

focus on
french cinema
2006

24-26 March 2006

The Performing Arts Center

Pepsico Theatre

Purchase College

www.focusonfrenchcinema.org

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www.airfrance.com/lus

F

ocus on French Cinema is non-profit event held by the Alliance Française of Greenwich, French Feeling Films, and Tournées, in partnership with Purchase College, Westchester Accueil, the Greenwich Arts Council and the Délégation Générale du Québec in New York.

It is placed under the patronage of his Excellency the Ambassador of France to the United States, Monsieur Jean-David Levitte, his Excellency the Consul Général of France to New York, Monsieur François Delattre, and Monsieur Michel Robitaille, Québec Delegate General in New York.

The festival was made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Minister of Culture. (CNC)

table of contents

- 5 - letter from the chairs
- 7 - schedule at a glance
- 9 - who we are
- 11 -our partners

the movies

friday, march 24

- 12 - Monsieur N.
- 13 - Moolaadé
- 14 - Le Petit Lieutenant

saturday, march 25

- 16 - Breakfast Meet the directors
- 17 - La Petite Lili

- 18 - Le Bonheur, c'est une
chanson triste
- 20 - L'Anniversaire
- 22 - Rois et Reines

sunday, march 26

- 23 - Brodeuses
- 24 - Mon petit doigt m'a dit
- 26 - Les Soeurs fâchées
- 27 - Confidences trop intimes

- 29 - the Festival committee
- 31 - our mission statement
- 33 - merci to our sponsors
- 37 - information & directions

CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL



B A N Q U E S

salutes the second annual edition of

Focus of French Cinema

a letter from the chairs

Last year's adventure of starting a Festival of French Cinema was a success thanks to the trust of our partners, sponsors, our guest directors from France and the great audience. The 2006 version expands on the same ingredients of genuine emotion and brings more of everything:

we have more films (11 total), more directors and actors to share their vision with you, a larger theater and 3 US premieres to make you feel the thrill of a new movie. We wanted to open the selection of films from other francophone countries and welcome The Delegation Generale du Qubec as a new partner. Finally but not least, more partners and sponsors joined us to support our passion for cinema allowing us to reach a larger audience including students with dedicated movies.

It is a hard choice to choose among 200 new French films released each year. We want to show a whole variety of situations, presented with an angle, a specific touch, that might well be the real definition of French Cinema: from the young graduate from the police academy who dreams of fighting crime, to the 17 year old Claire who wants to hide her pregnancy ; from the Napoleon demoted of *Monsieur N.*, so human in his weakness to the harsh of friendship in *L'Anniversaire*, not mentioning the unrealistic secrets of an Agatha Christie mystery set in Switzerland, to the eccentricity, yet so profound *Rois et Reine (Kings and Queen)*...

With it comes a whole array of emotions that we wanted to share with you.

Our guests for this year are Diane Kurys and Pascal Thomas, both famous directors, Anne Marie Cadieux from Québec and Jalil Lespert among the young leading actors in France. They are the best ambassadors of their art and their culture, they are our gift to you.

It's a great privilege to welcome them here for the second edition of the festival Focus on French Cinema.

We wish that, like us, this festival starts for you the beginning of a love story: the love of great cinema, the celebration of French Cinema with a twist.

Catherine, Renee, Gail, Isabelle,
Catherine and Florence



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schedule at a glance

FRIDAY

12:30 pm

Monsieur N

Dir. Antoine de Caunes

Introduction by Geoff Field, Professor of European History

3:30 pm

Moolaadé

Dir. Ousmane Sembène

Introduction by Elise Lemire, Associate Professor of Literature
Round table discussion

OPENING NIGHT

7:30 pm

Le Petit Lieutenant

Dir. Xavier Beauvois

Introduction by David Schwartz, chief curator at the Museum of Moving Image
Q&A with Jalil Lespert actor
Buffet "après-théâtre"

SATURDAY

10:00 am

Breakfast Meet the Directors/actors

With Diane Kurys, Anne Marie Cadieux, Jalil Lespert, Pascal Thomas, David Schwartz, Patrick Gimenez, Anne Kern, Ronnie Scharfman...

12.00 pm

La Petite Lili

Dir. Claude Miller

Introduction by Masha Salazkina, Assistant Professor Film Studies

2:30 pm

Le Bonheur, c'est une chanson triste

Dir. François Delisle

Introduction by Deanna Kamiel, documentary filmmaker, Professor of Film
Q&A with Anne Marie Cadieux, actress

5:00 pm

L'Anniversaire

Dir. Diane Kurys

Introduction by Iris Cahn, film editor, Professor of Film
Q&A with Diane Kurys, director

US PREMIERE

8:00 pm

Rois et Reine

Dir. Arnaud Desplechin

Q&A with Anne Kern, Professor of Cinema Studies

SUNDAY

12:00 pm

Brodeuses

Dir. Eléonore Faucher

Introduction by Tristane Theisen, professional translator and graduate in comparative literature, The Sorbonne

2:30 pm

Mon Petit Doigt m'a dit

Dir. Pascal Thomas

Introduction by Ronnie Scharfman, Professor of French
Q&A with Pascal Thomas, director

US PREMIERE

5:00 pm

Les Sœurs Fâchées

Dir. Alexandra Leclère

Introduction by Irina Patkanian, Associate Professor of Media Production

7:30 pm

Confidences trop intimes

Dir. Patrice Leconte

Introduction and Q&A to follow with Dr. Joseph Youngerman, psychiatrist

All screenings Pepsico Theatre - Performing Arts Center - Purchase, NY.

All screenings are in French with English subtitles.

The logo for JCDecaux, featuring the company name in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is enclosed within a thin blue L-shaped border that starts at the top left and extends to the right and down.

sponsor of

Meet the Director Breakfast

salutes

Focus on French Cinema
2006



Alliance Française
of Greenwich

Alliance Française

An organization whose mission is to promote and further the knowledge of French Culture and language and to reinforce friendship between American and French people.

An international community of more than 300 francophiles and francophones that organizes activities and events (lectures, conversations, book club, Cine-club, theater...), targeted toward the French culture.

school where adults and children can learn French with native speakers: all level including conversation, accelerated courses, French for travelers... The AFG awards scholarships to students in French in local public and private schools.

A resource center, conveniently located in downtown Greenwich, in the Greenwich Arts Center Building, that provides books, magazines, videos, DVD's and information about France.

The Alliance Française of Greenwich was founded in 1918 and is a non-profit organization.

<http://www.afgreenwich.org>

French Feeling Films



An American company distributing French movies in VO-STA (Original Version with American sub-titles) di-

rected by two professionals of the movie industry for the last 20 years.

Patrick Gimenez and André Lazare have produced and distributed, alone or together, over 150 films.

They are located in Miami and in Paris.

<http://www.frenchfeelingfilms.com>

Westchester Accueil



A welcome service for francophone families settling in Westchester

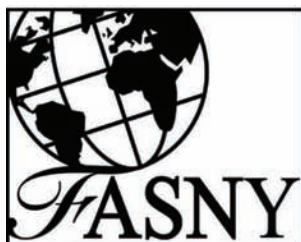
County. It proposes gatherings every month, and the opportunity to join many of its activity clubs. It currently has 200 members.

ing families to get acquainted with the American way of life. It also creates links between the American and French communities by organizing fundraising events to the benefit of local social services, such as the Tag Sale April 29th in Mamaroneck and the Promenade des Artistes May 5-6 in Larchmont.

WA is a non-profit organization founded in 1985.

The WA tries to help French speak-

<http://www.westaccueil.org>



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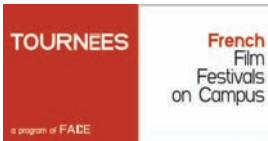
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

A public university of 4,000 students specifically known for its strong commitment to the Arts and Design.

A college with a long history of excellence in film. It also has a large Humanities Department with a world-renowned faculty. Graduates are a strong presence in the film industry - the percentage of Purchase College graduates who become feature film directors is among the highest in the country. The Performing Arts Center (PAC) presents world-class artists with an incredible selection of performances.

www.purchase.edu

Tournées



Tournées, a program of FACE, was launched in 1995 to help build a new public for French cinema by encouraging film screenings on American college and university campuses. In collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tournées supports French Film screenings on over 50 campuses across the country each year.

www.facecouncil.org/tournees/

Délégation Générale du Québec in New York

*Relations
internationales*

Québec 

Délégation générale - New York

Established in 1940 at Rockefeller Center in New York, Québec Government House is Québec's principal office in the United States. Its mission is to promote cooperation and good relations between Québec and major American institutions, and to provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about Québec. Québec Government House serves a territory that includes the Mid-Atlantic States.

www.quebecusa.org

The Greenwich Arts Council



A non-profit arts organization serving Greenwich and the surrounding communities for over 30 years.

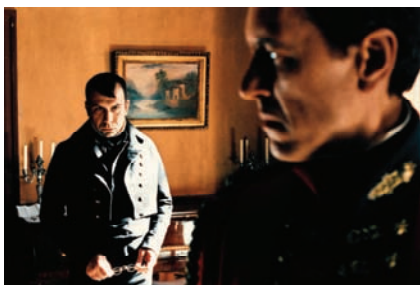
Promotes the arts by nurturing artists and building audiences.

Encourages individual creativity and broadens community participation in, appreciation of, and support for the visual, performing and literary arts.

www.greenwicharts.org/

MONSIEUR N.

Friday, March 24 - 12.30 PM



Introduction by Geoff Field, Professor of European History

THIS MOVIE IS PART OF THE TOURNÉES PROGRAM

Biographical thriller

The most widely accepted explanation for Napoleon Bonaparte's death is that he was poisoned, but the case is still open and the enigma surrounding his last years in exile is at the heart of *Monsieur N.*

In 1815, Bonaparte arrives on the windswept and overcast island of St. Helena. Bonaparte's jailer and the island's governor, Sir Hudson Lowe, a stubborn and authoritarian figure, maintains the island's security at absurd levels. Bonaparte is kept under house arrest at Longwood with remnants of his general staff and a British officer under orders to watch over him. Relations within Napoleon's inner circle are fraught with jealousy, bickering, greed, plotting and hatred. On his deathbed in 1831, Bonaparte is accompanied by only three of his staff. The British liaison officer, the only fictional character, investigates the mystery of his death and discovers an inconceivable plot...

Director: Antoine de Caunes

Screenplay: René Manzor

Cast:

Philippe Torreton: Napoléon Bonaparte

Richard E. Grant: Hudson Lowe

Jay Rodan: Basil Heathcote

Elsa Sylberstein: Albine de Montholon

Roschdy Zem: Marshal Bertrand

Running time: 127 min

Year of production: France - 2003

Rating: Not rated (brief nudity)

Language: French and English

Distributor: Empire Pictures

www.empirepicturesusa.com

+ US press

"Fascinating and likable...I liked it better than the more blustery *Master & Commander*, which it distantly resembles."

Stephen Holden *The New York Times*

"An intricate, fetchingly lensed tale of historical speculation framed as a plausible thriller...Beautifully appointed Franco-British co-production is dramatically dense, neatly thesped and visually involving."

Lisa Nesselson *Variety*

+ Antoine de Caunes, director

Antoine de Caunes is a figure of French television. In the 90's, he was the wild co-presenter of a notorious daily cultural tv show, insolent, provocative, disguised, very funny. Born in 1953, his parents, a presenter and an announcer, made him the first media-child in France. *Monsieur N.* is his second feature film as a director, following *Les Morsures de l'aube* (*Love Bites*, 2001), a vampire-movie starring Guillaume Canet and Asia Argento.

Friday, March 24 - 3.30 PM

Director: Ousmane Sembene
Screenplay: Ousmane Sembene

Cast:

Fatoumata Coulibaly: Collé Ardo Gallo Sy
 Maïmouna Diarra: Hadjatou
 Salimata Traoré: Amasatou
 Dominique Zeïda: Mercenaire
 Mah Compaoré: Doyenne des exciseuses
 Aminata Dao: Alima Ba

Running time: 134 min
Year of production: Senegal - 2004
Language: Jula & French

Rating: Not rated (general public)
 Distributor: New Yorker Films
 www.newyorkerfilms.com

Drama

Set in a small African village, four young girls face a ritual purification. They flee to the house of Collé Ardo Gallo Sy, a strong-willed woman who once managed to shield her teenage daughter from circumcision. Collé invokes the time-honored custom of "moolaadé" (sanctuary) to protect the fugitives, creating a conflict in the community and forcing every villager to take sides. Sembene sets the action amidst a colorful, vibrant tapestry of village life and expands the narrative well beyond the bounds of straightforward, socially-conscious realism. *Moolaadé* is the second of a trilogy of films about the heroism of everyday life and, to use Sembene's own words, about the 'underground struggle' of people often overlooked by their governments and the rest of world.

+ awards

Cannes Film Festival (2004): Grand Prize, Best Film Award, Un Certain Regard



Introduction by Elise Lemire, Associate Professor of Literature, Purchase College, followed by a round table discussion

THIS MOVIE IS PART OF THE TOURNÉES PROGRAM

In *Moolaadé*, the old wise director Ousmane Sembene (73) continues to provoke his audience and reiterates the strong feminist consciousness that marked his previous film, *Faat Kiné*.

+ director's filmography

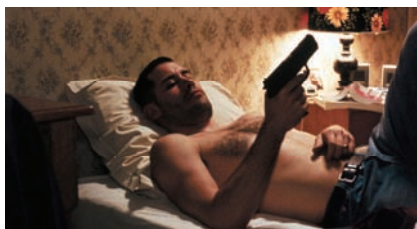
Moolaadé (2004)	Tauw (1969)
Faat Kiné (2000)	Le Mandat <i>Mandabi</i> (1968)
Guelwaar (1991)	Borom sarret (1966)
Le Camp de Thiaroyé (1988)	La Noire de ... (1966)
Ceddo (1977)	Niaye (1964)
Xala (1975)	L'Empire sonhrai (1963)
Emitai (1971)	

+ US press

"Here, without any compromise, Sembene captures and captivates, telling a tale of contemporary urgency and fable-like timelessness. *Moolaade* crystallizes the sympathies and strategies of a lifetime. It's a great work that opens up a whole culture for us."

Michael Wilmington, *Chicago Tribune*

Friday, March 24 - 7.30 PM



Jalil Lespert actor

As a teenager, Jalil Lespert accompanied his father, Jean, a theater actor, to a casting. They both landed roles, as the director, Laurent Cantet, was looking for 2 actors to play father and son in a short he was directing called *Jeux de plage* (1995). In 1999, Jalil Lespert was cast in his first full-length feature film, *Nos vies heureuses*, by Jacques Maillot. In 2000, thanks to Laurent Cantet once again, he is recognized for his role in *Ressources humaines* (*Human resources*), the director's first full-length feature film. For his role, he wins a Cesar for best upcoming actor.

Jalil Lespert has become one of the most popular actors of his generation. He prefers roles with character development over action shoots. He plays the sensual gardner in the film *Sade* by Benoit Jacquot. In *Vivre me tue* (*Life kills me*), directed by Jean-Pierre Sinapi, he plays a loser obsessed with popular culture. The master director Alain Resnais casts him as a gigolo in his 2003's operetta *Pas sur la bouche*. Not long afterwards, Lespert portrays a journalist inspired by Georges-Marc Benamou in the film *Le Promeneur du Champ de Mars*, the story of the last years of François Mitterrand, directed by Robert Guédiguian. In 2005, he also plays *Virgil*, a former boxer who makes his

comeback on the ring, in the first film of Mabrouk El Mechri.

Jalil Lespert has lately shot *Arménie* with Robert Guédiguian, which is planned to be released in France later this year.



Jalil Lespert in *Virgil*, dir. Mabrouk El Mechri.

+ Bérangère Allaux, actress

Plays the role of Julie Derouère, Antoine's wife in *Le Petit Lieutenant*, who does not want to follow him and move to Paris. She has recently been seen in *Pas sur la bouche*, the last musical "a la Feydeau" set in the 20's, from the famous director Alain Resnais (2003). She also played in 2002 with Patrice Leconte in *Rue des Plaisirs* (*Love street*).

+ David Schwartz, moderator

David Schwartz is the chief curator of Film at the Museum of the Moving Image. He is the moderator of the Museum's Pinewood Dialogues, an ongoing series of discussions with creative figures in film and television such as Martin Scorsese, John Malkovich, Tim Robbins and Jonathan Demme. Mr. Schwartz programmed the series Novel Ideas: Books into Films at the Jacob Burns Film Center. He was the program director of the Hamptons International Film Festival in 1998.

David Schwartz is teaching a course this semester at Purchase on the films of Stanley Kubrick.

LE PETIT LIEUTENANT

Friday, March 24 - 7.30 PM



Introduction by David Schwartz

Q&A with Jalil Lespert, actor

Buffet "après-théâtre" will follow

Director: Xavier Beauvois

Screenplay: Xavier Beauvois, Guillaume Breaud, Jean-Eric Troubat

Cast:

Caroline Vaudieu: Nathalie Baye

Antoine Derouère: Jalil Lespert

Solo: Roschdy Zem

Mallet: Antoine Chappey

Clermont: Jacques Perrin

Nicolas Morb : Xavier Beauvois

Julie Derou re: B ranger  Allaux

Running time: 110 min

Year of production: France - 2005

Rating: Not Rated (-14 in Europe)

Language: French

Distributor: Mars Distribution (France)

CIC BANK IS PROUD TO PRESENT THIS SCREENING OF LE PETIT LIEUTENANT

Cop Thriller

Antoine graduates from police academy and moves to Paris with dreams of fighting crime. His wife Julie refuses to leave their Normandy home, so during the week, he stays in rented digs in the city. The division's new chief inspector Captain Vaudieu, a recovering alcoholic who lost her own son years ago, takes him under her wing. Antoine fits easily into her team of work-hard, play-hard detectives. She involves him in the investigation of the murder of a homeless Pole. Then tragedy strikes and Vaudieu has to fight the old demons that she used to drown in drink.

+ awards

Cesar: Best actress Nathalie Baye (2006)

Label Europa Cinema: Xavier Beauvois (2005)

+ director's filmography

Le Petit Lieutenant (2005)

Selon Matthieu (To Mathieu) (2000)

N'oublie pas que tu vas mourir (Don't Forget You're Going to Die) (1995)

Nord (North) (1991)

+ French press

"...en misant sur l' nergie d'un vrai cin ma d'action, Beauvois parvient   remonter la pente tragique de son r cit, et atteint en bout de course une forme d'apaisement, presque une sagesse."

Louis Guichard, *T l rama*

"Mieux qu'un thriller, *Le Petit Lieutenant* est un implacable constat social, indispensable   une  poque o  l'image de la r alit  est de plus en plus flout e."

Alex Masson, *Score*

BREAKFAST - MEET THE DIRECTORS

Saturday, March 25 - 10:00 AM

If you would like to learn more about French cinema or to ask some questions to our special guests, we offer you the tremendous opportunity to meet our guests at our MEET THE DIRECTOR BREAKFAST.

David Schwartz, chief curator of Film at the Museum of the Moving Image, will be the moderator of this round table. He will explore the following subjects:



David Schwartz

- The current place of French cinema in the international film scene.
- What distinguishes French cinema from other national cinemas?
- What is the current market for French films in the United States?
- What is the place of Québec's cinema in North America and in France ?
- How is French cinema different than it was 10 or 20 years ago?
- What is the place of women in French film--both in front of and behind the camera?

We are welcoming guests both from the movie industry and from universities:

Diane Kurys, Director

Pascal Thomas, Director

Jalil Lespert, Actor

Anne-Marie Cadieux, Actress

Patrick Gimenez, Producer and Distributor

Anne Kern, Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies

Robert Kesten, Founder & Director of the Director's View Film Festival.

Masha Salazkina, Assistant Professor of Media Production

Marie Bonnel, Cultural Services of the French Embassy

Deanna Kamiel, Documentary filmmaker and Professor of Film

Ronnie Scharfman, Professor of French

Irina Patkanian, Assistant Professor of Media Production

JC DECAUX IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE MEET THE DIRECTOR BREAKFAST

Free, open to the public, seats are limited. No reservations. First-come, first-served basis.

Saturday, March 25 - 12:00 PM



Introduction by Masha Salazkina,
Assistant Professor of Slavic and Film
Studies, Colgate University

THIS MOVIE IS PART OF THE TOURNÉES PROGRAM

Theatrical Drama

Set in a beautiful country house in Brittany, Claude Miller adapts Anton Chekov's classic play *The Seagull*.

When the young and overly sensitive Julien screens his first art film for his mother, a famous actress, and her boyfriend Brice, an accomplished filmmaker, the delicate peace of the household begins to unravel. The sexy young Lili, who stars in Julien's film, dreams of becoming a famous actress like Mado, Julien's mother. Fascinated by Brice, she sets her mind on seducing him and he gladly falls prey to her charms.

+ US press

"... *La Petite Lili* pays off in a revelatory final act...[it] becomes a Pirandellian puzzle reminiscent of Truffaut's *Day for Night*. It argues that people, given the opportunity, move on and mature, their memories intact but their wounds still healing."

Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

Director: Claude Miller
Screenplay: Claude Miller & Julien Boivent
Based on Chekhov play's *The Seagull*

Cast:

Ludivine Sagnier: Lili
Nicole Garcia: Mado Marceaux
Bernard Giraudeau: Brice
Jean-Pierre Marielle: Simon Marceaux
Robinson Stévenin: Julien Marceaux:
Julie Depardieu: Jeanne-Marie

Running time: 104 min
Year of production: France - 2003
Rating: Not rated (brief nudity and sexual content)

Language: French
Distributor: First Run Features
www.firstrunfeatures.com

+ awards

César Awards (2004):
Best Young Actress (Julie Depardieu)

Chicago International Film Festival (2003):
Best Female Performance (Ludivine Sagnier)

+ Claude Miller, director

After graduation from the IDHEC film school in Paris in 1963, Claude Miller acted as assistant and supervisor for the crews of many notable directors of France's Nouvelle Vague, including Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut. Under Truffaut's aegis, Miller directed his first feature film in 1976, *The Best Way to Walk*. Miller completed several more features and script adaptations with the perceptible influence of his mentor, and after Truffaut's death in 1984, Miller completed the filming of Truffaut's half-completed *The Little Thief* in 1988. Miller has since come into his own, and has directed such critically-acclaimed films as *La Classe de Neige* (*The Class Trip*, 1998), and *Betty Fisher and other Stories* (2001). In 2000, Stephen Hopkins directed *Under Suspicion*, remake of Claude Miller's *Garde à vue*, (1981).

Saturday, March 25 - 2:30 PM



Anne-Marie Cadieux actress

In Montréal, Québec (Canada), Anne-Marie Cadieux is leading for many years an active career as an actor in theatre, television and film.

On stage, she has had unforgettable performances in several occasions and for extremely demanding parts, including Heiner Müller's *Quartett*, Bernard-Marie Koltès' *Combat de nègre et de chien*, as

well as such classics as *Marie Stuart*, *Electre*... She has won numerous awards in Québec.

One of Robert Lepage's loyal collaborators, she has toured with many of his international productions, most notably the river-play *The Seven Streams of the River Ota*. In 1994, Cadieux premiered on screen in Robert Lepage's *The Confessional*, in which she won public and critic recognition.

More recently, she appeared in *Seraphin, Heart of Stone* (*Séraphin, un homme et son péché*) by Charles Binamé, Sébastien Rose's *How my mother gave birth to me during menopause* (*Comment ma mère accoucha de moi durant sa ménopause*), and in Robert Lepage's latest film, *The far Side of the Moon* (*La Face cachée de la Lune*).

+ cinema in Québec

The history of cinema in Québec began on June 27, 1896 when the French Louis Minier inaugurated the first movie projection in North America in a Montreal theatre. However, it was the 1960s when a genuine Quebec cinema industry would emerge.

Few films were produced in Québec during this period, until Cinema-Vérité directors Michel Brault and Pierre Perrault made their debut. Other important filmmakers of the 60's include Gilles Groulx and Claude Jutra. That decade also heralded the beginnings of directors Gilles Carle and Denys Arcand.

In 1967, Québec's (religious) censorship bureau was replaced by a film ratings system administered by the province, and film distribution was now free of Catholic rigidity. In the 70's, Arcand and Carle found critical and some commercial success and in 1975, director Claude Jutra released one of the most critically praised Québécois film to date, *Mon oncle Antoine*.

The defeat of the referendum on Sover-

eighty-Association was a turning point in Québec history and culture. Denys Arcand made his most acclaimed picture, *Le confort et l'indifférence*, about the result of the referendum, followed by 1986's *Le Déclin de l'empire américain* and 1989's *Jésus de Montréal*.

After 1980, Québec filmmakers began to make movies that were no longer centered on Québec identity. Thanks to the consolidation of Québec's movie industry, independent films such as Denis Villeneuve's *Maelström*, and André Turpin's *Un crabe dans la tête* caught the media's attention. 2003 was a year of increased recognition with Arcand winning the foreign film Oscar for *Les Invasions barbares*, *Gaz bar blues* (Louis Bélanger), and *Seducing Doctor Lewis* (Jean-François Pouliot). This year, the film *C.R.A.Z.Y.* by Jean-Marc Vallée is gaining national and international critical acclaim.

Québec is also the home of the legendary Frédéric Back, master of animation and winner of innumerable awards, including an Oscar in 1982 for *Crac!*

LE BONHEUR, C'EST UNE CHANSON TRISTE

Saturday, March 25 - 2:30 PM



Introduction by Deanna Kamiel,
documentary filmmaker and Professor
of Film, Purchase

Q&A with Anne-Marie Cadieux, actress

Director: François Delisle
Screenplay: François Delisle

Cast :

Anne-Marie Cadieux: Anne-Marie
Miro: Stéphan
Frédéric de Grandpré: Pascal
Kent McQuaid: Mike
Luc Proulx: Zénon

Running time: 84 min

Year of production: Canada - 2004

Rating: not rated (PG)

Language: French

Distributor: Les films du 3 mars

www.f3m.ca

THIS MOVIE IS SPONSORED BY THE DELEGATION GENERALE DU QUÉBEC A NEW YORK

An existential quest

Imagine it is summer and that, for the last several days, Montreal has been swimming in sweltering heat and smog. Then imagine that you are downtown and a woman holding a small video camera approaches you. She asks you to participate in a one question survey. Although you are slightly wary of this proposal, you stop to listen. She asks you, "What does happiness mean to you?" and awaits your answer.

Go on! What are you waiting for?
Answer!

Happiness is a Sad Song tells the disjointed story of Anne-Marie, an unemployed publicist who rounds the pavement in Montreal with her minicam, collecting testimonials on the subject of happiness. It is happiness that she appears to seek - or understand - to the point of obsession.

Guided by serendipity and a series of surprising and varied encounters,

Anne-Marie dives head-first into her project. She meets a medley of characters whom she engages in engrossing, thought-provoking discussions about happiness. Anne-Marie moves from one character to the next, from one idea to the next in her survey, gathering reactions and challenging viewpoints that give her a chance to reflect upon her own life.

+ François Delisle, director

Born in Montreal in 1967, François Delisle has been directing films for over twelve years. After several short movies and a medium length film, *Beebe-Plain*, his first feature-length movie, *Ruth*, was released in 1994.

His films have been screened at several international festivals. Ever since he completed his university studies, Delisle has staunchly defended his independent and personal approach to the creation and production of his films. *Happiness is a sad song* is his second feature film.

Along with his film projects, François Delisle teaches cinematography, sharing his experiences with the next generation of Québécois filmmakers.

Sunday, March 26 - 2:30 PM

**+ quote**

"Directing ironic movies and comedies, it's about to feel the grotesque of the world – which is pretty much unrealistic. Logically we are attracted by figuring out some obscure power, by the charms of night and mystery. (...) One of the reasons that led me to adapt "Mon petit doigt..." is related to his unique atmosphere: behind the quietest country lands, behind the most friendly faces, horror can pop up. It's the principle of antagonism, what suspense is made of."

Pascal Thomas

+ casting

Pascal Thomas chose his cast carefully. Apart from the leading roles of Catherine Frot and André Dussolier, you can see stars from another time and place: great stars usually seen on stage (Francoise Seigner, Laurent Terzieff, Bernard Verley), an 80's sex-symbol (Valérie Kaprisky, unrecognizable as a bigot), two renowned Canadian actresses (Alexandra Stewart et Geneviève Bujold) and a very popular comic actor from the 70's (Maurice Risch). This is also the first time on big screen for Sarah Biasini, the Romy Schneider's daughter, who play the daughter of Catherine Frot. And the former CEO of Canal +, French cable TV, Pierre Lescure, appears here in his first real part as a police officer.

Pascal Thomas
director

In 1972, when Pascal Thomas produced his first feature *Les Zozos*, he wanted to make the point that "happy people have a story and that happiness is worth telling". *Les Zozos* is a semi - autobiographical story in which Thomas recounts with tenderness and humor the amorous misadventures of high school students. The same feeling of charm and nostalgia appears again in his following films, *Pleure pas la bouche pleine* (1973) and *Le chaud lapin* (1974). With the help of actors such as Daniel Ceccaldi and Bernard Menez, Thomas directed in the 70's comedies with impeccable dialogues and warm portrayals of French provincial life - not far from Maurice Pialat and Jacques Rozier and their new realistic movies. After *Celles qu'on n'a pas eues*, in 1981, the director took a 9 year sabbatical and focused his efforts and talents in advertising. In 1989 he returned to directing with *Les maris, les femmes, les amants*, a lighthearted, summer film. Two years later he directed *La Pagaille* after which Pascal Thomas disappeared again from the directing scene until *La Dilettante*. *La Dilettante* became a sleeper hit in 1999, with Catherine Frot playing the part of an independent and capricious bourgeois. His next film, *Mercredi folle journée*, is a poetic comedy in which the heroes are children. With *Mon petit doigt m'a dit*, he explores his love of literature by adapting an Agatha Christie thriller, but with a personal tone. In his films, Thomas displays his unusual style and skill in portraying colorful, nuanced characters.

Saturday, March 25 - 12:00 PM



Introduction by Masha Salazkina,
Assistant Professor of Slavic and Film
Studies, Colgate University

THIS MOVIE IS PART OF THE TOURNÉES PROGRAM

Theatrical Drama

Set in a beautiful country house in Brittany, Claude Miller adapts Anton Chekov's classic play *The Seagull*.

When the young and overly sensitive Julien screens his first art film for his mother, a famous actress, and her boyfriend Brice, an accomplished filmmaker, the delicate peace of the household begins to unravel. The sexy young Lili, who stars in Julien's film, dreams of becoming a famous actress like Mado, Julien's mother. Fascinated by Brice, she sets her mind on seducing him and he gladly falls prey to her charms.

+ US press

"... *La Petite Lili* pays off in a revelatory final act...[it] becomes a Pirandellian puzzle reminiscent of Truffaut's *Day for Night*. It argues that people, given the opportunity, move on and mature, their memories intact but their wounds still healing."

Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

Director: Claude Miller
Screenplay: Claude Miller & Julien Boivent
Based on Chekhov play's *The Seagull*

Cast:

Ludivine Sagnier: Lili
Nicole Garcia: Mado Marceaux
Bernard Giraudeau: Brice
Jean-Pierre Marielle: Simon Marceaux
Robinson Stévenin: Julien Marceaux
Julie Depardieu: Jeanne-Marie

Running time: 104 min
Year of production: France - 2003
Rating: Not rated (brief nudity and sexual content)

Language: French
Distributor: First Run Features
www.firstrunfeatures.com

+ awards

César Awards (2004):
Best Young Actress (Julie Depardieu)

Chicago International Film Festival (2003):
Best Female Performance (Ludivine Sagnier)

+ Claude Miller, director

After graduation from the IDHEC film school in Paris in 1963, Claude Miller acted as assistant and supervisor for the crews of many notable directors of France's Nouvelle Vague, including Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut. Under Truffaut's aegis, Miller directed his first feature film in 1976, *The Best Way to Walk*. Miller completed several more features and script adaptations with the perceptible influence of his mentor, and after Truffaut's death in 1984, Miller completed the filming of Truffaut's half-completed *The Little Thief* in 1988. Miller has since come into his own, and has directed such critically-acclaimed films as *La Classe de Neige* (*The Class Trip*, 1998), and *Betty Fisher and other Stories* (2001). In 2000, Stephen Hopkins directed *Under Suspicion*, remake of Claude Miller's *Garde à vue*, (1981).

Saturday, March 25 - 2:30 PM



Anne-Marie Cadieux
actress

In Montréal, Québec (Canada), Anne-Marie Cadieux is leading for many years an active career as an actor in theatre, television and film.

On stage, she has had unforgettable performances in several occasions and for extremely demanding parts, including Heiner Müller's *Quartett*, Bernard-Marie Koltès' *Combat de nègre et de chien*, as

+ cinema in Québec

The history of cinema in Québec began on June 27, 1896 when the French Louis Minier inaugurated the first movie projection in North America in a Montreal theatre. However, it was the 1960s when a genuine Quebec cinema industry would emerge.

Few films were produced in Québec during this period, until Cinema-Vérité directors Michel Brault and Pierre Perrault made their debut. Other important filmmakers of the 60's include Gilles Groulx and Claude Jutra. That decade also heralded the beginnings of directors Gilles Carle and Denys Arcand.

In 1967, Québec's (religious) censorship bureau was replaced by a film ratings system administered by the province, and film distribution was now free of Catholic rigidity. In the 70's, Arcand and Carle found critical and some commercial success and in 1975, director Claude Jutra released one of the most critically praised Québécois film to date, *Mon oncle Antoine*.

The defeat of the referendum on Sover-

well as such classics as *Marie Stuart, Electre...* She has won numerous awards in Québec.

One of Robert Lepage's loyal collaborators, she has toured with many of his international productions, most notably the river-play *The Seven Streams of the River Ota*. In 1994, *Cadieux* premiered on screen in Robert Lepage's *The Confessional*, in which she won public and critic recognition.

More recently, she appeared in *Seraphin, Heart of Stone (Séraphin, un homme et son péché)* by Charles Binamé, Sébastien Rose's *How my mother gave birth to me during menopause (Comment ma mère accoucha de moi durant sa ménopause)*, and in Robert Lepage's latest film, *The far Side of the Moon (La Face cachée de la Lune)*.

eighty-Association was a turning point in Québec history and culture. Denys Arcand made his most acclaimed picture, *Le confort et l'indifférence*, about the result of the referendum, followed by 1986's *Le Déclin de l'empire américain* and 1989's *Jésus de Montréal*.

After 1980, Québec filmmakers began to make movies that were no longer centered on Québec identity. Thanks to the consolidation of Québec's movie industry, independent films such as Denis Villeneuve's *Maelström*, and André Turpin's *Un crabe dans la tête* caught the media's attention. 2003 was a year of increased recognition with Arcand winning the foreign film Oscar for *Les Invasions barbares*, *Gaz bar blues* (Louis Bélanger), and *Seducing Doctor Lewis* (Jean-François Pouliot). This year, the film *C.R.A.Z.Y.* by Jean-Marc Vallée is gaining national and international critical acclaim.

Québec is also the home of the legendary Frédéric Back, master of animation and winner of innumerable awards, including an Oscar in 1982 for *Crac!*

Sunday, March 26 - 12:00 PM

Director: Eléonore Faucher
Screenplay: Eléonore Faucher and Gaëlle Macé

Cast:
Lola Neymark: Claire
Mme Melikian: Ariane Ascaride
Marie Felix: Lucile
Thomas Laroppe: Guillaume
Arthur Quehen: Thomas

Running time: 88 min
Year of production: France - 2004
Rating: Not rated (general public)

Language: French
Distributor: New Yorker Films
www.newyorkerfilms.com

Drama

Since she moved from her parents' farm, seventeen-year-old Claire Moutiers is doing quite well. A cashier's job helps pay the bills and leaves her enough time to pursue her passion: embroidery. She exchanges the cabbage heads she steals from her parents' garden with the precious rabbit skins she needs for her art. Her new life is jeopardized though when she learns that she is pregnant. Claire quits her job and intends to give birth in secret. She learns that her best friend's brother recently had a motorcycle accident that killed the son of Mrs. Melikian, a designer of haute couture embroideries. Mrs. Melikian hires Claire and is quick to discover that Claire is pregnant. Day by day, stitch by stitch, Claire's belly grows and the friendship between the two women strengthens, creating a bond between them.

The direction, photography, sound and music contribute to the lyricism and dream-like quality of Eléonore Faucher's first feature film.



Introduction by Tristane Theisen, Professional translator and graduate in comparative literature, The Sorbonne

THIS MOVIE IS PART OF THE TOURNÉES PROGRAM

+ awards

Cannes Film Festival (2004): Critics Week Grand Prix, SACD's Screenwriters Award

Deauville Film Festival (2004): Best French script

French Syndicate of cinema critics (SACD) (2005): Best first film Eléonore Faucher

+ US press

"What counts in *Sequins* isn't the narrative but the feelings underneath it - made more poignant by the beautiful images and Michael Galasso's stirring score. This is about the quiet desperation of these characters' lives, how they can slip below the surface with barely a ripple. But it's also about how people can resurface."

Desson Thomson, *Washington Post*

"*Sequins* hinges on its performances and newcomer Neymark is a marvel of quiet intelligence, endowing Claire with a complex mix of virginal purity and hormonal rage."

David NG, *The Village Voice*

Saturday, March 25 - 5:00 PM



Diane Kurys director

After her Russian immigrant parents' divorce, Diane Kurys settled in Paris with her mother and her sister. She started a career as an actress, playing a number of roles in the theater and with the well-known Compagnie Renaud-Barrault. In 1976, she had a small role in the Federico Fellini movie *Casanova*.

In 1977, she decided to try her hand at directing with *Diabolo menthe*, an autobiography of adolescence in which she also wrote the script. The film was well received and won the Prix Louis Delluc. In *Cocktail Molotov*, Diane Kurys tells again a semi-autobiographical story of young adults in 1968. In *Coup de foudre*, she relates the unusual friendship between two women during the 50's and in *La Baule-les-Pins*, she recalls a family who destroys itself during a summer vacation.

Diane Kurys continues to direct more films about tumultuous and tragic relationships between couples: *Après l'amour* (1992), *A la folie* (1994) and *Les Enfants du siècle* with Juliette Binoche and Benoit Magimel in the roles of George Sand and Alfred de Musset. Later she returned to comedy with *Je reste* and *L'anniversaire*.

+ question to Diane Kurys

Why did you decide to participate in Focus on French Cinema sponsored by the Alliance Française of Greenwich?

I have a long lasting experience with the USA, and more specially with NYC, which I love. Very few French productions manage to get visibility on this side of the Atlantic, and Focus on French Cinema is a great opportunity to show our work in America. It is a young and fresh event managed by passionate people and it would be a shame for me not to support it.

+ Michèle Laroque

Born in Nice to a French father and a Romanian mother (who was a dancer), Laroque grew up taking lessons in sports, piano, singing, and theater.

She trained with teachers from La Comédie-Française, the legendary French institution. She acted in theatre for seven years, before French director Patrice Leconte noticed her on the stage and hired her for her cinema debut in *Le Mari de la Coiffeuse* (1990).

Today, Laroque is a top actress in France, best known for her comedic talents, though she has also tackled dramatic roles. To audiences in the United States, she is best known for her portrayal of the mother in Belgian director Alain Berliner's Oscar-nominated *Ma Vie en Rose* (*My Life in Pink*).

Michèle Laroque spends valuable time on this side of the Atlantic, she lives both in Paris and in Los Angeles.



Saturday, March 25 - 5:00 PM

Director: Diane Kurys

Screenplay: Diane Kurys, Daniel Saint-Hamont

Cast :

Lambert Wilson: Raphaël

Michèle Laroque: Élisabeth

Jean-Hugues Anglade: Alberto

Pierre Palmade: Jacques Leroy

Antoine Duléry: Charlie

Running time: 100 min

Year of production: France - 2005

Rating: not rated (- 12)

Language: French

Distributor: Mars distribution



(US PREMIERE)

Introduction by Iris Cahn, film editor,
Professor of Film and Chair of The Film
Program, Purchase College

Q&A with Diane Kurys, director

LVMH IS PROUD TO PRESENT THIS SCREENING OF L'ANNIVERSAIRE

Buddy movie

Raphaël Kessler is a successful reality TV producer. After reading his brother Alberto's autobiographical book in which he is accused of blatant cynicism and treason, he decides to invite him and his gang of old friends to his beautiful villa in Marrakech, Morocco. The official reason for the celebration - his 45th birthday - is only a pretext.

His friends first met in the specific climate in which socialist Francois Mitterrand rose to power and first opened the government-controlled airwaves, to the benefit of the major players in pirate radio in the late 1970's and early 1980's. But their forty something life is at times far from their twenty year old idealism. And when Raphaël reveals he betrayed them two decades before, the party will turn sour...

Kurys' talent for exploring the boundaries of relationship is apparent in *L'Anniversaire*: transporting as well as thought-provoking, this is an entertaining film for adults that leaves

one feeling good about life, family and enduring friendships.

The score consists of a range of music from the 80's, including Murray head, Sting, Blondie, Rita Mitsouko, the Buggles...

+ director's filmography

L'Anniversaire (2005)

Je reste! (2003)

Les Enfants du siècle (The Children of the Century) (1999)

À la folie (Six Days, Six Nights) (1994)

Après l'amour (Love After Love) (1992)

La Baule-Iles-Pins (C'est la vie) (1990)

Un homme amoureux (A Man in Love) (1987)

Coup de foudre (At First Sight) (1983)

Cocktail Molotov (1980)

Diabolo menthe (Peppermint Soda) (1977)

Saturday, March 25 - 8:00 PM



Q&A with Anne Kern, Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies, Purchase

Director: Arnaud Desplechin
Screenplay: Roger Bohbot, Arnaud Desplechin

Cast :
 Emmanuelle Devos: Nora Cotterelle
 Mathieu Amalric: Ismaël Vuillard
 Catherine Deneuve: Mme Vasset
 Maurice Garrel: Louis Jenessens
 Nathalie Boutefeu: Chloé Jenessens

Running time: 150 min
Year of production: France - 2004
Rating: not rated (general public)

Language: French
 Distributor: Wellspring media

VAN CLEEF AND ARPELS IS PROUD TO PRESENT THIS SCREENING OF ROIS ET REINE

Psycho (analytic) drama

Nora, the manager of a Parisian art gallery, has her life interrupted when her father, Louis, is diagnosed with a terminal disease. Meanwhile, Nora's former husband, a tax-burdened intellectual violinist named Ismaël, is carted off to a mental institution. Once there, he soon stops trying to figure out who arranged his stay and starts sexing up another, more fragile patient.

With her father dying and still reeling from her recent divorce, Nora realizes that her son, whose father passed away before his birth, could be left alone. She goes to the hospital and asks Ismaël, who raised the child, to adopt him.

+ awards

Cesar 2005: best actor Mathieu Amalric
 Louis Delluc Prize 2004: Arnaud Desplechin
 French syndicate of cinema critique 2005: critic award Arnaud Desplechin

+ director's filmography

Rois et reine (Kings and Queen) (2004)
Léo, en jouant 'Dans la compagnie des hommes' (*In the Company of Men*) (2003)
Esther Kahn (2000)
Comment je me suis disputé... ou ma vie sexuelle (My Sex Life... or How I Got Into an Argument) (1996)
La Sentinelle (The Sentinel) (1992)
La Vie des morts (1991)

+ US press

"...I might as well admit that the story of *Rois et reine*, one of the most brilliant films of recent years, can't be synopsized and that much of the interest of the film lies not just in trying to keep up with it but in trying to formulate it and recount it to yourself as you watch."

Chris Fujiwara, *The Boston Phoenix*

"The film is a soap opera that through layering and texture is made into something rich, strange, and unforgettable."
 Wesley Morris, *Boston Globe*

"It's a puzzle of a film, but not the kind that intimidates you with inscrutability so much as one that beckons you into its antic eccentricity."
 Desson Thomson, *Washington Post*

Sunday, March 26 - 12:00 PM

Director: Eléonore Faucher**Screenplay:** Eléonore Faucher and Gaëlle Macé**Cast:**

Lola Neymark: Claire

Mme Melikian: Ariane Ascaride

Marie Felix: Lucile

Thomas Laroppe: Guillaume

Arthur Quehen: Thomas

Running time: 88 min*Year of production:* France - 2004*Rating:* Not rated (general public)

Language: French

Distributor: New Yorker Films

www.newyorkerfilms.com

Drama

Since she moved from her parents' farm, seventeen-year-old Claire Moutiers is doing quite well. A cashier's job helps pay the bills and leaves her enough time to pursue her passion: embroidery. She exchanges the cabbage heads she steals from her parents' garden with the precious rabbit skins she needs for her art. Her new life is jeopardized though when she learns that she is pregnant. Claire quits her job and intends to give birth in secret. She learns that her best friend's brother recently had a motorcycle accident that killed the son of Mrs. Melikian, a designer of haute couture embroideries. Mrs. Melikian hires Claire and is quick to discover that Claire is pregnant. Day by day, stitch by stitch, Claire's belly grows and the friendship between the two women strengthens, creating a bond between them.

The direction, photography, sound and music contribute to the lyricism and dream-like quality of Eléonore Faucher's first feature film.



Introduction by Tristane Theisen,
Professional translator and graduate in
comparative literature, The Sorbonne

THIS MOVIE IS PART OF THE TOURNÉES PROGRAM

+ awards

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Grand Prix, SACD's Screenwriters Award

Deauville Film Festival (2004): Best French
script

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(2005): Best first film Eléonore Faucher

+ US press

"What counts in *Sequins* isn't the narrative but the feelings underneath it - made more poignant by the beautiful images and Michael Galasso's stirring score. This is about the quiet desperation of these characters' lives, how they can slip below the surface with barely a ripple. But it's also about how people can resurface."

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"*Sequins* hinges on its performances and newcomer Neymark is a marvel of quiet intelligence, endowing Claire with a complex mix of virginal purity and hormonal rage."

David NG, *The Village Voice*

Sunday, March 26 - 2:30 PM



Pascal Thomas director

In 1972, when Pascal Thomas produced his first feature *Les Zozos*, he wanted to make the point that "happy people have a story and that happiness is worth telling". *Les Zozos* is a semi - autobiographical story in which Thomas recounts with tenderness and humor the amorous misadventures of high school students. The same feeling of charm and nostalgia appears again in his following films, *Pleure pas la bouche pleine* (1973) and *Le chaud lapin* (1974). With the help of actors such as Daniel Ceccaldi and Bernard Menez, Thomas directed in the 70's comedies with impeccable dialogues and warm portrayals of French provincial life - not far from Maurice Pialat and Jacques Rozier and their new realistic movies. After *Celles qu'on n'a pas eues*, in 1981, the director took a 9 year sabbatical and focused his efforts and talents in advertising. In 1989 he returned to directing with *Les maris, les femmes, les amants*, a lighthearted, summer film. Two years later he directed *La Pagaille* after which Pascal Thomas disappeared again from the directing scene until *La Dilettante*. *La Dilettante* became a sleeper hit in 1999, with Catherine Frot playing the part of an independent and capricious bourgeois. His next film, *Mercredi folle journée*, is a poetic comedy in which the heroes are children. With *Mon petit doigt m'a dit*, he explores his love of literature by adapting an Agatha Christie thriller, but with a personal tone. In his films, Thomas displays his unusual style and skill in portraying colorful, nuanced characters.

+ quote

"Directing ironic movies and comedies, it's about to feel the grotesque of the world – which is pretty much unrealistic. Logically we are attracted by figuring out some obscure power, by the charms of night and mystery. (...) One of the reasons that led me to adapt "Mon petit doigt..." is related to his unique atmosphere: behind the quietest country lands, behind the most friendly faces, horror can pop up. It's the principle of antagonism, what suspense is made of ." Pascal Thomas

+ casting

Pascal Thomas chose his cast carefully. Apart from the leading roles of Catherine Frot and André Dussolier, you can see stars from another time and place: great stars usually seen on stage (Francoise Seigner, Laurent Terzieff, Bernard Verley), an 80's sex-symbol (Valérie Kaprisky, unrecognizable as a bigot), two renowned canadian actresses (Alexandra Stewart et Geneviève Bujold) and a very popular comic actor from the 70's (Maurice Risch). This is also the first time on big screen for Sarah Biasini, the Romy Schneider's daughter, who play the daughter of Catherine Frot. And the former CEO of Canal +, French cable TV, Pierre Lescure, appears here in his first real part as a police officer.

MON PETIT DOIGT M'A DIT

Sunday, March 26 - 2:30 PM

Director: Pascal Thomas
Screenplay: Pascal Thomas, Nathalie Lafauri, François Caviglioli
Based on a novel by Agatha Christie

Cast:
Catherine Frot: Prudence Beresford
André Dussollier: Bélisaire Beresford
Geneviève Bujold: Rose Evangelista
Laurent Terzieff: Maître Anet
Valérie Kaprisky: Melle Blayes

Running time: 105 min
Year of production: France - 2004
Rating: Not rated (general public)

Language: French
Distributor: UGC International



Introduction by Ronnie Scharfman,
Professor of French, Purchase College

Q&A with Pascal Thomas, director

(US PREMIERE)

CALYON BANK IS PROUD TO PRESENT THIS SCREENING OF MON PETIT DOIGT M'A DIT

Mystery

An old woman disappears. A village hiding a well kept secret beneath the gossips of the town. Graves you shouldn't look at, a missed doll that comes back from the past, a frightening notary who is wearing the mask of death... And when several pensioners of an old people's home start dying mysteriously, Prudence and Belisaire, with patience and humour, are only too happy to follow the trail of adventure to discover the stunning truth. Sounds like a board game? Well it could be, since it is adapted from master of English mystery Agatha Christie's *By the Pricking of My Thumbs*, transposed in Switzerland

Since the death of Agatha Christie, his legatee required the 1920's as the setting of the story - even for a movie adaptation - which had curb French directors. Now that this constraint has been lifted, Pascal Thomas is the first to take advantage of it. And you can bet he won't be the last.

+ director's filmography

Mon petit doigt m'a dit... (2005)
Mercredi, folle journée! (Day off) (2001)
La Dilettante (1999)
La Pagaille (1991)
Les Maris, les femmes, les amants (1989)
Celles qu'on n'a pas eues (1981)
Confidences pour confidences (Heart to heart) (1979)
Un oursin dans la poche (1977)
La Surprise du chef (1976)
Le Chaud lapin (The Hot Rabbit) (1974)
Pleure pas la bouche pleine (Don't cry with your Mouth Full) (1973)
Les Zozos (1973)

+ French press

"Le charme de ce nouvel opus [de Pascal Thomas] vient, comme souvent, du plaisir qu'il a à explorer les ressources du langage."
Michel Ciment, *Positif*

"La parodie est sympathique quand Catherine Frot mime les enquêtrices de salon [...] Mais c'est quand Pascal Thomas opère de malicieux glissements entre la phrase et l'image qu'il ravit."
Jean-Luc Douin, *Le Monde*

LES SOEURS FÂCHÉES ME AND MY SISTER

Sunday, March 26 - 2:30 PM



Introduction by Irina Patkanian,
Associate Professor of Media
Production, Brooklyn College, CUNY

Family comedy-drama

Martine (Isabelle Huppert) lives a comfortable bourgeois existence in Paris - having married 'up' in the world to escape her working class upbringing. She has no interest in her husband Pierre (Francois Berleand) - so long as he pays for her lifestyle. Her younger sister Louise (Catherine Frot), however, never left the provinces, and works as a beautician in Le Mans. Louise has aspirations of her

+ US press

"This enjoyably bitchy comedy about two mis-matched sisters offers great roles for both Isabelle Huppert and Catherine Frot, and the actresses miss none of the opportunities provided."
David Stratton, *ABC*

"Light comedy-drama about a bourgeois Parisienne embarrassed by a visit from her ditzy sis from the sticks avoids both knockabout humor and over-heavy bathos for 90 minutes of easy, thesp-driven entertainment."
Derek Elley, *Variety*

Director: Alexandra Leclère
Screenplay: Alexandra Leclère

Cast :

Isabelle Huppert: Martine Demouthy
Catherine Frot: Louise Mollet
François Berléand: Pierre Demouthy
Brigitte Catillon: Sophie
Michel Vuillermoz: Richard
Christiane Millet: Géraldine
Rose Thiéry: Fernanda, la bonne / the maid
Bruno Chiche: Charles

Running time: 93 min
Year of production: France - 2004
Rating: not rated (-12 in Europe)

Language: French
Distributor: Pan Européenne distribution

own: she wants to become a writer, and after sending a manuscript to a publisher in Paris, she's soon invited to the city for a Monday appointment. To Martine's exasperated horror, Louise is coming to stay with her for the weekend!

In the presence of guests, Louise's provincial openness quickly becomes an embarrassment for her elegant and uptight sister - who has done her very best to conceal and erase her checkered past. When alone, however, they slowly begin to reconnect. But social catastrophe looms - Martine has invited her snappy friend Sophie (Brigitte Catillon) and her husband over for dinner - and the unwitting Louise, clearly, will be out of her depth...

This stylish comedy from first time writer-director Alexandra Leclère is packed with plenty of verbal fireworks and provides a great platform for its elegant cast. The scene is set for two fabulous actresses to transport these lively characters into the hearts of the audience.

Sunday, March 26 - 7.30 PM

Director: Patrice Leconte

Screenplay: Jérôme Tonnerre

Cast:

Sandrine Bonnaire: Anna

Fabrice Luchini: William

Michel Duchaussoy: Monnier

Anne Brochet: Jeanne

Gilbert Melki: Marc

Laurent Gamelon: Luc

Urbain Cancelier: Chatel

Running time: 104 min

Year of production: France - 2004

Rating: Restricted (sexual dialogue)

Distributor: Swank Motion Pictures

www.swank.com

Drama

Anna has an appointment to meet with Dr. Monnier, a psychiatrist, for the first time. She accidentally knocks on the wrong door and ends up confessing her marriage problems to William Faber, a tax accountant. Surprised by her mistake, unsettled by her distress and somewhat excited by this unexpected situation, William does not have the courage to tell her that he is not an analyst. As the two begin to meet on a regular basis, a strange ritual develops between them. Anna is comforted by these regular visits and by William's keen ability to listen to her. William is deeply moved by her confessions and fascinated by the secrets that no one else has ever heard. Incapable of telling Anna the truth, he is compelled to consult Dr. Monnier, as Anna and William become attracted to each other.

+ US press

"The suspenseful, sophisticated spirit of Alfred Hitchcock hovers benevolently over *Intimate Strangers*, a stylish psychosexual thriller..."

Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*



Introduction and Q&A to follow the film with Dr. Joseph Youngerman, psychoanalyst and psychiatrist

THIS MOVIE IS PART OF THE TOURNÉES PROGRAM

+ Patrice Leconte, director



Know in the 80's as the Splendid's company filmmaker, Leconte directed *Les Bronzés*, followed promptly by *Viens chez moi j'habite chez une copine* and *Circulez y'a rien à voir*. The two latter films were huge

popular successes, and Patrice Leconte moved to intimate and psychological movies. In 1989, *Monsieur Hire*, based on a Georges Simenon's novel, (with Michel Blanc and Sandrine Bonnaire), gave him unexpected critical acclaim. In 1991, *Ridicule*, a master piece about the inner workings of the royal court in Louis XVI's Versailles, was nominated for a Best Foreign Film Oscar. This cemented his reputation as a fixture of contemporary French Cinema. Since then, he alternates intimate films and blockbusters, with various achievement. His last three movies to date include *L'Homme du Train* (*Man on the Train*, 2002) with Jean Rochefort and Johnny Hallyday, and *Confidences trop intimes* (*Intimate Strangers*), which both continue to display fortuitous and unsettling face to face, and *Les Bronzés 3* in 2006 marks his return to the genre of popular comedy.

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Brings French Cinema to our community. Focus on French Cinema exposes the community to the vitality of the French film industry by screening films not usually available in the US.

Showcases the amazing French cultural diversity beyond the usual preconceived image. The French film festival promotes French films as an artistic entertainment and powerful storytelling tool.

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Check the website during the year to updated nformation about Focus on French Cinema 2007.

On site

Additional tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center.

Festival T-Shirts will be on sale, \$20.

Sandwiches from Méli-Mélo will be sold on site from 11:30 AM.

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Take the Henry Hudson Parkway North to The Cross County Parkway then to The Hutchinson River Parkway North. Follow the Hutch north to exit 28. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto Lincoln Avenue. After about 1 Mile, take a right onto Anderson Hill Road. Take a left at the next light onto the campus of Purchase College.

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