SATYAJIT RAY’S

THE BIG CITY

1963

THE CRITERION COLLECTION

AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY AND DVD!
SATYAJIT RAY’S IRRESISTIBLE FILM
ABOUT A WORKING WOMAN
IN MODERN INDIA

The Big City (Mahanagar), set in mid-1950s Calcutta and directed by the great SATYAJIT RAY (The Music Room), follows the personal triumphs and frustrations of Arati (Madhabi Mukherjee), who decides, despite the initial protests of her bank-clerk husband, to take a job to help support their family. With remarkable sensitivity and attention to the details of everyday working-class life, Ray gradually builds a powerful human drama that is at once a hopeful morality tale and a commentary on the identity of the contemporary Indian woman.

“Extraordinary . . . One of the most rewarding screen experiences of our time.”
—Roger Ebert

“Beautifully photographed, perfectly acted, shining with compassion, humor, and wisdom.”
—Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune

SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES

• New 2K digital film restoration, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack on the Blu-ray edition
• New interview with actor Madhabi Mukherjee
• Satyajit Ray and the Modern Woman, a new interview program featuring Ray historian Suranjan Ganguly
• The Coward (1965), a feature film directed by Ray that also addresses modern female identity and stars Mukherjee and Soumitra Chatterjee
• New English subtitle translation
• PLUS: A booklet featuring an essay by scholar Chandak Sengoopta and an interview with Ray from the 1980s by his biographer Andrew Robinson

1963 • 135 MINUTES • BLACK & WHITE • MONOAURAL • IN BENGALI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES • 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO
This film about a woman’s artistic and romantic yearning by SATYAJIT RAY (The Music Room) is set in late nineteenth-century, pre-independence India. It takes place in the gracious home of a liberal-minded, workaholic newspaper editor and his lonely, stifled wife, Charulata (The Big City’s MADHABI MUKHERJEE), whose exquisitely composed features mask a burning creativity. When her husband’s poet cousin comes to stay with them, Charulata finds herself both inspired by him to pursue her own writing and dangerously drawn to him physically. Based on a novella by the great Rabindranath Tagore, Charulata is a work of subtle textures, a delicate tale of a marriage in jeopardy and a woman taking the first steps toward establishing her own voice.

SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES
- New 2K digital film restoration, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack on the Blu-ray edition
- New interview program with actors Madhabi Mukherjee and Soumitra Chatterjee
- Adapting Tagore, a new interview program featuring Indian film scholar Moinak Biswas and Bengali literature historian Supriya Chaudhuri
- Archival audio interview with director Satyajit Ray by film historian Gideon Bachmann
- New English subtitle translation
- PLUS: A booklet featuring an essay by critic Philip Kemp and a 1980s interview with Ray by his biographer Andrew Robinson

1964 • 118 MINUTES • BLACK & WHITE • MONOAURAL • IN BENGALI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES • 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO
The Earrings of Madame de...

1953

NOW AVAILABLE IN A BLU-RAY EDITION!

a film by MAX OPHULS
The most cherished work from French master MAX OPHULS (La ronde), The Earrings of Madame de . . . is a profoundly emotional, cinematographically adventurous tale of deceptive opulence and tragic romance. When an aristocratic woman known only as Madame de (Le plaisir’s extraordinary DANIELLE DARRIEUX) sells a pair of earrings given to her by her husband (Gaslight’s CHARLES BOYER) in order to pay a debt, she sets off a chain reaction of financial and carnal consequences that can end only in despair. Ophuls’s adaptation of Louise de Vilmorin’s incisive fin de siècle novel employs the elegant and precise camera work for which the director is so justly renowned, to ravishing effect.

BLU-RAY SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES
• Restored high-definition digital film transfer, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack
• Audio commentary featuring film scholars Susan White and Gaylyn Studlar
• Introduction by filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson
• Interviews with director Max Ophuls’s collaborators Alan Jessua, Marc Frédérix, and Annette Wademant
• Visual essay by film scholar Tag Gallagher
• Archival interview with novelist Louise de Vilmorin on Ophuls’s adaptation of her story
• PLUS: A booklet featuring an essay by critic Molly Haskell, an excerpt from costume designer Georges Annenkov’s 1962 book Max Ophuls, and the 1951 source novel by Vilmorin, Madame de

1953 • 100 MINUTES • BLACK & WHITE • MONOAURAL • IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES • 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO
AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY AND DVD!

SECONDS
THE JOHN FRANKENHEIMER FILM

AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY AND DVD!
THE CLASSIC JOHN FRANKENHEIMER THRILLER, STARRING ROCK HUDSON

ROCK HUDSON (All That Heaven Allows) is a revelation in this sinister, science-fiction-inflected dispatch from the fractured 1960s. Seconds, directed by JOHN FRANKENHEIMER (The Manchurian Candidate), concerns a middle-aged businessman dissatisfied with his suburban existence, who elects to undergo a strange and elaborate procedure that will grant him a new life. Starting over in America, however, is not as easy as it sounds. This paranoiac symphony of canted camera angles (courtesy of famed cinematographer JAMES WONG HOWE), fragmented editing, and layered sound design is a remarkably risk-taking Hollywood film that ranks high on the list of its legendary director’s major achievements.

SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES

- New 4K digital film restoration, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack on the Blu-ray edition
- Audio commentary featuring director John Frankenheimer
- Actor Alec Baldwin on Frankenheimer and Seconds
- New program on the making of Seconds, featuring interviews with Evans Frankenheimer, the director’s widow, and actor Salome Jens
- Interview with Frankenheimer from 1971
- New visual essay by film scholars R. Barton Palmer and Murray Pomerance
- PLUS: An essay by critic David Sterritt

1966 • 107 MINUTES • BLACK & WHITE • MONAURAL • 1.75:1 ASPECT RATIO
AVAILABLE ON BLU-RAY AND DVD!

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

Jack Benny  Carole Lombard

A film by Ernst Lubitsch

1942

THE CRITERION COLLECTION
THE CRITERION COLLECTION PRESENTS
TO BE OR NOT TO BE

LUBITSCH’S STILL SHOCKING COMIC TRIUMPH COMES TO CRITERION!

“As nervy as it is hilarious, this screwball masterpiece from ERNST LUBITSCH (Trouble in Paradise) stars JACK BENNY (The Jack Benny Program) and, in her final screen appearance, CAROLE LOMBARD (My Man Godfrey) as husband-and-wife thespians in Nazi-occupied Warsaw who become caught up in a dangerous spy plot. To Be or Not to Be is a Hollywood film of the boldest black humor, which went into production soon after the U.S. entered World War II. Lubitsch manages to brilliantly balance political satire, romance, slapstick, and urgent wartime suspense in a comic high-wire act that has never been equaled.”

“One of the most profound, emotionally complex comedies ever made.”
—Dave Kehr, Chicago Reader

“Survives in a way that many more serious and high-toned works about war do not.”
—Peter Bogdanovich

SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES

• New, restored 2K digital film transfer, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack on the Blu-ray edition
• New audio commentary featuring film historian David Kalat
• Lubitsch le patron, a 2010 French documentary on director Ernst Lubitsch’s career
• Two episodes of The Screen Guild Theater, a radio anthology series: Variety (1940), starring Jack Benny, Claudette Colbert, and Lubitsch, and To Be or Not to Be (1942), an adaptation of the film, starring William Powell, Diana Lewis, and Sig Ruman
• Trailer
• PLUS: A booklet featuring an essay by critic Geoffrey O’Brien
• More!

1942 • 99 MINUTES • BLACK & WHITE • MONAURAL • 1.37:1 ASPECT RATIO
ECLIPSE SERIES 39

EARLY FASSBINDER

FIVE-DVD BOX SET INCLUDES:

LOVE IS COLDER THAN DEATH
KATZELMACHER
GODS OF THE PLAGUE
THE AMERICAN SOLDIER
BEWARE OF A HOLY WHORE

From the very beginning of his incandescent career, the New German Cinema enfant terrible RAINER WERNER FASSBINDER (World on a Wire, Berlin Alexanderplatz) refused to play by the rules. His politically charged, experimental first films, made at an astonishingly rapid rate between 1969 and 1971, were influenced by the work of the antiteater, an avant-garde stage troupe that he had helped found in Munich. Collected here are five of those fascinating and confrontational works; whether a self-conscious meditation on American crime movies, a scathing indictment of xenophobia in contemporary Germany, or an off-the-wall look at the dysfunctional relationships on film sets, each is a startling glimpse into the mind of a twentysomething man who would become one of cinema’s most madly prolific artists.

Eclipse is a selection of lost, forgotten, or overshadowed classics in simple, affordable editions. Each series is a brief cinemathque retrospective for the adventurous home viewer.
“The most dazzling, talented, provocative, original, puzzling, prolific, and exhilarating filmmaker of his generation.”
—Vincent Canby, The New York Times

ECLIPSE SERIES 39

EARLY FASSBINDER
FIVE-DVD BOX SET INCLUDES:

LOVE IS COLDER THAN DEATH
For his debut, Fassbinder fashioned an acerbic, unorthodox crime drama about a love triangle involving the small-time pimp Franz (Fassbinder), his gangster friend Bruno (Ulli Lommel), and Franz’s prostitute girlfriend, Joanna (future Fassbinder mainstay Hanna Schygulla). With its minimalistic tableaux and catalog of New Wave and Hollywood references, this is a stylishly nihilistic cinematic statement of intent.

1969 · 88 MINUTES · BLACK & WHITE · MONOURAL · IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES · 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO

KATZELMACHER
Fassbinder’s second film dramatizes the intolerance of a circle of financially and sexually frustrated friends when an immigrant laborer (Fassbinder) moves to their Munich neighborhood. This scalpel-sharp, theatrical experiment (based on one of the director’s successful early stage plays) is both a personal expression of alienation on the part of the filmmaker and a comment on the persistence of xenophobic scapegoating in German society.

1969 · 89 MINUTES · BLACK & WHITE · MONOURAL · IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES · 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO

GODS OF THE PLAGUE
Harry Baer, a Fassbinder discovery, plays a newly released ex-convict who slowly but surely makes his way back into the Munich criminal underworld. Meanwhile, his attentions are torn between two women (Hanna Schygulla and Margarethe von Trotta) and the beloved friend (Günter Kaufmann) who shot his brother. This is a sensual, artfully composed study of romantic and professional futility.

1969 · 92 MINUTES · BLACK & WHITE · MONOURAL · IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES · 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER
The German-born Ricky (Karl Scheydt) returns to Munich from Vietnam and is promptly hired as a contract killer. Fassbinder’s experimental noir is a subversive, self-reflexive gangster movie full of unexpected asides and stylistic flourishes, and featuring an audaciously bonkers final shot and memorable turns from many of the director’s rotating gallery of players.

1970 · 80 MINUTES · BLACK & WHITE · MONOURAL · IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES · 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO

BEWARE OF A HOLY WHORE
In Fassbinder’s brazen depiction of the alternating currents of lethargy and mayhem inherent in moviemaking, a film crew—played by, and not so loosely based on, his own frequent collaborators—deals with an aloof star (Eddie Constantine), an abusive director (Lou Castel), and a financially troubled production. Inspired by the hellish process of making the 1971 Whity, this is a vicious look at behind-the-scenes dysfunction.

1971 · 104 MINUTES · COLOR · MONOURAL · IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES · 1.33:1 ASPECT RATIO