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Gloria (FRENCH-COLOR)

Paris, Sept. 27.

Gaumont release of Production 2000. Features entire cast. Written and directed by Claude Autant-Lara from the book by Solange Bellegarde, Camera (Eastmancolor), Wladimir Ivanov; editor, Robert/-Monique Isnardon; music, Bernard Gerard. Reviewed at Le Paris, Paris, Sept. 27, '77. Running time, 110 MINS.

Gloria Valerie Jeannet Mother Sophie Grimaldi Alice Nicole Maurey Father Pierre Zimmer Critic Maurice Biraud Grandfather Jean Martinelli

Oldtimer Claude Autant-Lara has made an unabashed oldtime film with this tale of lovers separated as children just before World War 1 but reunited after-



wards. Its tearjerking qualities are enhanced by stirring music, against which, plot is hoary, acting postural and the dialog arch. But it fits the era and does reflect the nowinane-seeming-patriotism of its times.

A girl and boy, each about 10 years old, are inseparable. She is the illegitimate daughter of a rich married man and an actress. He is the grandson of a rich old man who decides to take him to America to avoid the war. So there is the episode of their meeting 10 years later and then flashbacks to tell mainly the girl's story.

Her father is killed and there are hard times, for her mother is not a very good actress. But the humane wife of her father takes a sort of fairy godmother attitude towards the girl and backs her dancing schooling. The good woman, however, dies and the girl descends to dancing in a cabaret where the boy, back on a visit with a rich American fiancee, sees her.

It may have been too long or perhaps too much, for this fragile girl. She gets sick when she finds out about the fiancee but the boy breaks free and stays with her. It is left up in the air if she lives or not.

Technically good with okay production dress and period flair.

—Mosk.