


## Document Citation

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## **Paris 1900** **(FRENCH—DOCUMENTARY)**

Paris

Pantheon production and release. ten and directed by Nicole Vedres. Idea by Pierre Braunberger; commentaries by Claude Dauphin; editors, Myrium, Yannick Bellon; music, Guy Bernard. At Pantheon, Paris. Running time, 95 MINS.

Pic invokes the carefree decade from 1900 to 1914. Drawing liberally on old newsreel and pic footage, film captures the nostalgia and essence of the period. Though the action and feeling are mostly Parisian, world appeal of the city gives the pic international scope and appeal. Brilliantly mounted, commented and scored, the film traverses the freedom and lushness of the early 1900's, and inexorably leads to the unrest and final death of an era in the outbreak of World War I. Pic would make a fine second feature on curio appeal and could stand on its own if strategically cued and promoted.

All the great stars and statesmen of the era parade by. The Eiffel Tower is built, fought against and finally accepted. There's a horrific moment as an inventor trying out a new-fangled parachute plunges to his death from the tower. Paris is flooded, and the new subway system is threatened. There are the grandiose balls and spectacles and the change of face and couture. After the charm of the period is savored, the unrest of the impoverished classes is felt. There follow strikes and uprisings and the early rumblings of World War I. Pic ends with the outbreak of the war and men going off to it in excitement.

The music is a fine counterpoint to the images. Gallic filmmakers seem to be paralleling their Hollywood counterparts with the recognition of the great sociological and curio appeal of well-mounted old film.

*Mosk.*