

Filmmakers on Bresson – Agnieszka Holland

From *Robert Bresson* by James Quandt (Toronto: Cinematheque Ontario, 1998)

Agnieszka Holland

I saw *A Man Escaped* for the first time in a ciné-club in Warsaw in the sixties. I was about fifteen years old, and I *felt* this film like no previous film. It is difficult to express, but the experience was a kind of awakening for me—the film expressed such essential truths. After that, the next Bresson film, *Pickpocket*; then *Balthazar*, *Mouchette*, and later *L'Argent*. Following each screening there was that feeling of great clarity, mixed with—now that I was making my own films—a little jealousy. That someone can achieve such perfection in a film! For me, Bresson is one of the giants of the last fifty years of cinema. Maybe *the* giant.