

## Document Citation

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# FILMS

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## Touchez Pas au Grisbi

Directed by [Jacques Becker](#)

Gangland movies rarely come as pleasurable—or as elegant—as this slang-filled French film noir, released in 1954 and rarely matched since. Two icons of French cinema, Jean Gabin and Jeanne Moreau, supply the glamour; the Bogart of French noir, Gabin meshes suave elegance with tough-guy weariness, while Moreau vamps it up as his partner's much-younger, always unsatisfied mistress. In a twist on the heist genre, **Touchez Pas au Grisbi** starts *after* the job's been done; left with enough *grisbi* ("loot") to keep them in cocktails and caviar for a lifetime, over-the-hill gangsters Max (Gabin) and Riton (René Dary) proceed to start living, and living well. Unfortunately Riton's lover (Moreau) craves more than what he can give her, which leads to further problems and another trip back to gangland. Based on a seminal 1952 book by Albert Simonin, **Grisbi** earned great notoriety for the snap of its underworld dialogue, with audiences soon mimicking its characters' distinctive slang and insults. **Grisbi** tweaks the gangster genre further by portraying its heroes as graying, all-too-mortal old men, more concerned with brushing their teeth before bed than cracking heads. But don't worry—enjoying their *foie gras* and white wine, always nattily attired, our two heroes still aren't quite above using guns and grenades to get their way, as **Grisbi's** bloody finale points out. **Grisbi's** underworld grit and dialogue proved that France could film "gangster" as well as Hollywood, though with an existential nonchalance and debonair charm all its own.



### Country

France

### Year

1954

### Run Time

94 minutes

### Cast

Jean Gabin, René Dary, Jeanne Moreau, Dora Doll, Gaby Basset, Denise Clair, Michel Jourdan

### Producer

Robert Dorfmann

### Editor

Marguerite Renoir

### Music

Jean Wiener

### Cinematographer

Pierre Montazel

### Screenwriter

Jacques Becker, Maurice Griffe, Albert Simonin

### Print Sources

### Additional Notes

### Show Times

Sat, Apr 23 • 4:30 pm • Palace • NOVI23F

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