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HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR

France/Japan 1959 91 minutes
Director: Alain Resnais
Cast: Emmanuelle Riva, Eiji Okada

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Duras wrote the famous screenplay for Alain Resnais' feature debut, "the most startling film to emerge from France since the war" (Peter Cowie). A French actress visiting Hiroshima falls into an affair with a Japanese architect, but the setting evokes painful memories of her first lover, a German soldier who was shot on Liberation Day. The radical interiority of HIROSHIMA has been credited to Duras's script and to Resnais' editing style; the film's themes—memory and willed forgetfulness, the subjective nature of time and the imminence of death—became the identifying preoccupations of both artists. "Perhaps the most imperishable quality of HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR is that, within all the staggering audacity and beauty of its composition, it remains a plaintive and very moving love story" (Cowie). "HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR has been as important in the development of film art as CITIZEN KANE" (James Monaco).