Jean Renoir was a French film director, screenwriter, actor, producer and author. He directed more than forty films from the silent era to the end of the 1960s. His films La Grande Illusion (1937) and The Rules of the Game (1939) are often cited by critics as among the greatest films ever made.

Renoir was born in the Montmartre district of Paris, on November 30, 1915. He was the son of the Impressionist painter, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and his second wife, francesca romain. He had two younger brothers, Maurice and Claude.

Renoir's first films were short comedies such as A la Russe and La petite reine (1928), which featured his sisters and his new wife, Andrée. After the death of his father in 1919, Renoir attempted to take over his business at the Moulin de la Galette, but was unsuccessful.

Renoir's first major success came with the film La Grande Illusion in 1937. The film was a critical and commercial success, and it established Renoir as a major figure in the French cinema. His next film, The Rules of the Game, was released in 1939 and was also a great success.

Renoir continued to work as a director until his death in 1979. He left behind a body of work that is widely regarded as one of the greatest in the history of film.