



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

247 centre street floor 2 nyc ny 10013
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For home media requests contact Patrick Higgins at patrick@zeitgeistfilms.com

A REDISCOVERED 1960s FRENCH CINEMA GEM, REMASTERED: “LE COMBAT DANS L’ÎLE” GETS DVD DEBUT FROM ZEITGEIST

New York (April 28, 2010) — A long-hidden masterpiece of 1960s French cinema, Alain Cavalier’s *Le Combat dans l’île* is a scintillating neo-noir that is as coolly modern as it is tensely gripping. **Never before released in North America**, the film enjoyed a 2009–2010 theatrical rollout in more than 25 U.S. markets through Brooklyn-based distributor The Film Desk. Newly remastered in a gorgeous high-definition transfer, *Le Combat dans l’île* comes to DVD on June 22, 2010.

Filled with thrilling plot twists, jazzy gun battles and stormy betrayals, *Le Combat* unfolds against a backdrop of 1960s political turmoil and is strikingly shot in stark black and white by legendary cinematographer Pierre Lhomme (*Army of Shadows*, *The Mother and the Whore*).

The charismatic, surly son of a wealthy industrialist, Clément (**Jean-Louis Trintignant**, of *Z* and *The Conformist*) leads a secret double life as a member of a right-wing extremist organization. When he’s ratted out after a failed assassination attempt on a prominent politician, Clément and his long-suffering wife Anne (the luminous German screen siren **Romy Schneider**) flee Paris to the idyllic country home of his childhood friend, Paul (**Henri Serre**, of *Jules and Jim*). While Clément, with his sudden outbursts of brutality, embodies reactionary machismo, Paul—an artisanal printmaker by trade—is an easy-going, gentle pacifist. As affection blossoms between Paul and Anne, the emotional as well as political tensions soar—and eventually explode.

Zeitgeist’s DVD release of *Le Combat dans l’île* features a **brehtaking new high-definition transfer**, supervised by cinematographer Pierre Lhomme. Supplemental materials include “**France 1961**”: a new short film directed and narrated by Alain Cavalier, created especially for this DVD release; Rare behind-the-scenes photos, including images from the archive of Louis Malle; and an exclusive booklet with remembrances from Lhomme and a new essay by film critic Elliott Stein.

LE COMBAT DANS L’ÎLE Film/DVD info: 1962 • 104 minutes • France • B&W • In French with optional English subtitles • 1.66:1 original theatrical aspect ratio • Monaural • Not Rated

Note: Zeitgeist’s DVD release of *Le Combat dans l’île* is available in the U.S. and Canada.

Celebrating more than 20 years as one of America’s preeminent independent distributors, New York-based Zeitgeist Films has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Carlos Saura and the Quay Brothers. Notable releases include Oscar winner *Nowhere in Africa*; blockbuster doc *The Corporation*; dance doc hit *Ballets Russes*; Oscar nominee *Sophie Scholl—The Final Days*; Oscar nominee *My Country, My Country*; Sundance winner *Into Great Silence*; 2008 Oscar nominee *Trouble the Water*; and the 2009 Cannes-winning Kazakh charmer *Tulpan*. In March 2010, Zeitgeist began its national theatrical rollout of the Italian comic gem *Mid-August Lunch*, a new film from the creators of *Gomorrah*. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of discs (praised by *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly* and others) including the remastered Two-Disc Edition of Quay shorts, entitled *PHANTOM MUSEUMS*; a Four-Disc Box Set of Jarman masterworks entitled *GLITTERBOX*, with Oscar winner Tilda Swinton; an Essential Edition of Assayas’ cult fave *Irma Vep* starring Maggie Cheung; and *GARREL X 2*: a two-disc set from post-New Wave master Philippe Garrel, featuring *I Can No Longer Hear the Guitar* (1991) and *Emergency Kisses* (1989).



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CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR *LE COMBAT DANS L'ÎLE*

"FASCINATING! The movie's main source of energy lies in the **ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCES OF DESIRE, JEALOUSY, VIOLENCE AND CINEMA ITSELF.** The plot wanders with a marvelous, slightly demented freedom from Paris to the countryside, from political thriller to romantic melodrama.... Intriguing and absorbing—and also, thanks to Pierre Lhomme's silvery and smoky cinematography—**BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD.**" —A. O. Scott, *The New York Times*

"FASCINATINGLY NERVY... Pierre Lhomme's **SCINTILLATING, JAGGED** black-and-white cinematography is ahead of its time. There's a surprise every five minutes!"
—Vadim Rizov, *Village Voice*

"IT HAS STORES OF MENACE AND SEX! In so many ways, *Le Combat* feels like a preview of Francois Truffaut's *Jules and Jim*, which came out the same year...." —Wesley Morris, *Boston Globe*

"This **EVOCATIVE** 1962 thriller offers a bridge between old-school filmmaking and the New Wave's playful indulgences." —*New York Magazine*

"RESCUED NOW FROM 1962 OBLIVION, Alain Cavalier's black-and-white 'noir' is **SLEEK AND COOL,** with complicated turns and thrilling shoot-outs and stormy betrayals, both **POLITICAL AND ROMANTIC.** It's great to have another look at the iconic Romy Schneider, a Rita Hayworth by way of Edie Sedgwick." —Gerald Peary, *Boston Phoenix*

"NOT TO BE MISSED! Cavalier's subtly committed and **BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED THRILLER** stars three of the most accomplished actors of European cinema—at their absolute peak here."
—Elliott Stein, *Village Voice*

"CAVALIER CONJURES A MOOD OF TENSE INESCAPABILITY, alternating a political thriller framework with a drama of impressive psychological intimacy." —*The L Magazine*

"MAGNIFICENT! In every way a superior work, a smart, immersive debut on par with *Elevator to the Gallows.*" —Chris Cabin, *AMC*