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LE BONHEUR
(France, 1965)

CREDITS

Director.....Agnes Varda
Scenario.....Agnes Varda
Photography.....Jean Rabier and
Claude Beausoleil
Production manager.....Philippe Dussart
Assistant director....Jean-Paul Savignac
Music.....W. A. Mozart
Produced by.....Mag Bodard - Parc - Film
Color.....Eastman Color

CAST

Francois.....Jean-Claude Drouot
Therese, his wife.....Claire Drouot
Gisou.....Sandrine Drouot
Pierott.....Olivier Drouot
Emilie.....Marie France Boyer

Awarded the Prix Louis Delluc of Paris (1965) and the David O. Selznick Silver Laurel Award (1966)

STORY

Francois, a young carpenter, lives happily with his wife and their children. His life is divided between the carpenter's shop, picnics in the country, and peaceful evenings at home. One day he discovers a beautiful postal clerk named Emilie. He takes her as his lover.

He loves both women equally, and Emilie does not begrudge him his wife. And if anything, he is more tender and loving at home than before. One day, on a picnic in the country, Francois reveals to his wife his love for Emilie. He explains that it does not lessen the love he feels for her.

The wife cries but says she will try to understand. Then they make love, and he goes to sleep. When he wakes up, his wife has drowned herself in the river. He mourns her, holding her dead body to him.

Emilie moves in to become his wife and take care of the children. For Francois, Emilie, and the children happiness continues.

COMMENT

A poetic and sensuous hymn to the happy life, LE BONHEUR is the story of one man in love with two women. Director Agnes Varda portrays personal happiness as a force both self-gratifying and pathetically destructive. Lushly photographed in warm Renoir colors, LE BONHEUR is frequently referred to as one of the most beautiful films ever made, and it established Miss Varda as one of France's most important directors.

"A very unusual picture. Beautiful! A fine, consistent originality and beauty of texture that merits attention from all movie-goers."

-- New York Post

"Miss Varda's dissection of amour is strikingly adult and unembarrassed in its depiction of the variety of love...switches from boudoir to boudoir to beautiful bucolic vignettes with artistic and technical grace...a Renoir background... A memorable view of the male and female—awash in familiar togetherness, sacred sex, and frank adultery."

-- New York Times

"Agnes Varda has constructed an unusual tour de force bound to thrust movie-goers into opposing camps! I found the film refreshing, provocative, and exquisite to behold! Warning to men: this film may upset either wife or mistress. Above all, don't go to see it as a threesome." -- Cue Magazine

"We have from France one of the most beautiful films that I think you will ever see. It was made by Agnes Varda. It's called LE BONHEUR, which means 'happiness' and it's Renoirish in full color with the tones of the impressionists. I think this is really a movie to look at." -- Judith Crist, NBC

"With Varda, color can be used expressively, as in the contrast between the comfortable warm tones in the love scenes of the husband and wife, and the cool, whiter ones of the husband and his mistress. It would be hard to recall an optical mobility put as consistently as in this film to the service of a color lyricism." -- Film Quarterly

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NEXT WEEK the Baruch College Film Festival presents Francois Truffaut's Jules and Jim.

Films to Come:

March 20th	—	King Kong — Cooper
April 10th	—	The Seventh Seal — Bergman
17th	—	The Blue Angel — Von Sternberg
24th	—	Ashes and Diamonds — Wajda
May 1st	—	Dr. Strangelove — Kubrick

Notes from the Janus Films catalogue

ABOUT BARUCH COLLEGE

The Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York was established as an independent four-year college in the City University system in July 1968 by action of the Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Regents. Formerly the Baruch School of Business and Public Administration of the City College it offers undergraduate and graduate programs leading to degrees in business and public administration.

The College began offering in Fall 1969 a general liberal arts program leading to the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees. The purpose of this curriculum is to offer a combination of specialized and liberal studies which meet modern requirements for quality education leading to successful careers in business, public service and related fields. These studies emphasize areas which complement business and administrative studies, such as the humanities and the behavioral sciences.

Named in honor of the statesman and financier who was one of City College's most influential advocates of setting up a school for business studies, The Bernard M. Baruch College enjoys a distinguished tradition.

In both its location and history it is a lineal descendant of the Free Academy which was founded by an 1847 act of the State Legislature. It remains at the original location on Lexington Avenue at 23rd Street and perpetuates the benefits of free education to undergraduates.

When opened in January 1849, the original turreted brick structure cost \$48,000 and had 143 students. It was surrounded by green fields and from its windows students could see down to the river.

For nearly 60 years thereafter all of the Academy's activities were carried on at the downtown location. The name was changed in 1866 to The College of the City of New York (and in 1926 to The City College).

As the years passed, the College outgrew its original home and spilled over into neighboring rented quarters. In the first decade of the 20th Century decision was made to establish the campus uptown, with a student body of 2,000. The downtown building continued to be used for Townsend Harris High School (now discontinued) for freshman work and for the business school.

As a trustee of the College of the City of New York Bernard M. Baruch played a leading role in the movement to establish a school of business. After several delays, a "division of vocational subjects and civic administration" was established with city funds and through his persistent efforts in 1919 the division was officially expanded into the City College School of Business and Civic Administration.

In 1928 the historic downtown building was replaced by present 16-story structure where in addition to day-time courses in business administration, an evening session was established.

Times have changed and today, as an autonomous institution more than 6,700 full-time students and approximately 3,700 evening students, The Bernard M. Baruch College stands in the midst of the great business area which grew up around it.

Although the green fields are gone, the guiding philosophy of the founder of The Free Academy, Townsend Harris remains a college credo -- "Open the doors to all -- let the children of the rich and poor take their seats together and know no distinction save that of industry, good conduct and intellect."

LE BONHEUR

COMMUNITY

FILM

FESTIVAL

1970

BARUCH

COLLEGE

Sponsored by the Evening Division,
Dr. Angelo Dispenzieri, Dean
Dr. Robert C. Weaver, President