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| *La Règle du jeu* [*The Rules of the Game*] (1939) is a humanist film by Jean Renoir satirizing the French aristocracy at play on the brink of World War Two. Despite a gentle tone and a lack of any overt reference to real world events or politics, its subject matter angered some audiences upon its premiere — it was banned and cuts were ordered. With the original negative was destroyed during the war, the film was later reconstructed. Renoir’s inspiration to make create what he called a ‘more classical, more poetic’ film (Durgnat 192) came to him while working on *La Bête Humaine* [*The Human Beast*](1938). Renoir took an improvisatory approach to the film, beginning with a script inspired by French writers (namely, de Musset and Marivaux), and then constantly revising it based on the performances of his actors. The film is known for its pioneering use of deep focus, which had become technically difficult after the start of the sound era. It had a great influence on the modernist directors of the Nouvelle Vague, in particular François Truffaut, who called it ‘the greatest film in the history of cinema’ (De Baecque and Toubiana 35). |
| Further reading:  Bazin, André. (1973) *Jean Renoir*. Ed. François Truffaut. Trans. Halsey II, W. W. and William H. Simon. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1973.  De Baecque, Antoine, and Serge Toubiana. *François Truffaut*. Trans. Catherine Temerson, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999.  Durgat, Raymond. *Jean Renoir*. Berkeley: California UP, 1974,  Renoir, Jean. *My Life and My Films*. Trans. Norman Denny. New York: Atheneum, 1974.  Renoir, Jean. *Renoir on Renoir: Interviews, Essays, and Remarks*. Trans. Carol Volk. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1989. |