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A Day in the Country

(1936)

Direction, Screenplay and Dialogue by Jean Renoir, from the story by Guy De Maupassant. Photography by Claude Renoir. Music by Joseph Kosma. Edited by Marguerite Renoir. With Sylvia Bataille, Georges Darnoux, Gabriello, Jeanne Marken, Paul Temps, Jacques Brunius, Jean Renoir, Pierre Lestringuez, Marguerite Renoir. French with English subtitles.

For Renoir, the making of this film must have been a labor of love, it's so full of the details of the famous canvasses of his father, Auguste. Even the positions and attitudes of the actors, not to mention the costumes and sets, make it seem as if an Auguste Renoir canvas has come to life. The son has brought a new dimension to the work of the father, by placing before us the gaiety and joy in living that we always sense in a painting by Renoir.

"An innocent young girl comes of age in Jean Renoir's short . . . film . . . This lyric tragedy rates with Renoir's greatest (LA GRANDE ILLUSION, LA REGLE DU JEU). Visually, it recaptures the impressionist period; in tone, it accomplishes a transformation from light nostalgic comedy to despair. In the late 1800's a merchant (Gabriello) takes his family for an outing on the banks of the Marne; there his wife (Jeanne Marken) and his daughter (Sylvia Bataille) are seduced—the one delightedly, the other tremblingly, like a captured bird. Renoir plays the Innkeeper." — Pauline Kael, KISS KISS BANG BANG

Code 406372 — 37 minutes — B&W — Rental \$35.00

Also available in 35 mm.