

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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Orphée

Written by David on September, 12 2009

By Johnny Pittman:
C'est extraordinaire!

Saturday at the Strand, I had the pleasure of a "private screening" of Jean Cocteau's, 1950 French Classic "Orphée."

In this bizarre retelling of the Greek classic, Orphée (Jean Marais), a famous poet and song-writer encounters, a mysterious woman (Maria Casares) who beckons him to her aid. The woman turns out to be Death, Princess of the Underworld, and she has fallen in love with Orpheus.

Her chauffeur, Heurtebise (François Périer), becomes Orpheus's guide when he is compelled to save his wife, Eurydice (Maria Déa) from the Princess. When Orpheus cannot pass through the mirror/the way to the underworld/he informs Orpheus: "Il ne s'agit pas de comprendre; il s'agit de croire." It's not about understanding; it's about believing.

The story ends tragically for Death and her chauffeur, who ultimately sacrifice themselves so Orphée and Eurydice can spend all of eternity together.

While the movie was truly remarkable! I do recommend it! what I found most extraordinary where it was screened. Where else in Shelbyville/in Indiana, even? would I have encountered a Jean Cocteau classic? Probably not at the library and certainly not at any movie rental stores. I applaud the Strand all they do to bring such art, history and culture to Shelbyville.

Editor's Note: The movie was shown in French with no subtitles.

Images on this post:



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