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**YVETTE BIRO PRESENTS
THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH NEW WAVE
BREATHLESS 9:00**

Jean-Luc Godard always said that **BREATHLESS** was his version of Hawks' **SCARFACE**, plus a little . . . it was the "plus a little" reflected in hand-held shooting, improvised acting, and jagged cutting that so shocked viewers in 1959/1960. Now these innovations have been incorporated into the basic grammar of contemporary filmmaking, so that, seen today, **BREATHLESS** looks positively classical—not too far removed in narrative conception, even in existential content, from an American B-Budget film noir, like **GUN CRAZY** for that matter. In any case, **BREATHLESS** remains an essential work of the French New Wave and its most gifted exponent.

Written and Directed by Jean-Luc Godard. Story by Francois Truffaut. Photographed by Raoul Coutard. With Jean Seberg, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Jean-Pierre Melville, Lilliane David. (France, 1959, 89 mins, 35mm, English titles, Print Courtesy of Ajay)