

# PRESS KIT

## VIOLETTE NOZIÈRE

### BASIC INFORMATION

Title: Violette Nozière  
Director: Claude Chabrol  
Year of Production: 1978  
Country of Origin: France  
Running Time: 124 minutes  
Language: French

### SYNOPSIS

Paris, 1933. Violette Nozière is a rebellious and enigmatic young woman living with her strict parents in a modest apartment. Secretly leading a double life, she engages in prostitution to support her desires for independence and luxury. When her lies and secrets begin to unravel, Violette poisons her parents, killing her father and severely injuring her mother. The trial that follows becomes a sensational media event and a striking portrait of family oppression, moral hypocrisy, and female emancipation in pre-war France.

### FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Official Selection – Cannes Film Festival, 1978  
Best Actress Award – Isabelle Huppert, Cannes Film Festival, 1978

### ABOUT THE FILM (Context)

*As this is a catalogue title, there is no official director's statement available. The following text is provided as contextual information about the film and its place in Claude Chabrol's work.*

With *Violette Nozière*, Claude Chabrol explores themes central to his body of work: bourgeois hypocrisy, moral ambiguity, and the complexity of human psychology. Through the controversial true story of Violette Nozière, Chabrol examines the oppressive social structures of 1930s France and challenges the audience's perception of guilt, victimhood, and societal norms. The film stands as one of Chabrol's most provocative and psychologically layered works.

### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY – CLAUDE CHABROL

Claude Chabrol (1930–2010) was one of the founding figures of the French New Wave and one of France's most prolific and influential filmmakers. Beginning with *Le Beau Serge* (1958), he quickly established himself as a master of suspense and social satire. Over his career, he directed more than 50 feature films, frequently exploring crime, morality, and bourgeois society. His notable works include *Les Biches* (1968), *Le Boucher* (1970), *La Cérémonie* (1995), and *Merci pour le chocolat* (2000). Chabrol is widely regarded as a key figure in modern European cinema.

### KEY CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Isabelle Huppert – Violette Nozière

Isabelle Huppert is one of France's most internationally acclaimed actresses. Known for her fearless and complex performances, she has collaborated with major directors including Claude Chabrol, Michael Haneke, Paul Verhoeven, and Hong Sang-soo. Her performance

in *Violette Nozière* earned her the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1978, launching a long and celebrated career. She has received numerous César Awards and international honors.

Stéphane Audran – Germaine Nozière

Stéphane Audran (1932–2018) was a major figure of French cinema and a frequent collaborator of Claude Chabrol. She starred in many of his films, including *Les Biches*, *Le Boucher*, and *La Femme Infidèle*. She received the BAFTA Award for Best Actress for *Le Boucher* and remains recognized for her refined and psychologically nuanced performances.

Jean Carmet – Baptiste Nozière

Jean Carmet (1920–1994) was a beloved French character actor known for his versatility across drama and comedy. Over his extensive career, he appeared in more than 200 films and received multiple César Awards, establishing himself as one of France's most respected supporting actors.

### PRESS & CRITICAL RECEPTION

Upon its release, *Violette Nozière* received strong critical acclaim for its bold storytelling and Isabelle Huppert's breakthrough performance. The film is considered one of Claude Chabrol's most important works and remains a significant entry in French crime and psychological drama cinema. Critics praised Chabrol's restrained direction and the film's exploration of gender, class, and moral ambiguity.

### PRESS QUOTES

*“The Chabrol film for people who don't really like Chabrol films.” - Time Out*

French quote (if that helps too and are able to translate) :

*“Au lieu de réduire Violette à une figure rétro des annales criminelles, Chabrol en a fait un personnage de son propre univers moral d'auteur cinématographique.” - Le Monde (France) (*