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The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

Daub, Peggy; Gomis, Melissa; Hallman, Phil

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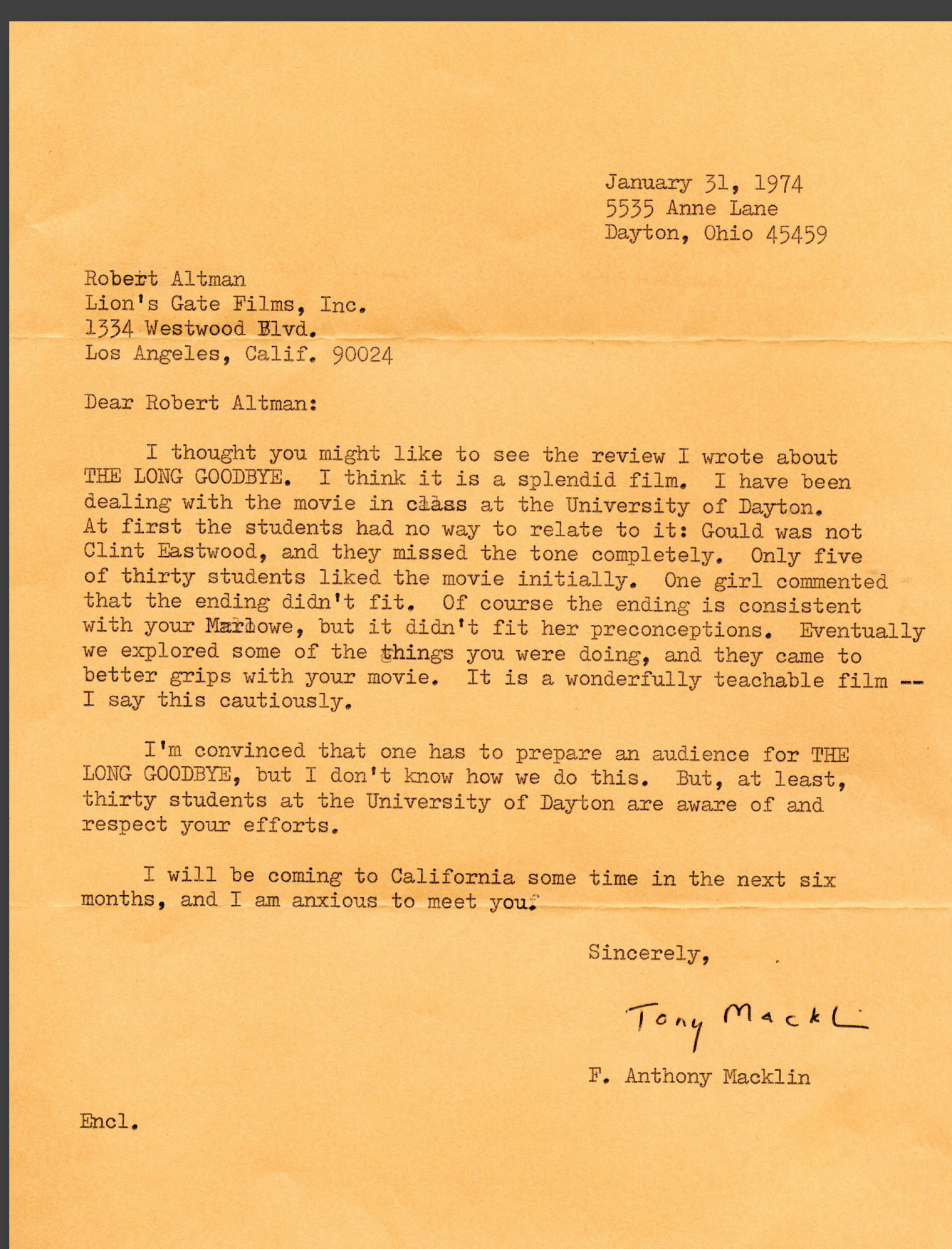
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The Long Goodbye (1973)

The Long Goodbye, based on Raymond Chandler's novel of the same name, was often compared by reviewers to earlier film adaptations of Chandler in the 1940s (i.e., *The Big Sleep* and *Murder, My Sweet*). Some critics seemed to appreciate the updated settings and characters chosen by Altman, even saying that he was "the best thing to happen to Raymond Chandler." However, others argued that Altman and screenwriter Leigh Brackett strayed too far from the original novel's storyline.



Ivor Davis, "The Baroness Nina and Her Brash Svengali," *London Daily Express*, date unknown.



A. Anthony Macklin, typed letter to Robert Altman, January 31, 1974.

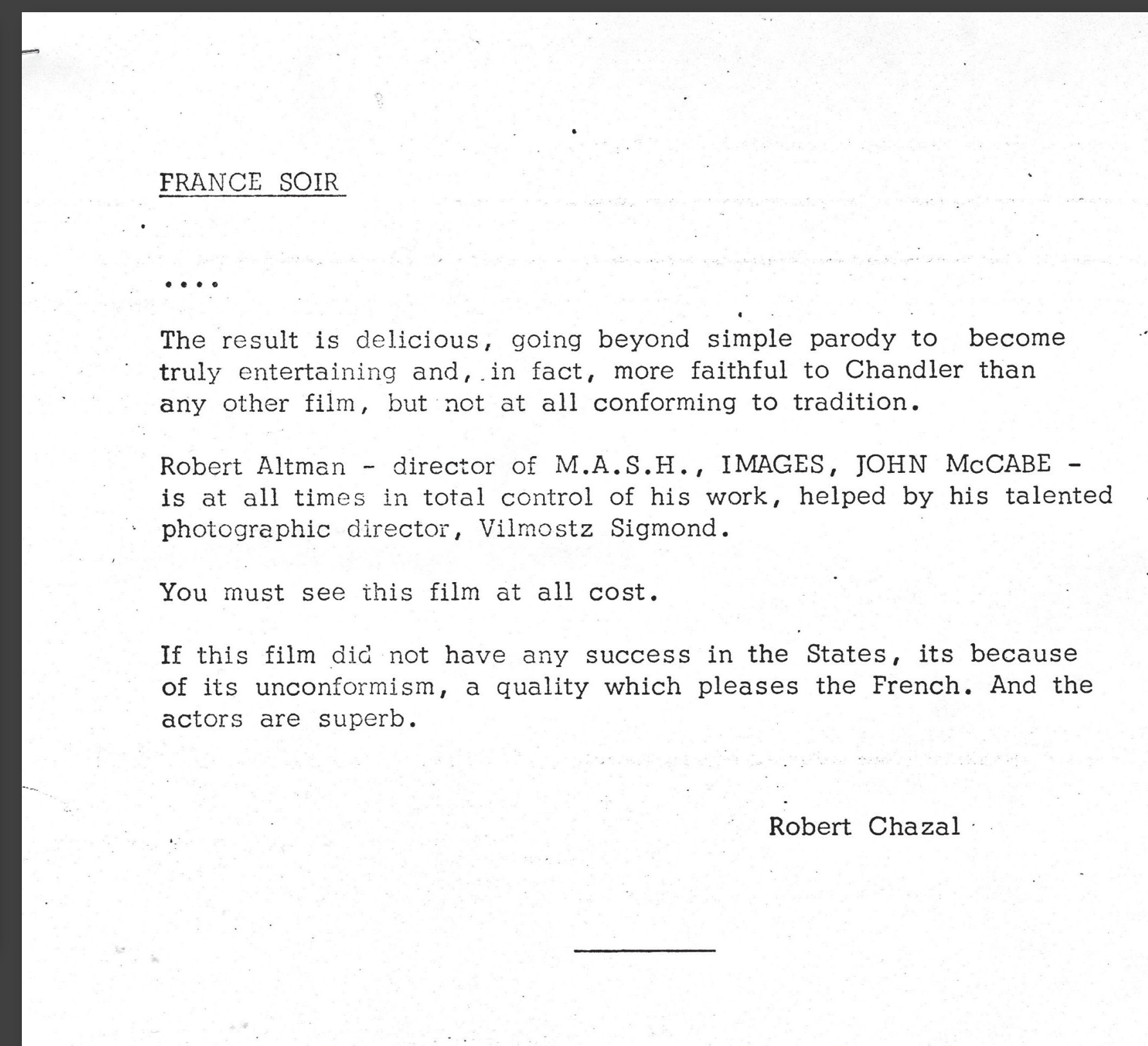
Tony Macklin, who taught at the University of Dayton in Ohio, described his students' reactions to *The Long Goodbye*.

"It is a wonderfully teachable film--I say this cautiously. I'm convinced that one has to prepare an audience for *The Long Goodbye*, but I don't know how we do this."
- Tony Macklin

Altman's films often garnered as much interest in Europe as they did in the U.S. This French reviewer not only praised the film, but explained that French audiences liked nonconformity, whereas the Americans might not.



Robert Chazal, "... De rien" [About nothing], *France-Soir*, with typed English translation of part of the review.



Robert Chazal