

La Drolesse

("The Hussy")

France : 1979 : dir. Jacques Doillon : Gaumont / New Yorker : 90 min

prod: Daniele Delorme & Yves Robert : scr: Jacques Doillon & Denis Ferraris

: dir.ph.: Philippe Rousselot

Madeleine Desdevises

Claude Hébert; Paulette Lahaye; Juliette LeCauchoux; Fernand Decaen; Janine Huet;

Odette Maestrini; Ginette Mazure; Denise Gamier; Norbert Delozier; Marie Sanson;

Edouard Besnehard; Henriette Adam; Jean Bruncliere; Jacques Thieule; Christian BouiWette

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Not your standard issue kidnapping story – that much is clear

Source: John Willis Screen World 1982

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"An unemployed farmer breaks his isolation by kidnapping a 12-year old girl and holding her captive in the loft of his barn. For the first time in their lives, both of them have someone to talk to. Gradually the girl gains ascendancy by organising the housekeeping in her hiding place

and making her kidnapper progressively more dependent on her. With very largely two characters and one location, the director achieves a penetrating simplicity in which the two-sided little games – full of contradictions but without heavy-handed murkiness – seem to present an alternative to the restrictions and

lovelessness of the outside world. The two leads are remarkable. ***½ ”

John Willis Screen World 1982 Film Annual credits:

“(GAUMONT / NEW YORKER) (or "The Hussy") Producers: Daniele Delorme, Yves Robert; Director: Jacques Doillon; Screenplay: (French with English subtitles) Jacques Doillon, Denis Ferraris; Photography: Philippe Rodselot; Editor: Laurent Quaglio; Art Director: Jean-Denis Robert; Assistant Director: Guy Chalaud; Costumes: Mic Cheminal; In colour; 90 minutes; Not rated; April release.

CAST

Mado.....Madeleine Desdevises
Francois.....Claude Hebert

and Paulette Lahaye, Juliette LeCauchoix,
Femand Decaen, Janine Huet, Odette

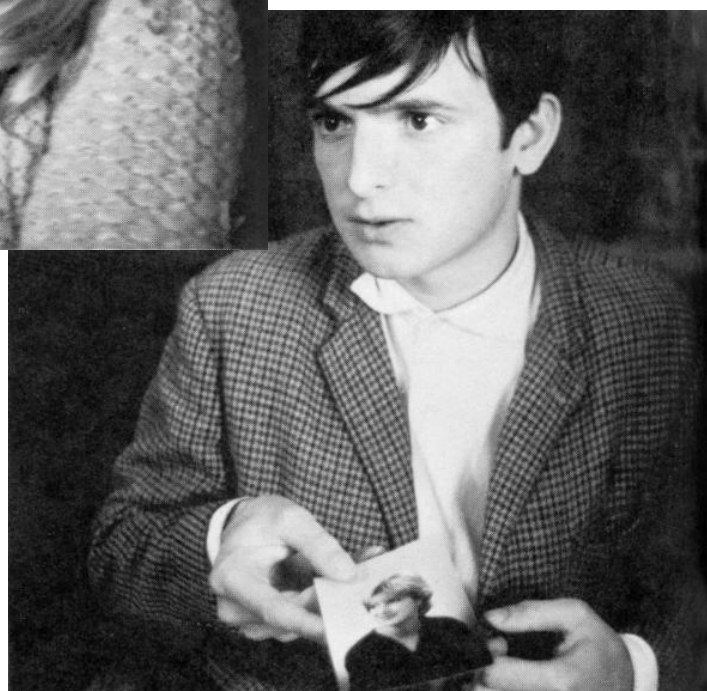
Maestrini, Ginette Mazure, Denise Gamier, Norbert Delozier, Marie Sanson, Edouard Besnehard, Henriette Adam, Jean Bruncliere, Jacques Thieule, Christian BouiWette, Dominique Besnehard”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "International Film Guide 1982", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]



Madeleine Desdevises and Claude Hebert offer a refreshing new take on the abduction melodrama, and challenge assumptions that power in any adult-child relationship must by definition rest with the older party.

Source: John Willis Screen World





No further information currently available. Not to be confused with the 1979 British film “**HUSSY**” starring (but who else?) Helen Mirren. An intriguing storyline – especially given the climate of moral panic which has prevailed in recent decades – it’s scarcely surprising to find a deafening silence about this film in English language guides. There’s no suggestion in that single review of any sexual intimacy between the kidnapper and the young girl, which only makes the film’s title all the more puzzling. Even so, it seems to question so many convenient assumptions about “stranger danger” that it would be regarded in many quarters today (but chiefly among women) as dangerously heretical. Children simply do not, **must** not, “befriend” their kidnappers, and nor is such a relationship ever to be defined with any sympathy. We prefer our Victims and Perpetrators in stark black and white. There have been numerous other examples where children and desperadoes are thrown together, and a bond develops between them (the “Helsinki Syndrome”) – among which “**TIGER BAY**”, “**A HIGH WIND IN JAMAICA**”, “**MARTIN’S DAY**” and “**A PERFECT WORLD**”, but this film seems to imply a deeper, more intense, relationship than those. Nothing else is known of Madeleine Desdevises.

See subject index under **KIDNAPPING** and **SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS**.

