



WILD GRASS

LES HERBES FOLLES

FRANCE/ITALY

2009

104 MIN

DIR Alain Resnais

PROD Jean-Louis Livi

SCR Alex Réval, Laurent Herbiet

CAM Eric Gautier

ED Hervé de Luze

MUS Mark Snow

WITH Sabine Azéma, André Dussolier, Anne Consigny, Emmanuelle Devos, Mathieu Amalric

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Alain Resnais is deservedly classed among the masters of world cinema, but “mastery” might be the wrong term to describe his method: Almost 50 years after **Last Year at Marienbad**, Resnais remains dedicated to experimentation, imagination and games of chance. **Wild Grass**, based on the novel **L’Incident** by Christian Gailly and titled after those stubborn weeds that erupt from cracks in the pavement, is an ode to uncontrolled impulse and the possibilities—effervescent or ominous, sublime or absurd—that arise from accident. The triggering incident is fairly ordinary: A woman goes out shopping for shoes and has her purse snatched; a man goes out to buy a watch battery and stumbles upon the woman’s red wallet. Out of these chinks in everyday routine grow a tangle of unruly emotions, as the man, Georges (André Dussolier), develops an inexplicable obsession with the woman, Marguerite (Sabine Azéma), a dentist and amateur aviatrix. Is Georges a melancholy romantic, an aging husband in the throes of some ongoing midlife crisis or a dangerous psychotic? Is Marguerite, with her staring eyes and blaze of scarlet hair, an endearing eccentric or has she entirely taken leave of her senses? Is **Wild Grass** a thriller, a screwball comedy, a love story? With false starts and false endings, sudden shifts of palette and a mood-swinging score, Resnais plays it as all three, and as something else entirely. As the weirdly omniscient narrator reminds us, “After the cinema, nothing surprises you. Anything can happen.”

—Juliet Clark



ALAIN RESNAIS

Born in Vannes, France in 1922, Alain Resnais achieved international notice over half a century ago with documentary shorts including the groundbreaking **Night and Fog** (1955, SFIFF 1990). Often associated with the French New Wave, his early features **Hiroshima Mon Amour** (1959) and **Last Year at Marienbad** (1961) established him as a major director of his time. The maker of nearly 20 features including **Muriel** (1963, SFIFF 1990), **Stavisky** (1974), **Mon Oncle d’Amérique** (1980), **Smoking/No Smoking** (SFIFF 1994) and **Private Fears in Public Places** (SFIFF 2007), Resnais was honored at Cannes with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

WORLD CINEMA

TV5MONDE



THU APR 29 6:45 KABUKI
 THU MAY 6 8:45 KABUKI

WILD29K
 WILD06K