's fine restoration work, partly digital, does full justice to Philippe Agostini's characteristically radiant monochrome photography. We hope that Mme Mylène Bresson will be present to talk about her late husband's work.

Clyde Jeavons

Directed by Robert Bresson

Written by Raymond Leopold Bruckberger, Robert Bresson, Jean Giraudoux

With Renée Faure, Jany Holt, Sylvie

Country France

Year of Production 1943

Running Time 96 minutes

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