

Member and guest feedback for *Nouvelle Vague*

Enjoyed the introduction which made the film much clearer as would have been rather confused initially!

Great film and super way to start our membership.

A film about a film being made? How self-referential. But it turns out to be a marvellous and well-crafted homage to *A Bout de Soufflé* (yes please, may we see this) and the New Wave of the 60's. A phantasmagoria of cinematic celebrities of that time appear and yet the film is funny, sad and eloquent - offering much more than a film industry pastiche. Of course, my being of a "certain age" it immediately struck a sentimental chord of lost youth but I would hope that the younger generation would enjoy it as much as I did.

Fascinating and irritating. I'd now love to see *Breathless*!

I think you had to be a proper "film buff" to fully appreciate the effort and passion which went into making it. It wasn't for me; therefore, I'd give it a OK.

Bit slow at beginning but improved going on. Curious to watch *Breathless* now.

An interesting if rather too long a film. After a very rapid start which was quite tricky to follow with the speed of the subtitles it then settled into a rhythm. I wish we could have heard more from the BFI speaker who was excellent. I should like to have *Breathless* included for the RFS ASAP.

This was an excellent film so score is Excellent - great start.

The enthusiasm and passion for the film by John Davies helped to appreciate the significance of *Nouvelle Vague*. With the growing influence of AI, this film will become even more important. The actors were in their element of being creative and true to their artistic talents. The film makers showed spontaneity and their creative talent which are slowly but surely being stifled today. We are seeing gradual mechanisation of filming. I loved the free will and enjoyment of making films and this particular film was nothing but "c'est du français rien que du français"!

A slow beginning but developed a pace and was really carried along by the Jean Seberg and John Paul Belmondo characters. Such attention to detail, with Paris looking much like I recall it in the 60s and 70s. The camaraderie from the crew really came through as the filming developed, making for a great ensemble piece. Please show the original Godard film next season.

Brill, loved it as much as seeing it last year. Jean Seberg's accent is perfect.

What a wonderful start to the season. Loved it.

I am sure you will get a multiple of favourable responses from film officiandos but though I recognised many of the personalities from the distant past, lacking in background knowledge, I found the film rather boring and repetitive.

Great start to the season, thank you! Would love to see *Breathless* at the Society if you can ever show it.

Beautifully shot but not sure I got the point of the movie - a stylistic homage I guess - having not seen *Breathless* it didn't quite hit the mark for me.

Great film showing JLG at his best and worst. Having watched the original film at the weekend the film made a lot more sense than if I had come to it cold. Linklater made Paris look and sound S.....

Great to have the preview talk from John Davis. Really helped to put the film into context. The film thereafter was a treat! A brilliant take on (or of) the creation of *Breathless*. Totally stunning, great performances and great vibes. Loved it.

Excellent film and excellent introduction.

I would have preferred to see the original film.

Loved the on-location chaos, the tensions and the humour arising from those. My takeaway was that Godard had an idea in his head of what he wanted *Breathless* to be, struggled to write it down but delivered a masterpiece by letting it evolve in his head in real time whilst shooting it. Remarkable! Great introduction by Jon Davies, setting the context. I'm now going to watch Linklater's "Before" trilogy. Great start to the season!

Marvellous, absolutely brilliant. As an 81-year-old cinephile it becomes (one of) my favourite film (s) of all time. The atmospheric black and white cinematography; the totally convincing rendition of 1960s Paris (I know; I was there briefly), the wonderful Paris interiors and the actors so immersed in their parts that they became so recognisably the (subsequently) very famous people they were playing. Although we, the audience, sort of know the outcome I was tensely on the edge of my seat as the production, casting, financing and shooting of *Breathless* went through its stop and start difficulties. I assume that some of the dialogue and scenes are actually recorded events and some have been imagined by Richard Linklater. That doesn't matter - we know we were watching and enjoying a made-up take on real and significant events in the history of cinema.

I found this all rather tedious, especially the beginning, although I did gradually warm to the characters once the 'filming' began. Really a film buff's film - I'm not quite in that category! (I just enjoy escaping with a film to a different time and place.) Would be interesting to actually see the film *Breathless* now!

Excellent insight into JLG and his significance and the way he made the original film. Paris looked and sounded spot on and the black and white grainy film evocative of the era. I

thought the take on Seberg particularly good and was left wondering if her attitude determined JLG to end the film with the betrayal and death. Great start to the season!

I thought it was a bold choice for the opening film as it wasn't a story as such, more a fly on the wall mockumentary. I studied French films as part of my A level French (many years ago) and have always had a soft spot for Truffaut and the Nouvelle Vague but found it difficult to engage with this film. I enjoyed the introduction from someone who is clearly passionate and knowledgeable about their subject. Perhaps I wasn't quite in the right mood for the film!

This movie was a complete surprise to me. To be honest, I was uncertain of the whole idea. However, the director produced something well beyond the sum of its parts. The film captured the era (and its occasional pretensions) brilliantly and in a way that was utterly compelling. In the process he also made the audience think about the whole film-making process. A great choice!

We loved it having lived in Paris in the 1970's when we waited for the next Truffaut etc. film. Authentic/black and white/minimalist/precise observation/sardonic humour/exquisite performances. More please!

Great introduction from John Davies.

I'd assumed this would be pretentious nonsense but what a great film. An excellent start to the new season!

An EXCELLENT insight into the process of filming.

Absolutely loved it - and I won't have to watch any of the Nouvelle Vague films. It's an Excellent from me.

Adorable!

Great storytelling and a superb soundtrack. Fortunately, I'd watched *Breathless* quite recently. Loved the film.

My wife and I both rate it. Many thanks to whoever recommended it.

To be honest I didn't really enjoy it. However, it made me think and maybe that's what "art" is all about. An unusual, intellectual piece rather than typical cinematic fare and I believe there's room in the Season for a film like this. Well done RFS for an interesting choice.

One for the real aficionados, in my view. The introduction was very good in setting the scene but since I never seen *A Bout de Souffle* much of this film was lost on me. It was also difficult to find Godard a sympathetic character, with his arrogance and constant mouthing of gnomish utterances. I assume that portrayal was deliberate but it didn't make for a very enjoyable watch.

Very evocative of Paris in the late 1950s and an interesting albeit sometimes annoying demonstration of the new way of film making that took over French Cinema in the 1960s. Clever look alike casting although I couldn't get over the absence of Belmondo's iconic boxer's nose. If you did not know this was a 2026 black and white film the costumes, period vehicles, authentic looking 50s Parisian locations, performances and cinematography would convince that this was an authentic Nouvelle Vague film.

A great start to the year with a film that was totally engaging from start to finish. One never knew what would happen next and we could almost smell the Gauloises being smoked by all and sundry.

I really enjoyed it; it brought back my youth!!! It was a well-made film and I hope it will go on being enjoyed by future generations.

Maybe I would have got more out of it if I'd watched the original film more recently. The atmosphere of Paris was captured well but the frequent names flashing up was rather irritating and the film was over long.

I enjoyed Nouvelle Vague but mainly because I watched *Breathless* just a few days before so was very familiar with the film, its scenes and characters. I found Richard Linklater's vision of how it was made to be inventive in its fiction and revealing in its truth with great performances from the actors playing Godard, Jean Seberg and Jean-Paul Belmondo. A good film for RFS.

Very good introduction talk. Intriguing film on the making of *Breathless* which has prompted me to seek out the original. So many ciggies smoked - no wonder it had to be called 'Breathless'.

I was very glad that I watched the film *Breathless* that it was based on a couple of days before. I think that without that I wouldn't have understood what was going on! I thought that the introduction from John Davies was excellent. So overall I enjoyed it but thought that it was very self-indulgent.

Interesting to see a film about the history of film and made me aware about where someone like Pedro Almodóvar gets his inspiration. Good start to season.

Thanks for this interesting opener. A stylish and interesting film which flew by. I felt I needed to have seen and know the original film, *A Bout de Souffle*, to truly appreciate it. There seemed to be a lot of "in jokes" and references that were wasted on me. But well made, well-acted and looked great – if a bit too "meta".

Essential viewing. I thought that actors had portrayed the principals and to experience of the actual participants (still so young) was miraculous. I have seen *Breathless* countless times but never this brilliant account of its creation, which I had feared would tarnish the original for me. Thank you for making me change my mind. Vive, vive La Nouvelle Vague and its legacy. Cinema was changed forever afterwards and our RFS is part of that heritage.

Utterly delightful. It was wonderful to see how cherished he was by his fellow directors. A Super Nerd amongst his fellow nerds.

I was glad I saw this film. Not like any other film, so I suppose you could say it was distinctive. It certainly caught the spirit of the time - film making in the streets - a feature of the Nouvelle Vague. Difficult to choose between Godard and Seberg as to who stole the show. Both good.

A wonderful film - very interesting in terms of the history of cinema but also funny and engaging. Very well cast with convincing look-alikes and splendid acting. A clear Excellent.

If I had been a cinematic Francophile then it would been a clearcut Excellent.

Tedious.

I really liked the beautiful black and white look of the film and thought the acting was excellent. I particularly liked the scenes with the cameraman, Raoul Coutard. As a Francophile as well as a film fan, I expected to love the film more and would have rated it excellent but I can't overcome my dislike for the irritating and self-satisfied Godard!

Original, beautifully crafted and acted and great fun.

Thank you for the interesting and informative introduction which really helped me to appreciate the film.

Very interesting bit of cinema history and a lot of nostalgia about France/Paris in the 1960s generally.

Absolutely loved it. The cast, the filming, the music, the direction and the story. Hope we get to see *Breathless* next season. Thanks for the informative introduction too.

Not my kind of film really. It seemed to be repeating the same joke. A bit self-indulgent to me but I'm not someone who is "in the know" on these matters... It was, however, most helpful to me to practice my French!

It was an unusual and intriguing film. The introduction was very helpful in providing context, making it more accessible. It was interesting to see how Godard worked and how he was clearly a visionary.

I liked the film, I believe it is well executed with good performance by all the actors. The dialogue in French language made it more convincing. I did not feel boredom for a second.

I was glad I had watched *Breathless* a couple of months ago as that helped me appreciate *Nouvelle Vague* all the more. It felt true to life and an astonishing exploration of the making of *Breathless* and the circumstances surrounding it at an important time for French cinema. Fabulous.

An extremely well crafted, entertaining and humorous film. Much better than *Breathless*, in my view (I found the gangster highly irritating). A super introduction from Jon Davies, both on Linklater's film and the New Wave generally.

Fascinating to see the recreation of the intertwined lives of the Cahiers du Cinéma film critics come directors. Especially Jacques Rivette, Godard's corpse and the director of my favourite film: *Celine and Julie go Boating*. Should you go down Church Street in Twickenham, and look in the window of Flicks, on Sunday, there was there is a poster for *Breathless* ...£155 should you feel rich!

The RFS season kicks off with a bang. For some reason I didn't fancy seeing this in the cinema when it came out last year but I found it classy stylish and exhilarating. Indeed, it is packed with so much information about all the real-life characters I would like to see it again. However, groundbreaking it may have been at the time, what I did not know was that (according to Dr Wiki) the jump cuts device and use of non-professional actors in Rouch's *Moi, Un Noir* (1958), influenced Godard. My only other impression was that quite a few of the characters had monstrous egos but maybe that's what it takes. Finally, a special mention for Jon Davies, who yet again gave another excellent introduction. Someone that actually knows how to talk to rather than at people.

Mainly I found the film incredibly frustrating, I didn't enjoy the style of the film and it had no emotional engagement. For me, it was my least favourite of any of the films I have seen with RFS!

Incredible that this film was filmed in 21st Century, attention to detail with costumes, sets and vintage cars was fabulous. Interesting story too and now need to see the film!

I enjoyed this film and thought that it captured the 1960's very well. I found the introduction by Jon Davies useful. I was surprised by the continuous cigarette smoking, which is not often seen in current films. I would now like to see *Breathless*.

I loved this film but really don't know why! Sound was far too loud, quick subtitles, not much story, no car chases, no sex! Successfully designed for filmophiles.

First of all, thank you to Jon Davies for setting the scene so brilliantly. *Nouvelle Vague* was such a treat. Witty, beautiful, joyful, an ode to art and film history. It looked as if the excellent actors were having a ball!