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A Double Tour

(Double Twist)

(FRENCH—COLOR)

Venice, Sept. 8.

CCFC release of Paris Film-Panitalla production. With Antonella Lualdi, Jeanne Valerie, Bernadette Lafont, Jacques Dacqmine, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Madeleine Robinson. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Screenplay, Paul Gegauff from the novel by Stanley Ellin; camera (Eastman-color), Henri Decae; editor, Jacques Gailard. At Venice Film Fest (shown in competition). Running time, 105 MINS.

Leda Antonella Lualdi
Therese Madeleine Robinson
Elizabeth Jeanne Valerie
Julie Bernadette Lafont
Henri Jacques Dacqmine
Laszlo Jean-Paul Belmondo

Sleek whodunit is dressed up with a group of unsavory characters. It has good camerawork and tricky direction. But its downbeat qualities and lack of character development, plus overblown treatment, relegate this for art houses abroad with exploitation chances for more general situations on a hypo basis.

A middleaged man is having an affair with a young girl who lives next door to his house situated in the south of France. His authoritative, insensitive, climbing wife knows it as well as his unbalanced son and marriageable daughter. Attached to this family is a free-wheeling Hungarian courting the daughter. A sensuous maid makes up the entourage.

Pic is decked out with lush color and story is told with sudden flashbacks and artful camerawork. But emphasis on technique robs this of telling motivations, suspense and a true feeling for the love, hatred and conflicting outlooks of this eerie family.

Feature looks headed for biz here. Director Claude Chabrol, one of the first of the "new wave," again displays his dexterity. Production gloss of Raymond and Robert Hakim is a plus value for this offbeater. Color is fine and editing snappy, with acting good.

But the characters seem to exist in a vacuum. Their hatreds and hopes are not clearly defined enough to make this sordid affair revelatory or taking. It will have to be sold on its outspoken, brash characters and treatment. Mosk.