

LONDRES

PANORAMA



FRANCE/BELGIUM/SWITZERLAND 1989



Sun 11.00 am Curzon West End

Australia

Director: Jean-Jacques Andrien

Production Company: AO Prods/Christian Bourgeois Prods (France)/Les Films de la Drève/RTBF (Belgium)/CAB Prods (Switzerland)

Producer: Marie-Pascale Osterrieth

Screenplay: Jean Gruault, Jacques Audiard, Jean-Jacques Andrien

Photography (Eastman Colour): Yorgos Arvanitis

British Distributor: BBC TV, 80 Wood Lane,

London W12 0TT. Telex 934678

Export Agent: UGC, 24 av Charles de Gaulle, 92522

Neuilly-sur-Seine. Telex 614487

Leading Players: Jeremy Irons, Fanny Ardant,

Tcheky Karyo

Running Time: 118 mins

Andrien's intriguing shorts, his powerful documentary and magnificent features (*The Son of Amr Is Dead*, *The Journey of Alexis Droeven*) have established him as Belgium's greatest director. His entry into mainstream cinema – via this ravishingly shot co-production – should establish a wider audience. And yet there is no compromise or loss of integrity and his concerns – the frailties of people, the hypocrisies and weakness of his countrymen – are much in evidence. Jeremy Irons plays a man long resident in South Australia called back to Verviers in Belgium to help save the family business. It is 1955 and the complacent business people have been slow to react to the changes around them. Edouard's return is complicated by the presence of Jeanne in Verviers and the loss of the new world he has left behind him. Andrien and his colleague Marie-Pascale Osterrieth have assembled a fine cast and a group of collaborators that reads like a role of honour for modern European cinema.

—Brian Baxter.