2021-2022 Ciné Club Films

September
"La nuit de la lune rousse." 2017. Season 1, episode 6, of the Capitaine Marleau French TV series. Directed by Josée Dayan and starring Corinne Masiero. Marleau, an officer in the gendarmerie, is a female French version of Chandler’s character with a bit of Colombo and McDormand’s Marge Gunderson thrown in. Masiero's hat with earflaps, her rain hoodie and her Range Rover, have become symbols of chic in France. Her unconventional approach to conventional murder mysteries makes all the films in the series enjoyable.

October
Le roi de cœur. 1966. Directed by Philippe de Broca and starring Alan Bates. A comedy-drama that is among the classic antiwar films. At the end of WWI, a British soldier is sent to check for booby traps in an abandoned French village. Inmates from the local insane asylum have taken over the town with funny and meaningful results.

November
Monsieur Hire. 1989. Directed by Patrice Leconte and starring Michel Blanc and Sandrine Bonnaire. A misanthrope develops an attraction for a young female neighbor he has been spying on. They meet and it seems (improbably) they fall in love. But her old boyfriend is on the scene and the story becomes more complicated. Original novel written by George Simenon, but not at all like a Maigret mystery.

December
Le Samouraï. 1967. Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville and starring Alain Delon. Has been called the best film you've never seen. Delon is the ultimate professional and goes about his job unemotionally without regard for consequences. He obviously does it well, but the job is that of an assassin. Look for Jane, played by Nathalie Delon, Alain's wife at the time. Not a film to improve your French language skills, as it has minimum dialogue, but you may find a new use for your pet canary.

January
"Sparkling Cyanide." 2013. Season 1, episode 1, of the Les petits meurtres d'Agatha Christie French TV series. Made with various directors and starring Samuel Labarthe, Blandine Bellavoir and Élodie Frenck, these films retain Christie's plot, while everything else, from the characters to the gimmicks, is French. Labarthe plays a chief inspector who is assisted in solving cases by his secretary and a nosy journalist. It is interesting to see Christie from a French perspective. In this episode, Chief Inspector Laurence suspects that the suicide of a famous movie actress is, in fact, a homicide.

February
Les aventures extraordinaires d'Adèle Blanc-Sec. 2010. Directed by Luc Besson and starring Louise Bourgoin, Mathieu Amalric and Gilles Lellouche. Fantasy adventure comedy from the graphic novels of the same name. Adèle manages to escape tomb robbers and the curse of the pyramid tombs in Egypt, tame and ride a pterodactyl, play tennis on a level with Serena, reanimate the mummy of a nuclear physicist from the time of Ramses II, and then reanimate the rest of Ramses' court while making Indiana Jones look like Mary Poppins. Look for “which way to Cairo” and “nice spot for a pyramid.”

March
"À ciel ouvert." 2017. Season 1, episode 7, of the Capitaine Marleau French TV series. Directed by Josée Dayan and starring Corinne Masiero. A beautiful young skydiver is killed during a jump. Marleau sorts through six suspects, including two twins (one evil) before discovering the murderer. Lovely aerial scenes.

April
Sage femme. 2017. Directed by Martin Provost and starring Catherine Deneuve and Catherine Frot. Drama of the relationship that develops between a midwife and the mistress of the midwife's late father. Though polar opposites, they come to rely on one another as they cope with the circumstances that brought them together.
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Film Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Stars</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td><em>Un long dimanche de fiançailles.</em></td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Jean-Pierre Jeunet</td>
<td>Audrey Tautou</td>
<td>A romantic film of WWI about a young woman's desperate search for her fiancé who might or might not have been killed during the war. The film won two Oscars and a César.</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td><em>Potiche.</em></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>François Ozon</td>
<td>Catherine Deneuve, Gérard Depardieu</td>
<td>Comedy about a “trophy wife,” Deneuve, who gets to run her husband's umbrella factory when he suffers a heart attack. She runs it better than he. Of course, she has the help of a former “friend,” the mayor, played by Depardieu. A light and thoroughly pleasant hour and a half.</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td><em>3 coeurs.</em></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Benoît Jacquot</td>
<td>Benoît Poelvoorde, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Chiara Mastroianni</td>
<td>Drama about an unusual love triangle in which the two women involved turn out to be sisters. The gimmick is how long the sisters can be kept from suspecting one another.</td>
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