

## Document Citation

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Agnes Varda's

# *Le Bonheur*

(HAPPINESS)      in EASTMANCOLOR

This simple and sensuous hymn to the happy life tells the story of one man who has two women. A carpenter loves his beautiful wife and children and, equally and at the same time, loves his beautiful mistress. Lushly photographed in warm Renoir colors, it is one of the most picturesque films ever made.

"MASTERPIECE" Kenneth Tynan.

Running time: 75 minutes. Available, January 1st, 1968.

ART & DESIGN — ASTERISK ASSOC.



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Sanus Films Catalog 1973

AGNES VARDA'S  
*Le Bonheur*  
IN COLOR

A poetic and sensuous hymn to the happy life, LE BONHEUR is the story of one man in love with two women. Director Agnes Varda portrays personal happiness as a force both self-gratifying and pathetically destructive. Lushly photographed in warm Renoir colors, LE BONHEUR is frequently referred to as one of the most beautiful films ever made, and it established Miss Varda as one of France's most important directors.

"One of the most beautiful films you will ever see."  
JUDITH CRIST, NBC

"An exceptionally beautiful movie."  
THE NEW YORKER

"A very unusual picture: Beautiful!"  
NEW YORK POST



4p #46127

## STORY

Francois, a young carpenter, lives happily with his wife and their children. His life is divided between the carpenter's shop, picnics in the country, and peaceful evenings at home. One day he discovers a beautiful postal clerk named Emilie. He takes her as his lover.

He loves both women equally, and Emilie does not begrudge him his wife. And if anything, he is more tender and loving at home than before. One day, on a picnic in the country, Francois reveals to his wife his love for Emilie. He explains that it does not lessen the love he feels for her.

The wife cries but says she will try to understand. Then they make love, and he goes to sleep. When he wakes up, his wife has drowned herself in the river. He mourns her, holding her dead body to him.

Emilie moves in to become his wife and take care of the children. For Francois, Emilie, and the children happiness continues.

## CAST

Francois	Jean-Claude Drouot
Therese, his wife	Claire Drouot
Gisou	Sandrine Drouot
Pierott	Olivier Drouot
Emilie	Marie France Boyer

## CREDITS

Director	Agnes Varda
Scenario	Agnes Varda
Photography	Jean Rabier and Claude Beausoleil
Production manager	Philippe Dussart
Assistant director	Jean-Paul Savignac
Music	W. A. Mozart
Produced by	Mag Bodard - Parc - Film
Color by	Eastman Color

## AWARDS

PRIX LOUIS DELLUC OF PARIS (1965)  
DAVID O. SELZNICK  
SILVER LAUREL AWARD (1966)

## COMMENT

"A very unusual picture. Beautiful! A fine, consistent originality and beauty of texture that merits attention from all movie-goers."

**New York Post**

"Miss Varda's dissection of amour is strikingly adult and unembarrassed in its depiction of the variety of love . . . switches from boudoir to boudoir to beautiful bucolic vignettes with artistic and technical grace . . . a Renoir background . . . A memorable view of the male and female — awash in familiar togetherness, sacred sex, and frank adultery."

**New York Times**

"Agnes Varda has constructed an unusual tour de force bound to thrust movie-goers into opposing camps! I found the film refreshing, provocative, and exquisite to behold! Warning to men: this film may upset either wife or mistress. Above all, don't go to see it as a threesome."

**Cue Magazine**

"We have from France one of the most beautiful films that I think you will ever see. It was made by Agnes Varda. It's called LE BONHEUR, which means 'happiness' and it's Renoirish in full color with the tones of the impressionists. I think this is really a movie to look at."

**Judith Crist, NBC**

"With Varda, color can be used expressively, as in the contrast between the comfortable warm tones in the love scenes of the husband and wife, and the cool, whiter ones of the husband and his mistress. It would be hard to recall an optical mobility put as consistently as in this film to the service of a color lyricism."

**Film Quarterly**

*le  
Bonheur*

85 Minutes. Color. France, 1965. Subtitled.