

Variety, 9 June 1971

Les Maudits Sauvages
(These Damned Savages)
(CANADIAN-COLOR)

Cannes, May 27.

Faroum Films release of Cinak Production. Produced, written and directed by Jean-Pierre Lefebvre; edited by Marguerite Duparc; camera (Eastmancolor) Jean-Claude Labrecque; music, Vivaldi and others. Seen at Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Festival, 1971. Running Time, 107 MINS.

Features Pierre Dufresne, Nicole Filtron, Rachel Caillier, Jacques Thibault, Denise Morille, Marcel Sabourin, Roger Garçon, Gaston Labrache, Denis André.

(In French)

The prolific and highly individual Jean-Pierre Lefebvre is back again, this time with his most finished film, so far, and his first in color. But once again, this very personal filmmaker has failed to convey on the screen in absorbing terms the intentions that were in his mind, partly because his ideas and concepts are fragile, delicate, almost spiritual, and his visualization of them is so self-indulgent and static that he drives his audiences out in droves.

It is not hard for Lefebvre to make feature-length films. He simply lets most of his scenes run so long that what could be conveyed in 30 takes over 100 minutes. In "Les Maudits Sauvages," he has attempted to "repossess," or make contemporary, certain historical facts and characters and place them in the present to show us that society's attitudes, particularly towards humanity, have not changed. These observations revolve around an Indian maiden and a trapper, with the action, if it can be so described, wandering between 1670 and 1970 settings. The belief that life is "an eternal tragicomedy" is hardly original, and in spite of the fact that Lefebvre has tried to be original in re-stating it, only very specialized audiences will respond. Jean-Claude Labrecque's mostly static camerawork is excellent.

Prez.