

# Liverpool Film Seminar

2011 – 2012 series

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Every year, Liverpool Film Seminar invites six experts to deliver a series of talks. Topics vary greatly and the series does not focus on a specific aspect of film. Instead, a range of genres and approaches are celebrated, from historical reach to the internet's impact on cinematic material.

## Professor Ginette Vincendeau (King's College, London)

### **Gamine, sex bomb, dumb blonde: Brigitte Bardot as comic star**

This illustrated presentation examines a relatively unknown, yet crucial aspect of Brigitte Bardot's career. While Bardot is known for her sexually transgressive roles in melodramatic films such as *Et Dieu ... créa la femme/And God Created Woman* (1956), *La Vérité* (1960) and *Le Mépris/Contempt* (1963), half of the 43 films in which she appeared were comedies, including some of her most popular at the French box-office. The talk explores the different 'ages' of Bardot as comic star, from impish gamine to 'dumb blonde', and reflects on both the problematic interaction of sexuality and comedy, and the potentially liberating value of comedy for highly eroticized stars such as Bardot.

### **Biography:**



Ginette Vincendeau is Professor of Film Studies at King's College, London. She has written widely on popular French and European cinema and is a regular contributor to *Sight and Sound*. She is the author of *Pépé le Moko* (BFI, 1998); *Stars and Stardom in French Cinema* (Continuum, 2000); *Jean-Pierre Melville: An American in Paris* (BFI, 2003), and *La Haine* (I.B. Tauris, 2005).

Her collection of essays, *Popular French Cinema, From the Classical to the Transnational* will be published by I.B. Tauris in 2011. She is currently writing a book on

*Brigitte Bardot* (BFI/Palgrave) and *Cinema Under the Mediterranean Sun: Provence, Marseille and the Côte d'Azur on Film* (I.B.Tauris). Ginette Vincendeau is also the editor of *The Encyclopedia of European Cinema* (BFI/Cassell, 1995) and co-editor, with Susan Hayward, of *French Film: Texts and Contexts* (Routledge, 1990 and 2000), with Alastair Phillips, of *Journeys of Desire, European Actors in Hollywood* (BFI, 2006) and with Peter Graham of *The New Wave: Critical Landmarks* (BFI, 2009). She has just co-edited (with Alastair Phillips) *The Blackwell Companion to Jean Renoir*.