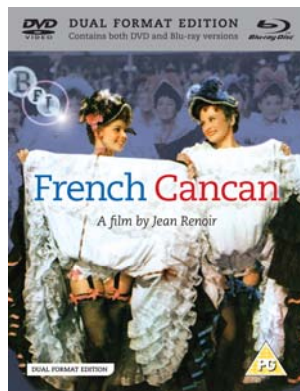


## DVD & Blu-ray press release



# French Cancan

## A film by Jean Renoir

After bursting on to cinema screens in August, in a new Digital restoration, the BFI now releases Jean Renoir's exuberant *French Cancan* in a Dual Format Edition (DVD & Blu-ray discs together), accompanied by an hour-long documentary on the making of the film.

This Technicolor *tour-de-force*, set in the Paris of the belle époque, brings to ravishing, dazzling life the world of Jean Renoir's father, Pierre Auguste, and other Impressionists such as Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec and Manet, in one of the great films about the complex relationship between life and the theatre.

*French Cancan* is loosely based on the founding of the world famous Parisian cabaret club, the Moulin Rouge. Henri Danglard (Jean Gabin) is a brilliant impresario whose life is fraught with romantic entanglements and financial problems. Falling in love with Nini (Françoise Arnoul), a pretty young laundry girl from Montmartre, he decides to make her the star of his latest venture – a club called the Moulin Rouge which will offer 'high life for modest purses'. Its principal attraction will be the cancan, an old working-class dance which Danglard plans to revive and revamp. Along the way, however, his dream is threatened by the jealousy of his belly-dancer lover Lola (a flamboyant performance from Mexican star María Félix).

This was the film that marked Renoir's return to France following a fifteen-year exile in Hollywood, reuniting him with his favourite Jean Gabin (*Les Bas-Fonds*, *La Grande Illusion*, *La Bête Humaine*) and with the Montmartre where he was born in 1894.

Featuring a cameo performance from Edith Piaf and culminating in one of the most spectacular dance scenes in all of cinema history, *French Cancan* combines truly exhilarating entertainment with remarkable human observation and depth of feeling.

### Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- Brand new restoration
- *The show must go on! The joys of life by Jean Renoir* (2010, 57 mins): documentary on the making of *French Cancan*
- *French Cancan restored* (2010, 5 mins): a look at the technical work which went into the restoration
- 18-page illustrated booklet with essays, notes and credits

### Release date: 7 November 2011

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1118 / Cert PG

France, Italy / 1954 / colour / French language with optional English subtitles / 104 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Region B

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/24-bit)

Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

Available from DVD retailers & BFI Filmstore Tel: 020 7815 1350 or [www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore](http://www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore)

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Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD & Blu-ray