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Luis Buñuel's **L'AGE D'OR** (1930), from a screenplay by Buñuel and Salvador Dali, with Gaston Modot and Lya Lys, is a textbook-perfect example of auteurism in that it displays a filmmaker who, from the beginning, laid down a unique style and all the major themes that he would cultivate for the next half-century. Buñuel's tribute to unbridled, uninhibited, and passionately profane love is both the most enduring classic of the surrealist movement and the first great flaming scandal of the sound era. Banned almost everywhere for such scenes as bishops being pitched out windows and depicting an exhausted Christ departing a Marquis de Sade orgy, Buñuel nevertheless established a unique feeling for the sa-

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cred amidst the sacrilegious. The central storyline is, by turns, funny and anarchic from the moment that the lovers enter, writhing in mud and noisily fornicating. Modot's lustful rebel and Lys's entranced heroine are interacting characters and not



Marianne and Juliane: an elec

digressive metaphors. They helped launch Buñuel's spiritual biography as they walked hand-in-hand with love, violence, and death under the dark shadows of a cross. (Co-feature: Federico Fellini's *8½*) **Film Forum 2: also Sunday, 4:30, 8:10; Saturday at 1, 4:40, 8:20**

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