

FILM

Passion Pit

By J. Hoberman

As we lurch into 1984, it's bracing to look back for a moment at 1983, one of the best film years in recent memory. In part, 1983 was so satisfying for the number of first-rate foreign films which finally got their New York theatrical release. These include Chantal Akerman's *Jeanne Dielman*, Zsolt Kézdi-Kovács's *When Joseph Returns*, Krzysztof Zanussi's *The Constant Factor*, Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Camera Buff*, and the special presentation of the Trauberg-Kosintsev *New Babylon*. As I've cited all of these films in previous years, however, I've restricted my 10 favorites to only those films which had their New York premieres in 1983.

1. *Parsifal*—Hans-Jürgen Syberberg
2. *Night and Fog in Japan*—Nagisa Oshima
3. *The Mirror*—Andrei Tarkovsky
4. *Wuthering Heights*—Luis Buñuel
5. *L'argent*—Robert Bresson
6. *The Golden 80s*—Chantal Akerman
7. *Sans Soleil*—Chris Marker
8. *Danton*—Andrzej Wajda
9. *King of Comedy*—Martin Scorsese
10. *Huie's Sermon*—Werner Herzog

Honorable mentions: *Behind the Scenes* (Ernie Gehr), *Dhrupad* (Mani Kaul), *The Falls* (Peter Greenaway), *Hammett* (Wim Wenders), *Heart Like a Wheel* (Jonathan Kaplan), *Merry Christmas*, *Mr. Lawrence* (Nagisa Oshima), *Passion* (Jean-Luc Godard), *Red Love* (Rosa von Praunheim), *Sifted Evidence* (Patricia Gruben), *Susana* (Luis Buñuel), *Twilight Zone* (Joe Dante episode), *You the Better* (Ericka Beckman), *Zelig* (Woody Allen). ■