



Cinema Memory and the Digital Archive presents

An Afternoon at the Cosmo in the 1930s

Glasgow Film Theatre, 7 October 2022

Cinema Memory and the Digital Archive: 1930s Britain and Beyond (CMDA) is a three-year (2019-2022) Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded research project whose aim is to enhance the historical study of cinemagoing and cinema memory by organising, digitising, and indexing materials gathered during the 1990s for the Economic and Social Research Council project **Cinema Culture in 1930s Britain** (CCINTB), making them newly available in a freely accessible online archive.

Visit the website and digital archive: www.lancs.ac.uk/CMDA

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***Un Carnet de bal* (France, 1937)**

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Director: | Julien Duvivier |
| Production company: | Sigma Films |
| Producer: | Jean-Pierre Frogerais |
| Screenplay: | Julien Duvivier |
| Cinematography: | Michel Kelber |
| Music | Maurice Jaubert |

Based on the play 'Le Pécheur d'ombres' by Jean Sarment, *Un Carnet de bal* is the story of Christine (Marie Bell), a recently widowed socialite who finds her first dance card, from twenty years earlier. Seeking to satisfy her romantic curiosity, Christine sets out to track down her dance partners and find out what has become of them. Described by its director as "a love story whose main character is the past", *Un Carnet de bal* was a popular attraction for the Cosmo (now Glasgow Film Theatre) when it first opened its doors in May 1939.

Un Carnet de bal is referred to by three CCINTB participants, clearly as a 'cinema memory'. Two of them were among the project's Glasgow interviewees, and both recall seeing the film at the Cosmo:

"French films were the great things when the Cosmo opened, and they were burgeoning in London at that time. There was a cinema, the Academy cinema, which George Singleton who opened the Cosmo, he really learnt from. I think he got the same person to buy his films that bought films for the Academy. And

things you read about, you know, suddenly they were available in Glasgow for the, for the first time. The opening film was a Julien Duvivier film, *Un Carnet de bal*, it was an absolute, oh, a new world opened, you know, seeing that sort of thing." Tony Paterson, 29 November 1994 [TP-92-013AT001]

"Actually, I was at the opening of what was the Cosmo, it's the Glasgow Film Theatre now. The, the owner of the Cosmo, one of his sons, was our best man, Jimmy Singleton. Erm, and when I got married and Jimmy was my husband's best man, we got married very quickly, because the war started. ... So the war was declared on the 3rd of September, and we got married on the 23rd. And we had a, just a very quiet wedding, with families, and from there we went to the Cosmo and we saw *Un Carnet de bal*, eh, for the adults to go to that after the service, after we had a meal. We got married about lunchtime, had lunch and then they took the, all the company to the cinema, to the Cosmo and saw *Un Carnet de bal*. Including the minister! It was one of these cinemas, I don't know if you know it, one of these films, where they were all going in and out each other's bedrooms. My mum saying to the minister, 'I don't think you knew that this sort of thing went on, did you?' So after that the older folk all just went away and the younger ones went to the Plaza ballroom." Helen Smeaton, Glasgow, 23 January 1995 [HS-92-036AT001]

Speakers

Annette Kuhn (Queen Mary University of London) was Lecturer then Reader in Film and Television Studies at the University of Glasgow from 1989 until 1998. She was Director of CCINTB and is Co-Investigator of CMDA. Publications include *An Everyday Magic: Cinema and Cultural Memory*; *Little Madnesses: Winnicott, Transitional Phenomena and Cultural Experience*; and, with Guy Westwell, *Oxford Dictionary of Film Studies*.

Sarah Neely is Professor in Film and Visual Culture at the University of Glasgow. Her current research focuses on the areas of film history, memory, and artists' moving image. Publications include *Between Categories: The Films of Margaret Tait - Portraits, Poetry, Sound and Place* and, as editor, *Personae*, a non-fiction work by Margaret Tait. She is Co-Investigator of CMDA and is currently writing a book on memory, archives, and creativity.

Thomas McGoran was born in Ayr in 1927 and grew up in Glasgow. His first job was as a spool boy and he later went on to work as a film projectionist. A gifted artist, his paintings have been exhibited in Glasgow and some can be viewed at the artuk.org website. Interviewed for CCINTB in 1994 and 1995 and again in 2020, he is the subject of Marissa Keating's short film, *Thomas McGoran*, which was commissioned by CMDA.



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