

Mais Nous ne Délivrez pas du Mal

(= "But Deliver Us Not From Evil" UK = "Don't Deliver Us From Evil")

France : 1970 : dir. Joël Séria : Société Générale de Production : 102 min

prod: Bernard LeGargeant: scr: Joël Séria : dir.ph.: Marceli Combes

[Jeanne Goupil](#); [Catherine Wagener](#).....

Bernard Dhéran; Michel Robin; Marc Dudicourt; Véronique Silver; Gérard Darrieu;

Nicole Merouze

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ∄ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5023	1½	2	1	478	- - - - -	No	unseen



"Absolute evil... with the face of innocence"

Source: 15th London Film Festival programme

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Reading Baudelaire and Lautréamont incites a couple of adolescent girls at a convent school to perpetrate a similarly wicked deed, which leads, over the summer holidays, to ever greater excesses and a murder, of which no-one suspects them. During a parents' day performance at school they burn themselves

alive. The anarchistic satire, which was banned from exhibition in France, occasionally has a childishness which suits the age of the anti-heroine but is rather irritating to the viewer. The plea against a standardised education and morality, which has nothing to do with the individual natures of the girls, often hits the target. Jeanne Goupil is a remarkably disturbing nymphet [sic]. *** "

15th London Film Festival (1971) programme review:

“ "The gap between censors' and filmmakers' conception of the cinema is exemplified in another French film which has already been totally banned in France. **"DON'T DELIVER US FROM EVIL"** is the first feature film of Joël Séria. It's the anarchic and deeply disturbing story of two teenage girls at a convent school who begin reading Lautréamont and Rimbaud and decide it is more enjoyable to do evil than good. They progress from cat-torturing to bird-killing, through accusations of lesbianism among the nuns to Black Masses and eventual murder after their sexual tantalising of a visitor goes too far. When police begin to investigate the murder and they feel they may be caught, they invite the police to a school show, where they prettily recite a poem in white dresses before the startling climax of the story. Séria directs

the film in a clear, playful, almost innocent manner in disconcerting contrast to the content of the story. One has the feeling of having looked absolute evil directly in the eyes and seen the face of innocence." ”

- Ken Wlaschin, **Films and Filming**

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Classic Foreign Films", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "John Willis' Screen World Film Annual 1971", "Movies on TV and Video-cassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. I can find no other reference to this title, which suggests it was denied a certificate in the UK and US as well as in France, and must be something of a rarity now. Banned films are accorded a stature by the process whatever their intrinsic worth (eg: Ken Russell's **"THE DEVILS"**, on themes not dissimilar to this) and so much has been released in the States since 1970 along comparable lines that it would need to be very explicit in its "sexual tantalising of a visitor" to be banned today. But then it would not be made today – the demonisation of childhood is passé, the beatification of childhood is "on message" in these family-fixated times.

See subject index under **CENSORSHIP / BANNED FILMS, THE CHILD AS EVIL IN OUR MIDST, PUBLIC SCHOOLS / BOARDING SCHOOLS** and **RELIGION**, and see under **ANIMALS** for a subsection on child *cruelty* to animals in the cinema.