

Norton Simon Museum For Immediate Release

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The Norton Simon Museum Presents The Belle Époque on Film

Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *By Day & by Night: Paris in the Belle Époque*, the Norton Simon Museum presents a series of films that travel back in time and bring this exciting era to life. Films screen on consecutive Fridays in November, starting at 5:30 p.m. Films are free with Museum admission. No reservations taken. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

French Cancan (1955), NR

Directed by Jean Renoir

Friday, November 1, 5:30–7:15 p.m.

Nineteenth-century Paris is vibrantly presented in Jean Renoir's exhilarating tale of the opening of the world-renowned Moulin Rouge. Jean Gabin plays the wily impresario Dantès, who makes the cancan all the rage while juggling the love of two women—an Egyptian belly dancer and a naive working girl turned cancan star. This celebration of life, art and the City of Light (with a cameo by Édith Piaf) is a Technicolor tour de force by a master of modern cinema. In French, with English subtitles.



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Le Plaisir (1955), NR

Directed by Max Ophüls

Friday, November 8, 5:30–7:10 p.m.

Roving with his dazzlingly mobile camera around the decadent ballrooms, bucolic countryside retreats, urban bordellos and painter's studios of late 19th-century French life, Max Ophüls brings his astonishing visual dexterity and storytelling bravura to this triptych of tales by Guy de Maupassant about the limits of spiritual and physical



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pleasure. Featuring a stunning cast of French stars (including Danielle Darrieux, Jean Gabin and Simone Simon), *Le Plaisir* pinpoints the cruel ironies and happy compromises of life with a charming and sophisticated breeziness. In French, with English subtitles.

Casque d'Or (1952), NR

Directed by Jacques Becker

Friday, November 15, 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Jacques Becker lovingly evokes the belle époque Parisian demimonde in this classic tale of doomed romance. When gangster moll Marie (Simone Signoret) falls for reformed criminal Manda (Serge Reggiani), their passion incites an underworld rivalry that leads inexorably to treachery and tragedy. With poignant, nuanced performances and sensuous black-and-white photography, *Casque d'Or* is Becker at the height of his cinematic powers—a romantic masterpiece. In French, with English subtitles.



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Gigi (1958), G

Directed by Vincente Minnelli

Friday, November 22, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Gaston (Louis Jourdan) is a restless Parisian playboy who moves from one mistress to another, while also spending time with Gigi (Leslie Caron), a precocious younger friend learning the ways of high society. The platonic relationship between Gaston and Gigi changes, however, when she matures, but the possibility of something lasting seems unlikely, since he won't commit to one woman. Gigi refuses to be anyone's mistress, however, and Gaston must choose between her and his carefree lifestyle.



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ADMISSION: All screenings are free with Museum admission. Admission is \$15.00 for adults; \$12.00 for seniors; and free for Museum members, students with I.D., and everyone age 18 and under. Admission on November 1st is free from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. as part of the Museum's Free First Friday program. For more information, call (626) 449-6840 or visit www.nortonsimon.org.

WHERE: Norton Simon Museum | 411 West Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena; located on the corner of Colorado and Orange Grove Boulevards at the intersection of the 210 and 134 freeways | Parking at the Norton Simon Museum is free but limited. Public transportation or ridesharing is encouraged.