



WILEY-BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO FILM DIRECTORS

A Companion to Jean Renoir

Edited by

**Alastair Phillips and
Ginette Vincendeau**

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A Companion to Jean Renoir

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Figure 0.1 Jean Renoir points the camera at Françoise Arnoul on the set of *French Cancan*. Credit: Franco London/British Film Institute.



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We are equally grateful to our contributors, who all responded enthusiastically to our request for a chapter, and produced first-rate scholarship, sometimes in the midst of personal or work turmoil. This volume encompasses an extraordinary roll-call of Renoir scholars, experienced and new and, as well as providing innovative, informative, and challenging material, our writers have helped turn the editing of this book into a truly pleasurable experience. Talking of pleasure, we will keep a particularly fond memory of the round table on *La Règle du jeu* that took place at King's College London on June 3, 2011; we want to thank V. F. Perkins, Chris Faulkner, and Martin O'Shaughnessy for a rare experience that perfectly combined scholarship and friendship. We also would like to thank Michèle Lagny, Michael Witt, and Dudley Andrew for their support and advice.

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As ever, Simon Caulkin provided unerring and much needed personal support.

In Memoriam

While we were editing this book, we were sad to hear that Cora Vaucaire, who sings “La Complainte de la butte” in *French Cancan*, died on September 17, 2011; Paulette Godbode, the unforgettable Lisette of *La Règle du jeu*, died on September 21, 2011; and Mila Parély, who played the equally unforgettable Geneviève in *La Règle du jeu*, died on January 14, 2012. Luckily, they all live on in Renoir's films.

Figure 0.2 Jean Renoir and his son, Alain, in 1939. Credit: British Film Institute.



Notes on the Text

Foreign-language quotations are translated into English by the authors, unless a published translation has been used (in which case this is the version cited). The original language is retained only if a point is made about language.

French Film Titles

For Renoir's films, the English translation is dispensed with, as the reader will find English-language versions of Renoir's film titles in the complete filmography at the end of the volume. For other films, an English translation is provided after the first mention, and thereafter the French title is used.

Names

Definitive spelling of the names of cast, crew, and characters is notoriously difficult to arrive at. For the sake of consistency across this volume, in any case that is open to debate we have deferred to the original film credits along with standard authoritative texts, assenting always to the fact that the version we have chosen to follow is not the only variant.

Pagination

References throughout the book are as complete as possible. However, a number of daily and weekly press references do not indicate a page number. This is because