

Films : Philippe De Broca's "Les jeux de l'amour"

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Films

Philippe De Broca's "LES JEUX DE L'AMOUR"

Good comedies have always been few and far between, and since the war they seem to have become rarer still. Even France, the traditional home of witty and stylish comedies, has produced few films in recent years that can rival such works of the 'thirties as "Le Roi S'Amuse", "Le Roman d'un Tricheur" and "Drôle de Drame".

Philippe de Broca's *Les Jeux de l'Amour* ("Playing at Love") is not only a delightful comedy of manners, but possesses all the characteristics that have made the best Nouvelle Vague films such an exciting contribution to the contemporary cinema. It has the peculiar blend of realism and imagination, so typical of the young school of French directors; a sharp and curious eye for the ironies of present-day living; and it communicates a wonderful feeling that literally anything may happen in the next shot. In other words, it is a witty and ironic commentary on life among the younger generation to-day, far removed from the dreary manipulation of stock characters and situations that so often does duty for comedy nowadays.

Like many good comedies in the past, "*Les Jeux de l'Amour*" is designed on an intimate scale, and the

director has drawn magnificent performances from his trio of leading actors. They are headed by Jean-Pierre Cassel, one of the brightest young stars of the French cinema, and as sensational a discovery in the field of comedy as Jean-Paul Belmondo was in serious drama. His performance as the faun-like, so very charming but completely self-centred young painter, Victor, is one of the most outrageous and delightful pieces of acting that have come out of France since the war. He is deliciously partnered by Genevieve Cluny, in the part of his girl friend, Suzanne — a young woman grimly determined to suspend the favours Victor now so carelessly enjoys, unless he agrees to take the plunge into matrimony and fatherhood. And, finally, there is that most versatile young actor, Jean-Louis Maury, who plays François, the couple's closest friend, and whom Suzanne will inevitably try to use as a lever with which to prize Victor loose from his cherished bachelorhood.

It only remains to be said that "*Les Jeux de l'Amour*" won the Silver Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival, and was chosen for showing at the opening Gala of the London Film Festival.



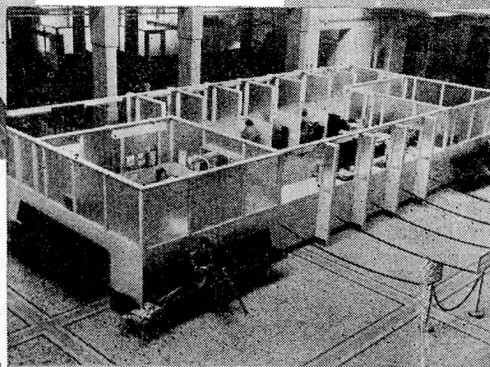
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Haroun Tazieff's Volcano

Almost everyone is familiar with pictures of volcanoes — dark, forbidding mountains, with plumes of smoke rising from the top, whose sudden furies fill the front pages of the world's newspapers from time to time. But what, actually, *is* a volcano? How does it arise and what does it look like, at close range, during an eruption?

The answers to these questions are provided by "Volcano", a film made by a young scientist, Haroun Tazieff, who has made the study of the world's volcanoes his life's work. Where others have studied volcanoes at a respectful distance, with the aid of seismograph readings, Tazieff has descended into their craters and filmed their eruptions at point-blank range, often even without the aid of a telephoto lens.

There can be no synopsis of this film in conventional terms. It is too extraordinary in conception and execution. The material which Tazieff gathered at the risk of his life speaks for itself in terrifying and unforgettable images.

In order to make this film, Tazieff explored 28 volcanoes, in Italy, Kenya, the Congo, Mexico, the Philippines, Java, Chile, Japan and the Azores. It is probably that this exploit as well as the material which Tazieff brought home will remain unique. It provides a stunning and indeed almost unimaginable account of the terrors that lie hidden, as it were, under our very feet, and completely transcend the human scale. In Tazieff's words:

"The rages of the earth are beyond our control. To-day, as yesterday, the dragons of primal ages defy our science and technology . . . Some miles beneath the fragile crust which supports our steps, the most ambitious human achievements rest upon the primal chaos, a Wagnerian universe of legendary proportions."

SWISSAIR NEWS

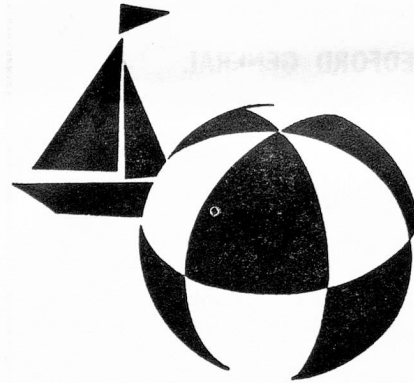
Swissair started jet services to the Far East with Convair 880-M aircraft on 10th September, a few days earlier than originally planned. Both 880-M jets leased to Swissair by Convair have been operating some flights between London and Zurich and to the Middle East, normally flown by Caravelles, before their introduction on the Far East route.

On its delivery flight from the United States, one of the two Convair 880-M jets flew New York - Zurich non-stop in 6 hours 57 minutes. It was the longest non-stop flight to date by a Convair jet and remarkable in that it was made by a type of aircraft specifically designed for medium hauls.

Swissair's Convair 880-Ms are powered by four General Electric CJ-805-3B pure jet turbines, each of 11,650 pounds thrust. Maximum cruising speed is around 618 m.p.h. The aircraft can carry 84 passengers — 20 in first and 64 in economy class. For first class passengers there is also a 10-seater lounge. Two galleys, located fore and aft, are provided for in-flight catering.

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