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Les enfants (The Children)

**Marguerite Duras, Jean-Marc Turine,
Jean Mascolo**

France 1984, 94 minutes

**Production Company: Les Productions Berthemont/Le
Ministère de la Culture, Paris**

Screenplay: Marguerite Duras

**Cinematography: Bruno Nuytten, Pierre Novion, Idislav
Kielar**

Editor: Françoise Belleville

Art Director: Annie Senechal, Arnaud de Moleron

Sound: Michel Vionnet, Jean-Pierre Fenié

Music: Carlos d'Alessio

**Principal Cast: Axel Bougousslavski, Daniel Gelin, Tatiana
Moukhine, Martine Chevallier, André Dussolier, Pierre
Arditi**

**Print Source: LES PRODUCTIONS BERTHEMONT, 82
rue Rogue de Filol, 92800 Tuteaux.**

In her seventieth year, Marguerite Duras has not only written a novel, *L'amant*, which has won the prestigious Prix Goncourt, but she has also written and co-directed the most charming and accessible film of her brilliant forty-year career.

As a novelist, playwright, filmmaker, and screenwriter for such distinguished directors as Resnais, Brook, Dassin, Straub, and Godard, Duras has presented work which has been consistently challenging in its deconstruction of narrative conventions, both literary and cinematic. From her first screenplay, *Hiroshima mon amour* and in her most loved films, *India Song* and *Le Camion*, she has established herself as one of the principal exponents of the cinematic New Narrative, upon which an aesthetic and critical theory of modernism has been founded.

The Children makes a surprising departure from her previous work. Duras approaches her subject, the value of knowledge in a meaningless world, with a whimsically comic and gently human touch. The warm family story is centered around the sad wisdom of a ten-year-old boy (wonderfully played by an adult actor) who refuses to go to school because he doesn't want to learn what he doesn't know.

Kay Armatage

FILMOGRAPHY (select): *La musica* (66), *Destroy*, *She Said* (69), *Nathalie Granger* (72), *India Song* (75), *Son nom de Venises* (76), *Le Camion* (77), *Baxter*, *Vera Baxter* (77), *Le navire Night* (79), *Agatha* (81), *Les enfants* (84).

2084 Dir: Chris Marker. France 1985. 10 minutes. A new poem from the director of *Sans soleil*.