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Europe



FRANCE 1982

The Three Crowns of the Sailor

Les Trois Couronnes du matelot

Fri 25 Nov 11.00 am 6.00

Director: Raúl Ruiz

Production Company: Société du Cinéma du Panthéon/INA/Antenne 2

Screenplay: Raúl Ruiz, Emilio de Solar, François Ede

Photography (B&W/Colour): Sacha Vierny

Editors: Janine Verneau, Valeria Sarmiento

Music: Jorge Arriagada

Export Agent: Société du Cinéma du Panthéon, 95 ave des Champs Elysées, 75008 Paris

Leading Players: Jean-Bernard Guillard, Philippe Deplanche, Jean Badin, Nadège Clair, Lisa Lyon

Running Time: 117 mins

Festivals: Rotterdam, Cannes, Sydney

Critic's Choice: Ian Christie

The particular magic of *Les Trois Couronnes du matelot* (and doubtless the reason for its rapturous reception by French critics) springs from the way it combines high romantic supernatural appeal with a quirky, questioning modernism that is Ruiz's distinctive voice. The foggy monochrome opening irresistibly recalls *Carné*: a student is surprised after committing a brutal murder and persuaded to spend the night listening to a drunken sailor's tale. The latter's adventures in brothels and Latin American ports, sailing on what turns out to be a ship of ghosts, take place in a vividly surreal limbo world that Ruiz and his cinematographer have somehow conjured out of slender TV movie resources. Welles's *Lady from Shanghai* and *Immortal Story* may have been departure points but, with its eerie special effects and troubled eroticism, this is as much an eternal mariner's rime of the future.—*Ian Christie.*