



**Marcel Carne - Les Enfants du Paradis/Children of Paradise** (France, 1945) - One can only wonder how this French film was made under German occupation. Perhaps the fact that it was done at all was intended as an affront. The setting is a century earlier (the 1830s) and the protagonists are people always hard to control - theater types, criminals and their abundant love affairs. With rich and detailed settings, superb acting, and a great script, Children of Paradise is one of the glories of French cinema.

IMDB: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0037674/?ref=nm\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_2](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0037674/?ref=nm_sr_srsrg_2)  
 Streaming on Prime Video \$3.99

While Carne remained in France during the war, Jean Renoir escaped but among his late prewar films are warnings of what was to come: Grand Illusion (1937) and Rules of the Game (1939). In the immediate postwar years in France, Jean Cocteau would direct two of his enduring escapist classics: Beauty and the Beast (1946) *Kanopy* and Orpheus (1950). *All streaming on Prime Video*



