

A Rare Film For \$25,000

"A Tout Prendre" (Take It All), which opens tonight at The Movie, is a young man's film — a sincere, modest and singularly impressive first feature by a French Canadian named Claude Jutra.

He was in his early thirties when he made the film in Montreal. It contains nearly no signs of professionalism, not in the usual sense, and it may well be the most inexpensive feature (only \$25,000) to find its way into the hands of a major distributor.

Jutra threw caution to the wind and ignored all the accepted refinements of commercial cinema — even those of "cinéma vérité," the precepts of which he avidly embraced, with a hand-held camera, natural lighting, homely locales, crude sound, improvised scenario and tricky, Godard-like editing.

SENSITIVE

Yet in my considered opinion, Jutra has brought forth an exceptional film, which easily justifies its flaws with rare sensitivity and a most affecting honesty of purpose.

He cast himself in the principal role, which is apparently autobiographical, not only in its soul-searching reflections on an unhappy love affair, but in its bitter condemnation of the hero's cold, ruthless jilting of a Negro girl, after she becomes pregnant.

The girl is called Johanne (off-screen as well) and she works as a fashion model — a sleek and attractive young woman, whose straightforward, unfeigned manner brings a touching veracity to the role.

HIS PROBLEMS

Jutra performs with the same directness and conviction. I doubt that any movie-maker could instill a more startling confessional quality in his work, to the point of baring the hero's problems with promiscuity through innermost fantasies and even admitting to a homosexual aspect in his personality.

A similarly compelling truth is manifested in Jutra's scenes with his mother, beautifully played by



JOHANNE IN "A TOUT PRENDRE"

A Montreal fashion model, rejected in love

"A TOUT PRENDRE" (Take It All), French-Canadian film, distributed by Lopert Pictures; produced by Robert Hershorn and Claude Jutra; directed, photographed, written and edited by Claude Jutra. With Claude Jutra, Johanne, Victor Desy, Tania Feder. At The Movie.

Tania Feder, and with his closest friend and confidant, Victor Desy.

While one can scarcely overlook the film's amateur shortcomings, it nonetheless projects the reckless spirit, the self doubts and the emotional upheavals of youth with remarkable and disturbing effect.

—Stanley Eichelbaum

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