

## Document Citation

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# HARVEST

(FRENCH-MADE)

French Cinema release of Marcel Pagnol production. Features Gabriel Gabrio, Fernandel, Orane Demazis. Directed by Pagnol. Screenplay by Pagnol, based on novel by Jean Giono; music, Arthur Honegger; camera, Willy and Roger Ledru; English titles by Charles Jahrlum and Mark Brum. At World, N. Y., week Oct. 2, '39. Running time, 77 MINS.

Panturle, a farmer.....Gabriel Gabrio  
Gaubert, a blacksmith....Edouard Delmont  
Gedemua, an itinerant knife-grinder  
Fernandel  
Arsule .....Orane Demazis  
The Sergeant.....Le Vigan  
The Gendarme..... Rollan  
L'Amoureux, a farmer.....Henri L'ouyon  
Alphonsine, his wife.....Odette Roger  
M. Astruc, a grain dealer.....Paul Dullac

(In French; with English Titles)

'Harvest,' the picture which the N. Y. censors banned and then had themselves reversed by the State regents, shows traces of where the shears were wielded, yet the pruning (what little there is) at least cut down the running time and quickened the pace. Nobody will find fault as the film stands, including even the Hays code crew.

Production will do only in arty, foreign language houses because too slow-paced to fit in the dual spots of other theatres. Judged artistically, it just misses by lacking sufficient popular appeal for widespread circulation in this country, except as noted.

Jean Giono's novel is the basis for the story which strives to point out that the good earth requires attention from man if it is to flourish with crops. Scripters have developed a natural romance between the plodding, husky Panturle, and the naive knife-grinder's helper, Arsule. They have attempted to show, as their devotion for each other grows into a happy marriage, that the ambition of the indolent farmer is roused until he has revived not only the broken-down homestead but the whole countryside.

The exchange of the clowning knife-grinder's wife to the fireside and home of Panturle is only sketchily treated, the relationships never being clearly established. This possibly was one censorial objection, but it is smoothed over partly by the English dialog.

Marcel Pagnol's production still inclines towards the tedious, just as it was in his 'Heartbeat.' But he is helped by several upstanding performances and a better sense of pace with his own directing. Orane Demazis again is his heroine, and in the closing passages does have a chance to dress up a little and cast off the rustic garb. Diminutive French actress turns in a good performance, and her role of Arsule is one of her better concepts. Gabriel Gabrio, the farmer, also demonstrates he is one of the better French screen actors. He makes the transformation from the ill-kempt, idle farmer to the ambitious tiller of soil natural and likely. Fernandel, lanky French comedian, again has a serio-comic character as the talkative, lazy knife-grinder. Edouard Delmont makes considerable of a minor part. Support has been well chosen.

Arthur Honegger's original score adds much. Wear.

Oct. 11, '39