

European 60s

Cleo from 5 to 7 1962

(Cléo de 5 à 7)

Friday, May 30 - Sunday, June 1, 2008



Film Information

Directed by

Agnès Varda

Language

French with English subtitles

Running Time

90 minutes

Film Notes

It's possible to talk about the origins of the French New Wave—about *Cahiers du Cinema*, about the contributions of Francois Truffaut, Jean-Luc Godard, Éric Rohmer, Claude Chabrol, and Jacques Rivette, about the influence of Alfred Hitchcock, John Ford, and Howard Hawks—and make the whole thing sound like a festival of masculinity. But right there at the beginning of the movement was Agnes Varda, whose CLEO FROM 5 TO 7 didn't just exhibit the burst of creative energy that made *Nouvelle Vague* what it was, but served as masterpiece entirely its own.

Varda came to filmmaking from a background in photography, and it shows throughout CLEO FROM 5 TO 7—a breathtaking, meditative stroll through Paris that continuously frames the title character to brilliant effect along her various stops. As film critic Molly Hascall writes: “[Varda] demonstrates an unerring

eye for complex compositions that still manage to delineate between foreground and background planes. And in the bargain, every one of the film's gorgeously designed set pieces enhance our understanding of the character and amplify Cleo's understanding of herself.”

(See the reverse side for more of Hascall's notes on the film).

—Casey

