



**“ONE OF THE BEST FRENCH GANGSTER FILMS...
tense and warm, elliptical and human.” – Bertrand Tavernier**

“POWERFUL AND TIMELESS!” – John Woo

CLASSE TOUS RISQUES

**Rialto Pictures presents
Claude Sautet’s rediscovered
film noir masterwork
in new 35mm print**

Unseen for 40 years!

**starring Lino Ventura and
Jean-Paul Belmondo**

CLASSE TOUS RISQUES, Claude Sautet’s 1960 French gangster classic starring Lino Ventura and Jean-Paul Belmondo, in new 35mm prints and subtitled in English for the first time, **will premiere at New York’s Film Forum on November 18, 2005 and open at Los Angeles’ Nuart Theatre on January 6, 2006. Engagements in select cities will follow.** **CLASSE TOUS RISQUES** has been championed by everyone from Jean-Pierre Melville and Robert Bresson to Bertrand Tavernier and John Woo, yet had only a brief release in this country (in a dubbed version).

Neo-realism meets *noir* as, on crowded Milan streets, two men execute a split-second payroll heist — in broad daylight — then begin a lightning-paced getaway, via every conveyance available. But after all, when a tough guy’s returning to France (where he’s been sentenced to death *in absentia*) after holing up in Italy for nearly a decade, he’s got to have some startup money — particularly if he’s going back with the wife and kids. But, as the mayhem mounts, one gangster reflects on the cost to others of his “a man’s gotta do what a man’s gotta do” lifestyle.

Bridging argot-rich 50s masterworks like *Rififi* and *Touchez-pas au Grisbi* with Melville’s pared-down 60s thrillers, **CLASSE TOUS RISQUES** (the title refers to a type of insurance policy, à la *Double Indemnity*, but is also a pun on “tourist class”) is a penetrating study of the underworld tough guy at the end of his rope, drawn from screenwriter José Giovanni’s first-hand knowledge of the post-war French underworld. Directed with an acute feeling for characterization, this was the first major feature by Sautet (who would abandon noir altogether for complex relationship films) and the first teaming of two great French cinema icons: former champion wrestler-turned-scene-stealing crime film second banana Lino Ventura (*Grisbi*, *Elevator to the Gallows*), here making a career-decisive move into lead roles, and New Wave wunderkind Jean-Paul Belmondo (in the role he filmed just prior to *Breathless* — another thriller inspired by American B’s). The duo’s cross-generational bonding gives *Classe* its climactic poignancy.

But despite a “Who’s Who” crew and cast, **CLASSE TOUS RISQUES** got lost in the shuffle of the New Wave, though its reputation has grown steadily over the years. In this country, a dubbed version called *The Big Risk* quickly faded into obscurity. Here, at last, is the original French version, with a new translation.

1960

103 minutes

In French and Italian with English subtitles

A Rialto Pictures release

www.rialtopictures.com/classe.html