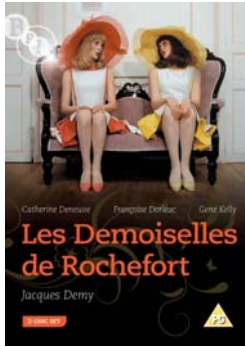


DVD press release



Les Demoiselles de Rochefort

A film by Jacques Demy

An effervescent and captivating celebration of life, Jacques Demy's much-loved musical stars Gene Kelly, Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac

Following the huge success of *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg* (1964), Jacques Demy went on to make *Les Demoiselles de Rochefort*, a large scale tribute to the Hollywood musical featuring screen legend Gene Kelly. Released in the UK on DVD for the first time by the BFI, the 1996 restoration is presented in a 2-disc set that also features an hour long documentary by Agnès Varda and other special extras.

Jacques Demy was one of the most distinctive directors to emerge from the French New Wave in the late '50s and early '60s. The films he made up until his untimely death in 1990 constitute one of the most extraordinary bodies of work of that era, much of which was screened in a career retrospective at BFI Southbank last November.

Les Demoiselles de Rochefort centres on twin sisters Delphine and Solange (played by real life sisters Catherine Deneuve and Françoise Dorléac). Tired of their humdrum existence in the picturesque seaside town of Rochefort, they dream of leaving to find success and romance in Paris, just as a carnival and an American composer (Gene Kelly) hit town.

The superb ensemble cast also features Danielle Darrieux, Michel Piccoli, Jacques Perrin, George Chakiris and Grover Dale.

With a plot of pure Shakespearean farce, witty dialogue and lyrics by Demy and a magnificent jazz score by three-times Academy Award winner Michel Legrand, this has to be one of the most joyously ebullient movies ever.

Special features

- *Les Demoiselles ont eu 25 ans* (Agnès Varda, 1993, 64 mins) – documentary mixing on-set footage, home movies and footage from the 25th Anniversary celebrations in Rochefort
- Extracts from the Guardian Interview in which Catherine Deneuve talks about working with Jacques Demy and his influence on her career
- Audio extracts from Gene Kelly's Guardian Lecture on the Hollywood Musical
- Illustrated booklet containing original publicity photos and production stills
- Fully uncompressed PCM stereo audio

Release date: 28 July 2008

RRP £22.99 / cat. no. BFIVD770 / cert PG

France / 1967 / colour / French language, optional English subtitles / 126 mins / DVD-9 / original aspect ratio 2.35:1

BFI DVDs are available from all good retailers and the BFI Filmstore Tel: 020 7815 1350

www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

Press contact: Jill Reading, BFI Press Office
Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

About the BFI

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archive, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you. To find out more go to www.bfi.org.uk