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| **Resnais, Alain (1922-2014)** |
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| Alain Resnais was a French film director contemporaneous with the French New Wave, who drew his filmic narrative and structural inspiration from writers and intellectuals. He directed a series of short films in the late 1940s and early 1950s, many of them focusing on art and artists. His most celebrated short film, *Night and Fog* (1955), is a meditation on Nazi concentration camps and war responsibility. Resnais received critical acclaim for a series of feature films exploring the intersection of history and memory through nonlinear narrative: *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (1959), *L’Année dernière à Marienbad* (*Last Year at Marienbad* [1961]), and *Muriel, ou le Temps d’un retour* (*Muriel* [1963]). Unlike directors of the contemporaneous French New Wave, Resnais preferred to shoot from scripts written in collaboration with others. In his early career he worked with novelists Marguerite Duras, Alain Robbe-Grillet, and Jorge Semprún, among others. After a series of abandoned projects, Resnais was invited to direct the commercial success *Stavisky …* (1974), starring Jean-Paul Belmondo and scored by Stephen Sondheim. Despite his reputation as a filmmaker for intellectuals, Resnais had a lifelong love for popular culture, and directed films based on comic books and musicals. He directed three films based on plays by the British comedic playwright Alan Ayckbourn. |
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| Further reading:  (Monaco)  (Kreidl) |