

Va Savior

Va Savoir ("Who Knows?") is a surprisingly accessible film from one of France's most problematic and difficult directors, Jacques Rivette. One of the original French "New Wave" artists, the 73-year-old Rivette has remained truer to the original New Wave credo of a "cinema of personal vision" than his erstwhile colleagues Godard, Truffaut, Chabrol, etc.

Va Savoir, far from being difficult to follow, rather resembles an Eric Rohmer romantic *ronde* as three couples in Paris start breaking up and recombining into new patterns, only to slyly, by film's end, fall back into the place where they began. The context of much of this action is--as is very often the case with Rivette--a theatrical work, a drama (this one by Pirandello) which is performed within the movie and which helps to supply its structure.

Especially worth watching in this erotic fandango is the fetching Camille (Jeanne Ballibar), who plays an actress in an Italian acting troupe, and her Italian boyfriend Ugo (Sergio Castellitto, last seen here in *The Starmaker*), a hang-dog guy with a hang-up for the playwright Goldoni. You'll find this French fare more blithe than burdensome.

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