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Daily Nebraskan

Friday, February 4, 1994

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'Jacquot' gives audience a childhood journey

By Malcom Miles Staff Reporter

Director Agnès Varda ("Cleo From Five to Seven," "Vagabond") has captured the spirit of childhood in her film "Jacquot."

"Jacquot" is the true story of the late director Jacques Demy, Varda's husband, who died of leukemia in 1990.

The film traces Demy's childhood, showing how the events of his life led to the films he made.

Varda uses images from Demy's films to highlight the connections. She also includes footage of Demy talking and writing about his childhood — an activity he took up as he began his fight with his fatal disease.

'Jacquot" highlights Demy's will to make films as he overcomes the obstacles of money, family and World War II.

One of the first images in "Jacquot" is that of Demy's tired hand slipping sand slowly through its fingers. The visual metaphor could mean many things, but what is apparent throughout the movie is a contradictory sense of both strength and fragility.

Demy was born in 1931 and spent his youth in Nantes, France. Early in life he became fascinated by puppet shows and the cinema. Demy built puppets and sets out of scrap cardboard so he could perform in the local park

By the time he was 14, he had managed to trade some of his childhood toys and books for a secondhand camera. He immediately began making stop-action animation, which he screened for his family on a kitchen cupboard he had designed to look like the local theater.

His father ignored young Jacques' yearning to study film, forcing him to go to a technical school to learn a trade. When director Christian-Jaques saw one of Demy's early films and encouraged him, the father's stubbornness faded.

Demy went to Paris at age 18 and studied for two years. There, he met las of Cherbourg." The entire dia-



Courtesy of Sony Pictures

"Jacquot" will be shown at the

Philippe Maron, center, starts in "Jacquot," which is the story of film director Jacques Demy's life. The film is directed by Demy's wife, Agnès Varda. Demy died of leukemia in 1990.

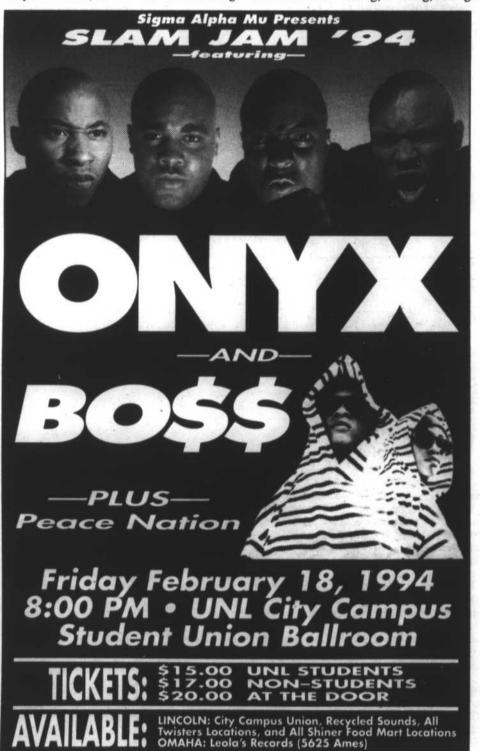
his future wife, Agnès Varda.

He went on to become popular and reached the height of his critical success with his 1964 film "The Umbrel-

logue of this film is sung, which points to the prominence of music in Demy's childhood years. tography. It gives a realistic portrait by confusing the documentary and dramatic segments. tography. It gives a realistic portrait by confusing the documentary and dramatic segments. tography. It gives a realistic portrait to the prominence of music in Demy's the documentary and the docume

The film is nearly perfect in its acting, directing, editing and cinema-

"Jacquot" is a fitting tribute to an Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater for



inspirational director, but	ut it is far the next	two weekends.
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