The New Movie

ARCHER WINSTEN

'Arthur Rubinstein' at Festival

"Arthur Rubinstein—Love of Life," at the Festival Theater, is an astounding picture because it offers so much more than it promises. You expect the great piano playing, and something about the musician's life. When you realize that the picture was made by one of France's finest film-makers, Francois Reichenbach, another addition of anticipation is made. But you're still incredibly short of the mark. This picture is a marvel of humor, character, wit, musical interpretation and analysis, travel, and above all, philosophy, an attitude towards living.

When Rubenstein tells a funny story he does it wonderfully well, as when he imitates Chaliapin, or Caruso.

When he plays Chopin's "Polonaise Heroique" it's as if you'd never heard it before, or felt it like this.

'Arthur Rubinstein—Love of Life'

A New Yorker Films release. Produced by Francois Reichenbach and Bernard Gavory. Directed by Reichenbach and S. G. Patris. Cast: Arthur Rubinstein, Mrs. Arthur Rubinstein, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Paris Orchestra. 91 minutes. Not rated by MPAA.

He does a Beethoven concerto, or one by Brahms, or the Appassionnata by Beethoven and they practically lift the top of your head off.

In the end, though, it's more than music. It's the way Arthur Rubinstein has lived and felt his life, the way he is able to express it in a word, in the hand on the piano, in his every facial expression, indeed, even in his stance. He himself is an affirmation of life.

That this is so surely caught on film must be the work of a great documentarian. Francois Reichenbach, remembered for his celebration of people and events as diverse as the black boxer from Senegal in "Un Coeur Gros Comme Ca" and the Training of the American Marines, has never been more penetrating, never so expressively, beautifully right.

As Rubinstein says, "You must be born with talent. You can only develop it. There is nothing to learn"

This picture is a true revelation of simple greatness. It makes you wish every human being could have a life comparable to that of Arthur Rubinstein, so fully realized, so complete, so generous in its gift to the world.