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Cousin Cousine (FRENCH-COLOR)

Paris, Nov. 8.

Gaumont release of Les Films Pomereu (Bertrand Javal)-Gaumont production. Features entire cast. Written and directed by Jean-Charles Tacchella. Camera (Eastmancolor), Georges Lendi; editor, Agnes Guillemot; music, Gerard Anfasso. Reviewed at Publicis, Paris, Nov. 9, '75. Running time, 95 MINS.

Marthe	Marie-Christine Barrault
Ludovic	Victor Lanoux
Karine	Marie-France Pisier
Pascal	Guy Marchand
Biju	Ginette Garcin
Diane	Sybil Maas
Sacy	Jean Herbert
Gobert	Pierre Plessis

A gritty comedy of family manners built around the family rituals of marriage, death, etc. A rare local pic of this type that is flip-pant, observant and with a love story between two new cousins, both married, that flares up during the meetings and goes on outside of it.

Jean-Charles Tacchella did better with his first film, "Trip in Tartarie," that showed a man roaming about after the violent killing of his wife by a drunk with a gun. Here he is more content, but there is a predictability and a flat visual treatment that called for more unique angles and more astute, revealing cutting.

But it has a dynamic insouciance that could make it a local pleaser with perhaps not enough brio for more demanding offshore engagements.

Players are all acceptable with Guy Marchand properly callow as the small-time Don Juan who gives up his girls to keep his wife but finds her attachment to her new cousin has grown so that she finally leaves him and their son to go off. Victor Lanoux and Marie Christine Barrault are entrancing as the new couple while Marie-France Pisier is shewdly perceptive as the neurotic wife of the man.

Chalk this up as showing Tacchella a most promising newcomer if his direction is not quite up to his caustic-comedic scripting. Sharp lensing and much close-quarter treatment also earmark this for tv usage. —Mosk.