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y.s. premiere Vagabonde

(Sans toit ni loi)
France, 1985, 105 mins.
In French with English subtitles

Agnes Varda's new film, which not only won Venice's Golden Lion, but the awards of the international critics as well, has echoes of her earlier work, Cleo from 5 to 7, and also recalls Alain Tanner's superb Messidor. Its central character, beautifully played by Sandrine Bonnaire, is a young drop-out who roams a wintry south of France with a knapsack containing a tent on her back. She sleeps and eats where she can, a fiercely independent character little understood by even those who know her best. What she seeks is freedom, and her tragedy is that society extracts from her too great a price for it. Varda tells her story with a strong and simple eloquence that is very moving, and searches not so much for explanations as for emotional understanding. This is a film of considerable resonance precisely because it seeks neither to praise nor condemn, but to comprehend a profound alienation. Derek Malcom, LFF.

Directed, film-written and edited by Agnes Varda.
Produced by Cine-Tamaris and Films A2 in collaboration with French Ministry of Culture and Channel 4
(London). Photo: Patrick Blossier. Cast: Sandrine
Bonnaire, Macha Meril. Print source: International
Film Exchange, N.Y.

(See also An Afternoon with Agnes Varda, page 3.)

S.F. Intil Film Fest.

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