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The Seberg Mystique

BREATHLESS

(A BOUT DE SOUFFLE)

1959, Jean-Luc Godard, France, 89 min.

With Jean Paul Belmondo

4:00

...the character played by Jean Seberg was a continuation of her role in **BONJOUR TRISTESSE**. I could have taken the last shot of Preminger's film and started after dissolving to a title, "Three Years Later."—Jean Luc Godard

Jean-Luc Godard's **BREATHLESS** is one of those films that has become so legendary for its formal impact on the contemporary cinema and its pivotal role in the French New Wave that on paper it would seem as intimidating as a monument. In truth, it's still the same surprising, immensely engaging/repelling story of a cruelly sexy small-time gangster, Michel (Belmondo), who steals cars and likes American movies, and whose American girlfriend, Patricia (Seberg), is a would-be actress who makes a living peddling newspapers, Michel and Patricia are as cool as they are callous; neither murder nor betrayal proves to be beyond them. Godard took his hand-held camera into the streets of Paris to create the spontaneous, candid look of **BREATHLESS**. (BS)