

## Document Citation

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ELENA ET LES HOMMES (Elena and the Men) ~~1956~~

Jean Renoir's period comedy/musical, in which Ingrid Bergman plays a Polish countess caught between her particular passion for men with promise (e.g. General Rolan, played by Jean Marais), and her love for <sup>the general's</sup> an ambitionless secretary ~~to~~ <sup>(ever given to hyperbole)</sup> ~~the general~~ (Mel Ferrer), was called by Godard ~~the most intelligent film in the world...~~

"the most intelligent film in the world..."; by critic Marcel Martin, "vacuous and insignificant...puppets taking part in a pitiful masquerade." Renoir (by way of proof?) has commented ~~on his film~~ <sup>both</sup> ~~which has been criticized and hailed for its idiosyncratic, whimsical~~ style, "I tried to show the futility of human endeavor." Martin: "Renoir no longer loves men." Godard: "To be sure of living, one must be sure of loving. And to be sure of loving, one must be sure of dying. This is what Elena discovers in the arms of men. This is the strange and hard moral of this modern fable disguised as a comic opera..."

"Elena is Renoir's most Mozartian film... In substance, the same irony and the same distaste. In form, the same brilliant audacity of simplicity... There has never been a more free film than Elena...and neither has there ever been a more logical film."

Directed and Written by Jean Renoir. Photographed by Claude Renoir. Music lyrics by Joseph Kosma, ~~xxxxx~~ by Jean Renoir. Edited by Boris Lewin. With Ingrid Bergman, Jean Marais, Mel Ferrer, Jean Richard. (1956, 98 mins, color, English titles, Print from )