

## Document Citation

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# : BEHIND the EMULSION

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**13B 3:30 pm Thursday, March 13**

**France**

## **Le Crime de Monsieur Lange**

Selected by Roger Greenspun, film critic, *Penthouse Magazine*; contributor, *Film Comment*; member, National Society of Film Critics.

**1935. Black & White. 1.33 format. 90 min.**  
**In French with English subtitles**

*Producer:* André Halley des Fontaines/*Director:* Jean Renoir/*Screenwriters:* Jean Renoir, Jacques Prévert/*Cinematographer:* Jean Bachelet/*Editor:* Marguerite Renoir/*Music:* Jean Wiener/*Principal Cast:* Jules Berry, René Lefèvre, Florelle/*Print Source:* Audio-Brandon Films

"Love, lust, chicanery, courage—and from a shabby Paris courtyard there emerges a phantom hero of the Old West, Arizona Jim, who takes the city by storm and transforms the lives of everyone in Jean Renoir's film. A murder melodrama about—of all things—magazine publishing, Renoir's 1935 comedy attempts defining the spirit of a free-wheeling intellectual collective, rather like the cabaret artists' collective (part of the Popular Front) actually behind the making of the movie.  
—Roger Greenspun

"Renoir attempted again and again to form a kind of film group or *équipe* that would work with him on many pictures and be a kind of stay against the usual directorial rootlessness caused by having almost all technicians attached to the commercial studios. In *Le Crime de M. Lange*, then, the Groupe Octobre behind the scenes mirrored the cooperative before the cameras. The Groupe Octobre was a radical culture group. . . . Renoir had entered the group through Jacques Prévert in 1932. From 1933 to 1936 it had done mainly theater work. *Lange* was its first film. The shooting took twenty-eight days. Much of it was improvised, especially the dialogue involving Jules Berry as Batala, the villainous publisher."—Leo Braudy from *Jean Renoir, The World of His Films*

