

## Document Citation

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**CLAUDE CHABROL'S "MERCİ POUR LE CHOCOLAT"  
OPENS OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> IN SAN FRANCISCO AND BERKELEY**

Empire Pictures presents the 48th feature film by French master Claude Chabrol, *MERCİ POUR LE CHOCOLAT*, playing limited engagements beginning October 18, 2002 at Opera Plaza Cinema in San Francisco, Shattuck Cinemas in Berkeley, and the Rafael Film Center in San Rafael.

Isabelle Huppert (*8 Women*, *The Piano Teacher*, *Les Destinées*) gives a mesmerizing performance of subtle menace in this deliciously perverse Hitchcockian thriller. She plays the calculating second wife of a concert pianist (French actor and popular singing star Jacques Dutronc,) who may or may not be poisoning her teenage stepson. She's the head of a Swiss chocolate company, and obsessively insists on serving her family nightly hot chocolate. An attractive young female piano student who comes to visit suspects the crime and determines to try to prevent it, although no one will believe her.

Claude Chabrol is considered a master in the mystery genre, and is known for penetrating studies of the dark side of human nature. He is widely credited as the founding father of the French New Wave film movement, particularly with his 1960 film *Les Bonnes Femmes*. His memorable collaborations with actress Isabelle Huppert have yielded some of their best work: *Violette Nozière*, *The Story of Women* (*Une affaire de femmes*), *Madame Bovary*, and *La Cérémonie*.

*"a near-masterpiece... an impeccable study in perversity" - Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune*

*"Isabelle Huppert excels in one of Chabrol's most intense psychological mysteries" - George Perry, BBC*

*"Chabrol's command of filmic elements is never less than masterful throughout, and the movie compares to his earlier classic works." - Richard James Havis, Hollywood Reporter*

The film's running time is 99 minutes; it is not rated. Publicity photos are available at [www.newwavecity.com/landmark](http://www.newwavecity.com/landmark). For other information, please contact Steve Indig at Landmark Theatres San Francisco office, at 415/352-0832 ext 1, or [stevei@landmarktheatres.com](mailto:stevei@landmarktheatres.com).

Showing Friday, October 18 through Thursday, October 24, 2002 - ONE WEEK ONLY

Landmark's Opera Plaza Cinema, 601 Van Ness, San Francisco (415)352-0810  
Landmark Shattuck Cinemas, 2330 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley (510)843-FILM  
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