

Matt Longabucco

M/W: An Essay on Jean Eustache's La maman et la putain

Jean Eustache came of age as a director in the aftermath of the French New Wave, and made *La maman et la putain* (*The Mother and the Whore*) already disillusioned by the events of May '68. Several years after the film's 1973 release, he committed suicide. Matt Longabucco's book-length essay reckons with Eustache's document of political bitterness and romantic catastrophe from the standpoint of our own vexed present in which the unfulfilled legacies of the Left and the sexual revolution still haunt our hopes and darken our horizons.

// The beautiful intensities of this remarkable book reflect on many mysteries—love, movie making, myths—while illuminating why stories matter to us, and shall always matter [...] A wonderful achievement.

— HILTON ALS

// Exquisite, resonant, and spectacularly wise.

— KRISTIN DOMBEK

// As thrilling as Geoff Dyer's film-sized essay on Andrei Tarkovsky's *Stalker* and Nathalie Léger's on Barbara Loden's *Wanda*—and like them, a deliriously erudite bout of screenish identification and its necessary crises.

— JONATHAN LETHEM



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Matt Longabucco is the author of several chapbooks, including *Heroic Dose* (Inpatient Press). His poems and essays have appeared recently in *Folder*, *Mirage*, *Brooklyn Rail*, and *The Poetry Project Newsletter*. He teaches writing, innovative pedagogy, and critical theory at New York University and at Bard College's Institute for Writing & Thinking. He lives in Brooklyn.

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