

Sauve Qui Peut La Vie

(Everyone ~~For~~ ^{For} Himself ~~In~~ ^{In} Life)

(SWISS-FRENCH-COLOR)

Cannes, May 27.

MK2 release of Sara Films-Sonimage-Saga-MK2 production. Stars Isabelle Huppert, Jacques Dutronc, Nathalie Baye. Directed by Jean-Luc Godard. Screenplay: Godard, Jean-Claude Carrière, Anne-Marie Mieville. Camera (Eastmancolor), Renato Berta, William Lubtchansky; music, Gabriel Yared. Reviewed at Cannes Film Fest (Competing) May 21, 1980. Running time, 88 MINS.

Isabelle Huppert
Godard
Dutrone
Nathalie Baye

Jean-Luc Godard, that controversial New Waver who gave jump cuts artistic merit, helped upset straight narrative with asides, commentary chapter headings and doing one's own thing, and then went into politico tracts after the May '68 events, is now back with his first feature after almost eight years devoting himself to making video films.

It is good to have him back for he still irritates, annoys and even titillates as most of the ex-Wavers have gone in for more academic films and themes that they once attacked when they were all critics.

However, Godard does not add much new to his repertoire of old. He seems to have replaced the jump cut by suddenly going into image by image analyses of some motions within an action. In fact, there is a superficial resemblance to the script of fellow filmmaker Alain Resnais's "My Uncle From America" which was also at Cannes.

Godard similarly takes three people who at times cross each others' lives. But there the resemblance ends. Godard does not explain their childhoods or them but puts them into scenes. Jacques Dutrone seems to work at a hotel taking care of important guests, even escorting them to airports. One, an opera singer, never stops singing.

Nathalie Baye is his current girlfriend upset with his vacillating ways. He runs into an innocent-looking prostitute one day with whom he spends a nice night. Godard has always been digging away at the ways of prostitution, one pic had a joy girl heroine, "To Live Her Life," and another housewives doing it at times for needed grocery money, "Two or Three Things I Know About Her."

Here Isabelle Huppert, usually a romantic or ill adjusted innocent, plays the joy girl with accepting yet curious attitudes towards her clients, gangsters preying on her and the demands of the different buyers.

Dutrone also has an estranged wife and a bitter teenage daughter. Godard was born in France but brought up in Switzerland and went back to Switzerland to shoot this one.

Film should draw more selective audiences but will turn off more general ones. If Godard has not added much new to his ways of looking at life's dissenters, he remains provocative, disturbing, a filmmaking original who takes risks. —Mosk.