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Twylight *Duelle*

FRANCE 1975

Wed 17 Nov 6.15/Thu 18 Nov 2.30

Director: Jacques Rivette

Production Company: Jacques Roitfeld/I.N.A./Sunchild

Producer: Stéphane Tchalgadjieff

Screenplay: Jacques Rivette, Eduardo de Gregorio, Marilu Parolini

Photography (colour): William Lubtchansky

Editor: Nicole Lubtchansky, Chris T. Altan

Music: Jean Wiener

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Leading Players: Juliet Berto, Bulle Ogier, Jean Babilée, Hermine Karagheuz, Nicole Garcia, Elizabeth Wiener

Cannes, Edinburgh, New York Festivals 1976

Labelled the second feature in Rivette's four-part *Scènes de la Vie Parallèle*, *Duelle* is in fact the first to be completed. Like all the films in the projected series, it covers the 'Carnival' period between the last new moon of winter and the first full moon of spring: the only time when goddesses can appear on earth and have commerce with mortals. These goddesses are split between moon ghosts and sun fairies; in *Duelle*, we find a ghost (Juliet Berto) and a fairy (Bulle Ogier) competing for possession of a diamond known as the Fairy Godmother which can keep them on earth past their allotted forty days. With a non-existent word (the feminine form of a masculine noun) as title and an imaginary myth as starting-point, *Duelle* deliberately defines itself through contradictions and clashes, maintaining a perpetual disequilibrium of elements that equally flirts with and refuses the comforting balances of 'classic' narrative. One can read it as yet another critique by Rivette of the filmgoing process itself – a situation in which mortals (viewers) take over the lives of goddesses (stars) and vice-versa, through the means of a "transcendental" diamond which fulfils every desire.—Jonathan Rosenbaum.