

## Document Citation

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**BREATHLESS (France)****F6.0558**

Productions Georges de Beauregard S. N. C. Dist Films Around the World, Inc. 7 Feb 1961 [New York opening]. Sd; b&w. 35mm. 89 min.

*Prod* Georges de Beauregard. *Dir-Screenplay* Jean-Luc Godard. *Story* François Truffaut. *Photog* Raoul Coutard. *Camera Op* Claude Beausoleil. *Ed* (see note) Cécile Decugis, Jean-Luc Godard. *Asst Ed* Lila Herman. *Mus* Martial Solal. *Clarinet Concerto (K. 622)* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. *Sd* Jacques Maumont. *Asst Dir* Pierre Rissient. *Artistic Supv* Claude Chabrol.

**Cast:** Jean Seberg (*Patricia Franchini*), Jean-Paul Belmondo (*Michel Poiccard, alias Laszlo Kovacs*), Liliane David (*Liliane*), Daniel Boulanger (*inspector*), Jean-Pierre Melville (*Parvulesco*), Henri-Jacques Huet (*Berrouti*), Claude Mansard (*used car dealer*), Van Doude (*editor*), Jean-Luc Godard (*informer*), François Moreuil (*newsreel cameraman*), Claude Chabrol, François Truffaut, Michel Fabre, Roger Hanin, Jean-Louis Richard, André S. Labarthe, Jacques Scellier, Philippe de Broca, Guido Orlando, José Bénazéraf, Jean Douchet.

**Drama.** Michel Poiccard, a self-centered and amoral young Frenchman with no visible means of support, has patterned his character after Humphrey Bogart's screen image, taking what he wants when he wants it. One day while loafing around Marseilles, he casually steals a car. He heads north, and, finding a gun in the glove compartment, cold-bloodedly kills a policeman who attempts to stop him. Back in Paris, he makes a date with Patricia Franchini, a young American expatriate who sells the *Herald Tribune* on the Champs-Élysées. Shaking off police, he mugs and robs a man in a restaurant men's room and then lets himself into Patricia's apartment. They make love, and she reveals that she may be pregnant as a result of an earlier encounter. He suggests that they go to Italy, but she guards against sacrificing her independence and her aspirations as a journalist. Threatened by police, she accompanies Michel to a friend's house; but, concerned about her freedom, she then impulsively betrays him in hopes of forcing him to leave without her. Not even the thought of death, however, can move Michel, and he lingers about the house until the police arrive on the scene. As he runs down the cobblestoned street, he is hit from behind by gunfire. When Patricia reaches him, he looks up at her, makes their private funny face, curses her, and then dies. *Americans in foreign countries. Police. Journalists. Fugitives. Hoodlums. Murder. Theft. Pregnancy. Perfidy. Marseilles. Paris. Humphrey Bogart. "New York Herald Tribune".*

**Note:** Paris opening: Mar 1960 as *À bout de souffle*. The film is dedicated to Monogram Pictures. Much of the dialogue was improvised during or just before shooting. Only one source credits Godard as editor.