

The Cinema of Agnès Varda



Martine Pierquin

William Elder Building,
Castlegate
Berwick TD15 1JT
Friday 15th February 2019,
11 am to 1 pm

This lecture by [Martine Pierquin](#), will focus on the films of Agnes Varda, one of the icons of French New Wave cinema.

Agnès Varda's most recent film, *Visages Villages (Faces Places)*, which will be shown by Berwick Film Society on February 19th, won the 'Oeil d'Or' documentary prize in Cannes in 2017 and was nominated for an Oscar in 2018 for Best Documentary.

After training and working as a professional photographer, Agnès Varda turned to cinema with a self-funded debut, the fiction-documentary hybrid *La Pointe Courte* (1956). The film is often considered as the first film of the Nouvelle Vague and

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Varda is the only female filmmaker associated with La Nouvelle Vague (French New Wave), a film movement that redefined French cinema in the late 1950's - early 1960's and influenced filmmakers worldwide. In 1962, she released *Cléo de 5 à 7* (*Cleo from 5 to 7*), another key film of the French New Wave, told from the perspective of a central female character (Corinne Marchand), a pop singer going through a personal crisis and rebelling against her objectified image. Over time, Varda continued to express a fondness for female characters as in the feminist musical *L'Une chante, l'autre pas* (*One sings, the other doesn't*, 1977) and the docudrama *Jane B* (1988), starring Jane Birkin. To describe her creative process, Varda coined the word cinécriture (writing on film) and over six decades she has produced a highly personal body of work that includes formally innovative fictions, like *Le Bonheur* (*Happiness*, 1965) and *Sans Toit ni Loi* (*Vagabond*, 1985), and experimental and autobiographical documentaries, such as *Les Glaneurs et la Glaneuse* (*The Gleaners and I*, 2000), *Les Plages d'Agnès* (*The Beaches of Agnès*, 2009) and her latest film, *Visages Villages* (*Faces Places*, 2017) in collaboration with French artist and photographer JR.

At 90 years old, Agnès Varda is a defining figure in contemporary French cinema.

Faces Places, screening by BFS at The Maltings on 19 February at 7.30pm is an excellent example of Agnès Varda's eclecticism, empathy and joie de vivre and will provide the perfect follow-up to Martine Pierquin's introductory lecture.

The cost of the lecture is £6, including refreshments. All are welcome and no previous knowledge is assumed.

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(Varda)

