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# The Fantastic and the Surreal

THE MAGICAL WORLD OF

# JURAJ JAKUBIS







"One of the greatest films ever made . . . If there's any justice in the world, Ophuls' monumental labour will be studied and debated for years." – David Denby

"One of the must-sees of the last millennium and this one as well!"  
– Andrew Sarris, *New York Observer*

"A magnificent epic on the theme of collaboration and resistance."  
– Pauline Kael

## THE SORROW AND THE PITY

(LE CHAGRIN ET LA PITIÉ)

Director: Marcel Ophuls

France/Germany/Switzerland 1970 260 minutes

If any film can be called legendary, Marcel Ophuls' THE SORROW AND THE PITY can. Banned by French television for which it had been made, SORROW became an instant cause célèbre and a national obsession. Thousands queued for seats in the few cinemas that would show it, and dozens of television shows and magazine articles debated its portrait of France under the Occupation. In one of the few cases of a film having a direct political effect, France was for the first time plunged into a collective reckoning with its ignoble history during the Second World War. Ophuls rigorously incorporates sequences from Petainist and Nazi propaganda films with old newsreels and contemporary interviews, not only with spies, generals, soldiers, historians, but also with shopkeepers, beauticians, teachers. (Truffaut wrote about SORROW: "To me, it is perhaps the only film with a Proustian flavour, because of its convincing confrontation of different characters at different moments in their lives, the subtle swing between reportage and fiction, the fusion of ideas and sensations.") Probing the gap between official memory and historical truth, the film methodically, unsparingly reveals the deceptions in the official story of French heroism and resistance during the war. SORROW concludes that many responded to the humiliating defeat of June 1940 by becoming like their occupiers. Ophuls does not allow his audience the luxury of moral superiority; he asks what we would do in the same circumstances. Transfixing throughout its entire duration – *The New York Times* recently called it "the fastest four and a half hours in the history of cinema" – SORROW has been out of distribution for well over a decade, and is being presented for the first time in a subtitled (rather than English voice-over) print. "An artistic and intellectual triumph" (*Time* magazine).

Please note: Special ticket prices are in effect for this screening (which has one 15-minute intermission): \$10.00 (including GST) for members; \$15.00 (including GST) for non-members.

Friday, December 1 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 3 1:00 p.m.

Ontario  
Cinematheque...  
October 19 - December 7,  
2000

