



The Fifty-sixth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

"Divided We Stand"

Roger Ebert's Film Interruptus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ramsay Thurber

Tel 303.492.2526

Fax 303.492.3934

E cwapress@colorado.edu

<http://www.colorado.edu/cwa>

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES EBERT'S 2004 FILM INTERRUPTUS:

Jean Renoir's *The Rules of the Game*

(Boulder) – March 25, 2004 – “*Rules of the Game* by Jean Renoir often places second or third on lists of the greatest films of all time, but until now has not been available in a finest-rate print,” says **Roger Ebert**, who will once again host “Cinema Interruptus” —a film analysis series to be held daily at 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, April 5-9, in Macky Auditorium on the CU campus in Boulder as part of the Fifty-sixth Annual Conference on World Affairs. The film is a fascinating representation of a vanished era and way of life.

Ebert explains that when it was released in 1939, “the movie, made on the eve of World War II, was enormously controversial because it focused on decadent and idle country-house society at a time when the flames of war were rising. The original version of the film was butchered by the Nazis during the war, and then various restorations were made as fugitive footage came to light. Now Criterion has brought out a magnificent DVD print, with new subtitles, that is actually a little longer than Renoir's original release print!”

The Criterion Collection describes the 1939 masterpiece as “a scathing critique of corrupt French society cloaked in a comedy of manners. At a weekend hunting party, amorous escapades abound among the aristocratic guests and are mirrored by the activities of the

servants downstairs. The refusal of one of the guests to play by society's rules sets off a chain of events that ends in tragedy.”

The Conference on World Affairs Cinema Interruptus Series begins on Monday, April 5 with an introduction by Ebert and an uninterrupted screening of *The Rules of the Game*. During the Tuesday through Friday, April 6-9, “Interruptus” sessions, the audience will participate with Ebert in analyzing *The Rules of the Game* as the film is screened in stop-and-start fashion. Ebert or anyone in the audience may direct the projectionist to freeze frame by yelling, “Stop!” in order to make comments or ask questions.

Ebert's annual CWA shot-by-shot film analysis in Boulder has inspired the commentary tracks for DVDs of *Dark City*, *Casablanca*, *Floating Weeds* and *Citizen Kane*, which won *Variety's* Video Premiere award as the best DVD commentary of the year.

A Great Movies essay by Roger Ebert about *The Rules of the Game* may be viewed at www.suntimes.com/ebert

All Conference on World Affairs sessions, including Ebert's Film Interruptus series, are free and open to the public. For the full schedule of over 200 CWA events, see www.colorado.edu/cwa

For further information, feel free to contact Ramsay Thurber at 303.492.2526, or e-mail the Conference on World Affairs at cwapress@colorado.edu. The full CWA schedule and a biographical listing of all our participants are now online at: www.colorado.edu/cwa

- ### -