

L'Adolescente

("The Adolescent (Girl)")

France / W Germany : 1979 : dir.: Jeanne Moreau : Janus

: 94 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Laetitia Chauveau](#)

Simone Signoret; Edith Clever; Jacques Weber; Francis Huster; Jean-Francois Balmer

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	€	Z	Ⓜ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source: Sight & Sound Summer 82

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“Moreau filmed her own childhood memories in the story of 11-year old Marie who, during a summer holiday in the country with grandmother Signoret, experiences first love and loses her illusions about adults. Striving for atmosphere and poetic effect blur the sharp edges of antisemitism and impending war anno 1939, but the remarkable acting of many characters still grasp the attention. **½ ”

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review – (filed under "LAD") :

“One-dimensional tale of anxious, confused Chauveau, just beginning her teen years at the outset of World War 2. A heartfelt effort by Moreau that falls flat. Also known as "**THE ADOLESCENT**". **½ ”

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"A totally successful evocation of a holiday in the country, as experienced by a young Parisian (Laetitia Chauveau). She develops a crush [*sic*] on the young Jewish locum (Francis Huster) and receives advice from her country grandmother (Simone Signoret). Nothing much else happens to her, but this is the summer of 1939: there is talk of war and things will probably never be quite the same again. ** "

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

"Jeanne Moreau's second film as a director shows a considerable advance in technical skill, though the project is a hackneyed one about a young girl's coming of age during a rural summer just before WWII. **½ "

Excerpt from article "Moreau in London" - **Sight & Sound** - Summer '82:

"...Her transition from actress to director, with two films completed, "**LUMIERE**" (1976) and "**L'ADOLESCENTE**" (1979), and another in

pre-production, Jeanne Moreau judges perfectly normal. The decision to direct crystallised during a session with Orson Welles, when they were working together in 1968 on "**THE IMMORTAL STORY**". "We had a drink and then two or three. I got emotional. I said 'Orson, I love you.. the next thing I want to do is direct and play in a film I have written.' " Welles said do it and several years later, she did. Her second film, which has yet to find a British distributor, is a semi-autobiographical recreation of life in a French village at the outbreak of the Second World War. The 12-year old girl of the title falls in love with a doctor who, however, prefers her mother. "Things would never be the same again. The sweetness of life was over. " "

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. How refreshing it seems to hear a 12-year old girl's feelings for a grown man described as "first love", without the now-obligatory slew of condemnatory epithets, and (with one exception) not quickly dismissed as "a crush" or "precocious". Simone Signoret was excellent in the moving "**LA VIE DEVANT SOI**" ("Madame Rosa") as a dying ex-madam raising a crèche of the by-blows of local prostitutes, and in particular a beautiful arab boy who stays by her with fiercely defensive loyalty until her death.

The tiresomely similar-titled "**LES ADOLESCENTES**" also concerned "*a schoolgirl's 24-hour affair with a mature friend of the family*" (Sight & Sound), while "**LAS ADOLESCENTES**" (see what I mean?) was a Spanish sex "comedy" set in a British boarding school - for girls, I need scarcely add.

See subject index under **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES** (of which there are more than a few), **DISCRIMINATION / PREJUDICE**, **GRANDPARENTS**, **PASTORALS / HOLIDAYS IN THE COUNTRY**, **SEX & SEXUALITY** and **WAR**.