

M6200 THE MODEL SHOP (USA, 1969)

Credits: director, Jacque Demy ; writers, Jacques Demy, Adrien Joyce.

Cast: Anouk Aimee, Gary Lockwood, Alexandra Hay, Carol Cole.

Summary: Melodrama set in contemporary Los Angeles. George Matthews (Lockwood) is a 26-year-old Los Angeles architect waiting to be drafted. Refusing to commit himself to anyone or anything, he quits his dull job designing gas pipes and also refuses to marry his ambitious actress girl friend Gloria (Hay). While attempting to borrow money to stop the repossession of his sports car, he sees an elegant woman in a big car and becomes obsessed with her. He follows her to her place of employment, a “model shop” for amateur “photographers,” who pay high prices to photograph the semi-nude models. Gary eventually learns the woman’s identity and her story. Lola (Aimee) is a French single mother, abandoned in the U.S. by her husband. She is trying to earn enough money to return to France with her young son. Gary eventually spends the night at Lola’s home where he discusses his fears of the Vietnam War and declares his love for her. Love-scarred Lola cannot return his feelings, but Gary gives her his car-payment money anyway to help pay her way back to France. Returning home, Gary learns his girl friend has left him. As his car is repossessed, he telephones Lola and learns that she has left for France, nevertheless, he realizes he can cope with his future.

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