

Dual Format Edition press release



Maîtresse

A film by Barbet Schroeder

Starring Gérard Depardieu and Bulle Ogier

Released on 5 November, Barbet Schroeder's *Maîtresse* (1976) was his fourth feature, and caused controversy with its graphic scenes of torture and fetishism. Originally confined to a handful of club cinemas upon its release, it was then given an 'X' certificate in 1981 after the BBFC requested a number of cuts. Presented here uncut on DVD and, for the first time, on Blu-ray, *Maîtresse* is a stylish love story – costumes are by Karl Lagerfeld – with a dark undertone.

When Olivier, played by a youthful Gérard Depardieu, breaks into an unassuming Parisian apartment he inadvertently enters the world of leather-clad dominatrix Ariane (Bulle Ogier), who entertains clients in her cold-black marble and neon dungeon. Olivier's fascination with Ariane soon turns to love, forcing him to question his own assumptions about sex, perversion and power.

Barbet Schroeder, who went on to make *Barfly* (1987), *Reversal of Fortune* (1990) and *Single White Female* (1992) in Hollywood, was aiming to achieve a wholly non-judgmental exploration of the more extreme side of human sexuality, to strip it of its association with fascism and oppression. He called on the services of a real Parisian dominatrix who supplied on-set advice and much of her own equipment and also used several of her actual clients in the scenes where Ariane imprisons, abuses and humiliates them.

Special features

- Presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition (Blu-ray and DVD)
- *Domestic Masochism: Barbet Schroeder's Maîtresse* (2012, 28 mins): Dr Patricia MacCormack and Edward Lamberti analyse key scenes from *Maîtresse*
- Theatrical trailers for *Maîtresse*, *More* (1969) and *The Valley* (1972)
- Illustrated booklet featuring a newly commissioned essay by Dr Patricia MacCormack, a new interview with Barbet Schroeder and an original review

***Maîtresse* is also screening during the Uncut! season at BFI Southbank on Fri 16 Nov 18:20 in NFT2 (with introduction) and on Sun 18 Nov 15:40 in NFT1**

To mark the centenary of the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) in 2012, BFI Southbank presents **Uncut!**, a season of films which have been either banned or censored in the last century of cinema, curated by critic Mark Kermode and Professor in Film Studies at Southampton University Linda Ruth Williams. Taking place from 1 – 30 November 2012, this season will give film fans a chance to see some of the most contentious films ever made in their complete version on the big screen and will aim to illustrate how the BBFC's attitudes to confrontational material have changed over the years.

Product details

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1041 / Cert 18

France / 1976 / colour / French with English subtitles / 113 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.66:1

Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono 2.0 audio (48k/16-bit) / Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)

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Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD 2012

Available from DVD retailers and the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or www.bfi.org.uk/shop