FRENCH STAR VISITS — Jean Claude Brialy, one of France's top film stars, (seated, left), is visiting Acadiana and plans a tour today with the idea of making a film about the area. Brialy is accompanied on his trip to Louisiana by Yvette Mallet (seated, right). James Domengeaux, CODOFIL chairman (center, standing), and Alain Del Sol, educational consultant in Lafayette for the French government, will help Brialy become familiar with Acadiana.

French Movie Actor Visits Lafayette To Discuss Film

Last week French movie star Jean Claude Brialy was in New York to accept the American Critics Award as best actor for 1971 for his role in "Claire's Knee," which was named best picture of the year. Yesterday Brialy arrived in Lafayette.

Brialy’s visit here was arranged by the Institute of French Studies at USL, the French Cultural Services and CODOFIL. He was here to discuss another movie, "La Maison d'Eglantine," his first attempt at directing a film.

The Lafayette showing of "La Maison d'Eglantine," one of a series of award-winning French films being shown here, was the USL premiere. Brialy joined a group at the USL Union last night to discuss the film.

Though Brialy speaks German in addition to his native French, he has great difficulty with English — "It's like Chinese." Acting as interpreter during his Louisiana sojourn is Miss Yvette Mallet, director of audio visuals and the French Film Office of the French Embassy in New York.

Today Brialy will tour Acadiana with CODOFIL guides, hoping to see as much of Acadiana as possible so that he can return and make Louisiana better known in France. "It is always easier in a first film to do something you have felt yourself," he says.

"La Maison d'Eglantine" recalls happy times that Brialy spent with his grandparents. He moved the setting back to 1895 — "A time when people took pleasure in a stroll round the garden or relished the smell of a flower or a pot of jam."

The film was produced by Jacques Charrier, who brought Brigitte Bardot into the limelight and was her first husband. "La Madame d'Eglantine" was Brialy's fifth visit to the United States, and his first trip to Louisiana. "Not the last one."

Brialy's visit is his sixth to the United States. It was his first visit to Louisiana. "But not the last one."