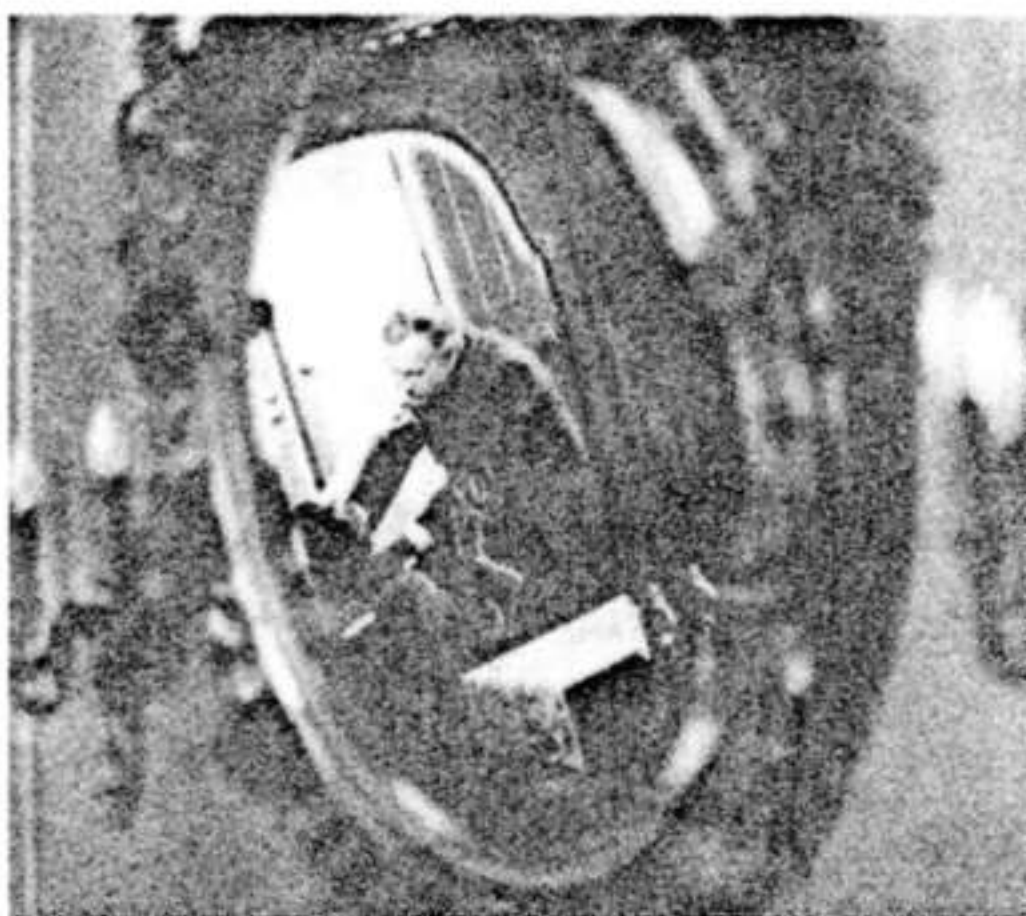


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FRANCE 1982

The Hatter's Ghosts

Les Fantômes du Chapelier

Sat 13 Nov 3.00 (Queen Elizabeth Hall)

Director: Claude Chabrol

Production Company: Horizons Productions/Films A2/SFPC

Producer: Philippe Grumbach

Executive Producer: François Ribaud de Gineste

Screenplay: Claude Chabrol

Based on a story by: Georges Simenon

Photography (Eastman Colour): Jean Rabier

Editor: Monique Fardoulis

Art Director: Jean-Louis Poveda

Music: Matthieu Chabrol

Export Agent: Gaumont, 30 Ave Charles de Gaulle, 92200 Neuilly

Leading Players: Michel Serrault, Charles Aznavour, Monique Chaumette, Aurore Clément, Christine Paolini

Running Time: 129 mins

Festival: Cannes

Les Fantômes du chapelier sees Chabrol back on his old stamping-ground of murder treated as a pastime of the bourgeoisie. Based on a Simenon story, the tale concerns a solid provincial tradesman (actually a hatter, and a very mad one) who disposes of his bedridden wife – keeping a dummy, *Psycho*-style, in her place – and also a fair selection of the local ladies. Admirably played by Michel Serrault, the quirkish killer has for a neighbour a down-trodden tailor (Charles Aznavour) and for cronies a group of businessmen who meet nightly at the local café. Rain seems to sheet down whenever anyone stirs out of doors; streets are narrow, dark and twisting, as the hatter saunters down them with his betraying madman's walk. Many meals are eaten, until their provider, the slatternly maid, joins the corpses. Not the best of Chabrol, but sly, witty and crafted with that feeling for local character which habitually marks his scenes from provincial life.'—*Penelope Houston, Sight & Sound*.

Greater London Council/Queen Elizabeth Hall

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