



IRMA VEP

A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE

IRMA VEP

What price Hong Kong action diva Maggie Cheung as a latex-suited reincarnation of Irma Vep, the super-criminaline of Feuillade's silent serial *Les Vampires*? That is just one of the questions posed in this delirious, erotic and very funny satire on contemporary French cinema from young auteur Olivier Assayas. Jean-Pierre Léaud (as hunched and haunted as ever) plays a director in decline who is inspired to cast Cheung after seeing her in *The Heroic Trio*. As might be expected in this gallic counterpart to *Living in Oblivion*, the crew bicker, the director despairs of realizing his vision, and the endearingly English-bred Cheung is left adrift with only the friendship of a persecuted lesbian wardrobe mistress to lean on. Assayas employs his trademark style of superbly fluid camerawork, choice rock cuts and spontaneous performances to create a film of many levels. The dramatic centerpiece is Cheung's private exploration of her character on a furtive jewel raid in her hotel, a dazzling exercise in suspense and sexual frisson that is truly worthy of the presiding spirit of Feuillade.

—David Thompson, London Film Festival

ZEITGEIST FILMS PRESENTS

A **DACIA FILMS** PRODUCTION
OF A FILM BY **OLIVIER ASSAYAS**

IRMA VEP

MAGGIE CHEUNG MAGGIE
JEAN-PIERRE LEAUD RENE VIDAL
NATHALIE RICHARD ZOE

BULLE OGIER MIREILLE
LOU CASTEL JOSE MURANO
ARSINEE KHANJIAN AMERICAN WOMAN

ANTOINE BASLER JOURNALIST
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ALEX DESCAS DESORMEAUX
DOMINIQUE FAYSSÉ MAITÉ
BERNARD NISSILE MARKUS
OLIVIER TORRES FERDINAND/MORENO

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OLIVIER ASSAYAS
ON THE MAKING OF IRMA VEP

LOUIS FEULLADE'S LES VAMPIRES AND THE ORIGINAL IRMA VEP

Louis Feuillade (1873-1925) was a prolific director of over 700 films, most of them short or medium-length. Feuillade began his career with Gaumont where, as well as directing his own features, he was appointed artistic director in charge of production in 1907. Feuillade's work was largely comprised of film series; his first series, begun in 1910 and numbering 15 episodes, was LE FILM ESTHETIQUE, a financially unsuccessful attempt at "high-brow" cinema. More popular was LIFE AS IT IS (1911-13), which moved from the costume pageantry of his earlier work to a more realistic, if somewhat melodramatic, depiction of contemporary life. Feuillade also directed scores of short films featuring the characters Bébé and Bout-de-zan.

Feuillade's most successful feature-length serials were FANTOMAS (1913-14), which chronicled the diabolical exploits of the "emperor of crime," and LES VAMPIRES (1915-16), which trailed a criminal gang led by Irma Vep (Musidora) and was noted for its imaginative use of locations and lyrical, almost surreal style.

Biography from Baseline's Encyclopedia of Film

1913	FANTOMAS
1913	JUVE CONTRE FANTOMAS
1913	LE MORT QUI TUE
1914	FANTOMAS CONTRE FANTOMAS
1914	LE FAUX MAGISTRAT
1915	LES VAMPIRES
1916	JUDEX
1916	L'AVENTURE DES MILLIONS
1916	NOTRE PAUVRE COEUR
1916	UN MARIAGE DE RAISON
1917	LA DESERTEUSE
1917	LA NOUVELLE MISSION DE JUDEX
1917	LE PASSE DE MONIQUE
1918	LES PETITES MARIONNETTES
1918	TIH MINH
1918	VENDEMIARE
1919	BARRABAS
1919	L'ENGRENAGE
1919	L'HOMME SANS VISAGE
1920	LES DEUX GAMINES
1921	L'ORPHELINE
1921	PARISETTE
1922	LE FILS DU FILIBUSTIER
1923	L'ORPHELIN DE PARIS
1923	LA GOSSELINE
1923	LE GAMIN DE PARIS
1923	VINDICTA
1924	LA FILLE BIEN GARDEE
1924	LE STIGMATE
1924	LUCETTE
1924	PIERROT, PIERRETTE

OLIVIER ASSAYAS

OLIVIER ASSAYAS FILMOGRAPHY

- 1986 DESORDRE (DISORDER)
- 1989 L'ENFANT DE L'HIVER (THE CHILD OF WINTER)
- 1991 PARIS S'ÉVEILLE (PARIS AT DAWN)
- 1993 UNE NOUVELLE VIE (A NEW LIFE)
- 1994 L'EAU FROIDE (COLD WATER)
- 1996 IRMA VEP

MAGGIE CHEUNG

One of the major stars of Hong Kong cinema in the '80s and '90s, Maggie Cheung is probably best known to international audiences for her roles in Jackie Chan's **Police Story** (1985) and **Super Cop** (1992, released in the U.S. in 1996), Johnny To's martial arts fantasy **The Heroic Trio** (1993), Wong Kar-Wai's **As Tears Go By** (1988) and **Ashes of Time** (1995) and Stanley Kwan's **Actress** (aka **Center Stage**; 1992) for which she won the Best Actress award at the Berlin Film Festival.

Born in Hong Kong in 1964 (her Chinese name is Cheung Man Yuk), Cheung moved to England with her family when she was eight and grew up in Kent. After a year working in a London book shop she returned to Hong Kong at the age of 17 and started working as a model and a beauty pageant contestant (she represented Hong Kong in the 1983 Miss World Contest). She acted in her first film in 1984 and over the past 12 years has made some 70 films.

In 1989 she won the Best Actress award at the Taiwan Golden Horse Film Festival for Stanley Kwan's **Full Moon in New York** and the following year won the Hong Kong Academy Award for Best Actress for **A Fishy Story**. Her role as tragic silent era starlet Ruan Ling Yu in **Actress** won her not only the Berlin award but also the Best Actress award at the Taiwan Golden Horse Film Festival and at the Chicago International Film Festival.

MAGGIE CHEUNG FILMOGRAPHY

1984	PRINCE CHARMING	Wong Jing
	BEHIND THE YELLOW LINE	Wong Tai-Loy
1985	GIRL WITH THE DIAMOND SLIPPER	Wong Jing
	POLICE STORY	Jackie Chan
	IT'S A DRINK, IT'S A BOMB	Chung Chi-Man
1986	ROSE	Yeung Fan
	HAPPY GHOST 3	Johnny To
	THE SEVEN CURSE	Lam Lai Choi
1987	SISTER CUPID	Lai Ying-Chao
	HEARTBEAT 100	Cheung Chak-Tse
	THE ROMANCING STAR	Wong Jing
	PROJECT A PART II	Jackie Chan
1988	GIRLS WITHOUT TOMORROW	Lam Tak-Luk
	LOVE SOLDIER FORTUNE	Fung Shui-Fan
	PAPER MARRIAGE	Cheung-Kin Tin
	DOUBLE FATTINESE	Keung Tai-Wai
	AS TEARS GO BY	Wong Kar-Wai
	MOTHER VS MOTHER	Leung Ka-Shu
	MOON, STAR, SUN	Mak Don-Kit
	HOW TO PICK	Wong Jing
	POLICE STORY PART II	Jackie Chan
	THE GAME THEY CALLED SEX	Sylvia Cheung
	THE NOWHERE MAN	Cheung Chuk-Tse
	LAST ROMANCE	Yeung Fan
1989	THE BACHELOR'S SWAN SONG	Yi Tung Sing
	DOUBLE CAUSES TROUBLES	Wong Jing
	MY DEAR SON	Keung Tai-Wai
	ICEMAN-COMETH	Fok Yiu-Leung
	A FISHY STORY	Friend Chan
	HEARTS NO FLOWERS	Cheung Wing-Hung
	IN BETWEEN LOVERS	Fung Yi Ching
1990	HEARTS IN HEARTS	Hin Gei Yin
	FULL MOON IN NEW YORK	Stanley Kwan
	SONG OF EXILE	Ann Hui
	THE DRAGON FROM RUSSIA	Fok Yiu-Leung
	RED DUST	Yim Ho
	FAREWELL, CHINA	Clara Law
	DAYS OF BEING WILD	Wong Kar-Wai
1991	THE PERFECT MATCH	Shin Gei-Yin
	ALAN & ERIC	Peter Chan
	WILL OF IRON	Johnny Keung
	TODAY'S HERO	Yip Shing-Hong
1992	FINAL JUSTICE	Ko Chi-Sam
	TWIN DRAGON	Tsui Hark
	CENTER STAGE (ACTRESS)	Stanley Kwan
	WHAT A HERO	Chan Muk-Shing
	SUPER COP III	Stanley Tong
	DRAGON INN	Li Wai-Man
	ROSE	Samson Chiu
	TRUE LOVE	Tam Long-Cheong
	MOON WARRIOR	Samo Hung
1993	MILLIONAIRE COP	Cheung Kin-Man
	THE HEROIC TRIO	Johnny To
	DONG CHENG XI JIU	Jeff Lau
	THE FIRST SHOT	Lam Tak-Luk
	TOO HAPPY FOR WORDS	Stanley Kwan
	FLYING DRAGGER	Chu Yin Ping
	HOLY WEAPON	Wong Jing
	THE ENIGMA OF LOVE	Wong Jin Wah
	THE MAD MONK	Johnny To
	BOYS ARE EASY	Wong Jing
	GREEN SNAKE	Tsui Hark
1994	THE NEW AGE OF LIVING TOGETHER	Sylvia Cheung
	EXECUTIONERS	Ching Siu Tung
	THE BARE FOOTED KID	Johnny To
1995	ASHES OF TIME	Wong Kar-Wai
	SOONG DYNASTY	Alex Law/Mabel Cheung
1996	IRMA VEP	Olivier Assayas
	TIAN MIMI	Peter Chan

JEAN-PIERRE LEAUD FILMOGRAPHY

1957	LA TOUR, PRENDS GARDE!	
1959	THE FOUR HUNDRED BLOWS	Francois Truffaut
1959	THE TESTAMENT OF ORPHEUS	Jean Cocteau
1960	BOULEVARD	
1962	LOVE AT TWENTY	
1964	UNE FEMME MARIEE	assistant director to Jean-Luc Godard
1964	MATA HARI, AGENT H-21	
1964	THE SOFT SKIN	assistant director to Francois Truffaut
1965	ALPHAVILLE	Jean-Luc Godard
1965	PIERROT LE FOU	Jean-Luc Godard
1966	MADE IN U.S.A.	Jean-Luc Godard
1966	MASCULINE-FEMININE	Jean-Luc Godard
1967	LA CHINOISE	Jean-Luc Godard
1967	LE DEPART	Jerzy Skolimowski
1967	LES MAUVAISES FREQUENTATIONS	
1967	LE PLUS VIEUX METIER DU MONDE	Godard episode
1967	WEEKEND	Jean-Luc Godard
1968	DIALOG	
1968	LA CONCENTRATION	
1968	LE GAI SAVOIR	Jean-Luc Godard
1968	STOLEN KISSES	Francois Truffaut
1969	THE INHERITORS	
1969	PAUL	
1969	PIGSTY	Pier Paolo Pasolini
1970	BED AND BOARD	Francois Truffaut
1970	THE LION HAS SEVEN HEADS	
1970	UNE AVENTURE DE BILLY LE KID	
1971	OUT 1: NOLI ME TANGERE	Jacques Rivette
1972	OUT 1: SPECTRE	Jacques Rivette
1972	TWO ENGLISH GIRLS	Francois Truffaut
1973	DAY FOR NIGHT	Francois Truffaut
1973	LAST TANGO IN PARIS	Bernardo Bertolucci
1973	THE MOTHER AND THE WHORE	Jean Eustache
1975	LES LOLOS DE LOLA	
1975	UMARMUNGEN UND ANDERE SACHEN	
1979	LOVE ON THE RUN	Francois Truffaut
1979	ON A PAS FINI D'EN PARLER	
1981	HELP ME DREAM	Pupi Avati
1983	LA CASSURE	
1983	REBELOTE	
1984	CSAK EGY MOZI	
1984	L'HERBE ROUGE	
1984	PARIS VU PAR... VINGT ANS APRES	
1985	DETECTIVE	Jean-Luc Godard
1985	TREASURE ISLAND	Raul Ruiz
1985	VIVEMENT TRUFFAUT!	
1986	CORPS ET BIENS	
1986	GRANDEUR ET DECADENCE...	Jean-Luc Godard
1987	BORAN—ZEIT ZUM ZIELEN	
1987	LES KEUFS	
1987	OSSEGG-ODER DIE WAHRHEIT UBER HANSEL UND GRETE	
1988	36 FILLETTE	Catherine Breillat
1988	JANE B. BY AGNES V.	Agnes Varda
1988	LA COULEUR DU VENT	
1988	LES MINISTERES DE L'ART	
1989	BUNKER PALACE HOTEL	
1989	FEMME DE PAPIER	
1990	I HIRED A CONTRACT KILLER	Aki Kaurismaki
1991	PARIS S'EVEILLE	Olivier Assayas
1992	LA VIE DE BOHEME/ BOHEMIAN LIFE	Aki Kaurismaki
1992	WHERE IS MUSETTE?	

NATHALIE RICHARD FILMOGRAPHY

1987	THE GOLDEN EIGHTIES	Chantal Akerman
1988	LA BANDE DES QUATRE	Jacques Rivette
1989	L'ENFANT DE L'HIVER	Olivier Assayas
	LE BAR DES RAILS	Cédric Kahn
	RIENS DU TOUT	Cédric Klapisch
	GRAND BONHEUR	Hervé Le Roux
1993	JEANNE LA PUCELLE	Jacques Rivette
	LES AMOUREUX	Catherine Corsini
1994	HAUT BAS FRAGILE	Jacques Rivette
	L'EDUCATRICE	Pascal Kané
1996	IRMA VEP	Olivier Assayas

BULLEOGIER

LOUCASTEL

JEAN-PIERRE LÉAUD
AND THE NOUVELLE VAGUE