

# INDIECOLLECT



Cannes Classics presents  
IndieCollect's 4K Restoration of Melvin Van Peebles' first movie,  
**THE STORY OF A THREE DAY PASS**  
(aka LA PERMISSION)



Photo by Stephane Kossmann. Used by permission

**In-Person Tribute by Max Van Peebles**  
**October 13, 2020**  
**Lumiere Film Festival, Lyon, France**  
**Cinema UGC Confluence - 2:30 pm**

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### Cannes Classics Honors the HFPA-funded IndieCollect Restoration!

THE STORY OF A THREE DAY PASS (1968, B&W, 87 min) is the first movie by the now legendary American director Melvin Van Peebles. The story follows Turner (Harry Baird), an American GI in Paris, who is smitten with Miriam (Nicole Berger), a sensitive young woman he meets at a nightclub. Their interracial romance sparks the attention of Turner's disapproving captain.

Cannes Classics hosts the world premiere of IndieCollect's 4K digital restoration, which was created in collaboration with Melvin's sons, Max Van Peebles and Mario Van Peebles. Max Van Peebles will present the film in person as a tribute to his father. He is accompanied by IndieCollect trustee and film producer Gerald Herman.

Because the Cannes Film Festival was canceled earlier this year, the Cannes Classics selections unfurl at Lumiere 2020. Deepest thanks to Thierry Fremaux, director of the Cannes and Lumiere festivals, and to Gérald Duchaussoy, head of Cannes Classics, for this honor.



### The Story's Racial Tension

The flair and flamboyance of later films by Melvin Van Peebles are evident in this debut, but it is his subtle handling of racial tension that makes this such a powerful movie. It simmers beneath the surface and then comes bursting out as Harry Baird, in the role of Turner, reacts to what he perceives as a racial slur. Nicole Berger's Miriam is incredibly touching as she strives to understand Turner's anguish and to comfort him, yet she cannot grasp why he is so upset. Artfully directed, this dynamic illuminates the issues we are facing right now as the Black Lives Matter movement crystallizes a new and deeper understanding of overt and covert forms of oppression.

### The Cast

International audiences had already fallen in love with Nicole Berger thanks to her performance in *Shoot the Piano Player*. (This was the last movie she ever made as she was killed in a car accident during filming.) The movie also features the brilliant Pierre Doris as a homespun sage, and Hal Brav as Baird's Captain.



### Saluting Meher Tatna, Lorenzo Soria, and the HFPA Team

The restoration costs were underwritten by a grant from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, led by Meher Tatna and the late Lorenzo Soria (who will be sorely missed), pictured above. We salute the grants committee and the entire membership, as well as program officer Sandra Cuneo, for making our "Treasures of African American Cinema" series a priority.

### About Melvin Van Peebles

Born in Chicago in 1932, Melvin Van Peebles left the U.S. because he could not find work as a director. He settled first in Holland and then moved to France where he became a journalist and novelist. He adapted the screenplay for THE STORY OF A THREE DAY PASS from his novel, *La Permission*. The film won a prize at the San Francisco International Film Festival as a French entry and opened doors for Van Peebles in Hollywood. But after making *Watermelon Man* in 1970, he vowed to finance and fully control his next project. That movie — *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* — changed the course of film history forever.

### Stay Tuned for Exciting News

We hope to announce soon that our restoration of THE STORY OF A THREE DAY PASS will be coming to a theater and online platform near you in 2021.

Sandra Schulberg and the IndieCollect Team



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