



NEWS RELEASE

AFI AT ARCLIGHT CONTINUES YEAR-LONG FILM PROGRAM WITH FRENCH FILM SERIES

LOS ANGELES, MARCH 6, 2003—The American Film Institute (AFI) announced today a new weekly film series FRENCH CINEMA REVIEW (LA REVUE FRANCAISE DE CINEMA) as part of its year-round program, AFI at Arclight Hollywood.

FRENCH CINEMA REVIEW, a two-month series, will run through Wednesday, April 9, 2003. It features films rarely screened outside of France and offers two filmmaker discussions led by film scholar Barry Sabath, who will host the entire series by offering an introduction to each of the films. The series is presented in cooperation with the French Ministry of Culture and the French Embassy.

The series launched on March 5th with THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF (LE PACTE DES LOUPS), directed by Christophe Gans. Lead actor Marc Dacascos described the film as a combination of period costume drama, science fiction, thriller and martial arts set against the backdrop of Revolution between 1764 and 1767.

Upcoming Screenings

MARCH 12, 2003—IN PRAISE OF LOVE (ELOGE DE L'AMOUR) is directed by Jean-Luc Godard. Throughout this work, Godard scatters enigmatic phrases and arresting images. Godard also poses questions he does not intend to answer. In the film, Edgar is preparing a project with love as the theme, where he will follow couples of three ages— young, midlife and mature—through four stages of love: meeting, passion, separation and reconciliation. But, what Edgar does not yet know is the form his project should take, whether it be film, play, novel or opera. Godard's provocations attest to his faith in cinema as an engine of thought and change.

MARCH 19, 2003—8 WOMEN (8 FEMMES), directed by Francois Ozon is France's submission for the 2002 Best Foreign Language Academy Award . This part-satire, part-comedy, part -musical and part-murder mystery offers the viewer just about every type of pleasure imaginable, guilty or otherwise. After the man of the house is stabbed, three generations of women from one family (along with a couple of servants) are left to decipher a "whodunit" mystery. With a cast that reads like a who's-who of French cinema, Francois Ozon combines genres to create a Technicolor treat that feels like a flash back to the fifties.

MARCH 26, 2003—TIME OUT (L'EMPLOI DU TEMPS) is directed by Laurent Cantet.

From the moment he's fired, Vincent begins to construct a double life. Unable to tell his family or friends of his humiliation, he continues to "go to work," inventing meetings, projects and even business trips. However, when a former co-worker reveals Vincent's real situation, the ensuing confrontation brings down the lifestyle and identity Vincent labored to build. (The special guest for the film discussion immediately after the screening is to be announced.)

APRIL 4, 2003—AMELIE (LA FABULEUX DESTIN D'AMELIE POULAIN), directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet was nominated for the 2001 Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award . This bittersweet romantic comedy concerns the altruistic deeds of a lonely ingénue in Montmartre who discovers a knack for creatively altering other people's lives. When Amelie returns a tin box of boyhood mementos to its grown-up owner, she makes it her mission to secretly help the lonely and unhappy, (as well as teach the spiteful a lesson) after witnessing the middle-aged man's poignant reaction to finding his box.

CLOSING NIGHT: APRIL 9, 2003—THE PIANO TEACHER (LA PIANISTE) is directed by Michael Haneke. Erika Kohut, a piano instructor and Schubert scholar at the Vienna Conservatory, finds release only through physical and psychological self-mutilation until a young, handsome student takes control. Shot in an almost detached, clinical style, the film is calculated to make the viewer squirm in the face of such malevolent and neurotic behavior. The novel's author, Elfriede Jelinek, says her story shows the price women paid for Austria's proud classical music heritage while it criticizes the crippling pressure exerted on women who transgress their socially proscribed roles.

The series will be hosted by Barry Sabath, senior lecturer for AFI, who holds an MA and Ph.D in Cinema Studies from New York University. As head of the feature film division of Robin and Marsha Williams' Blue Wolf Productions (MRS. DOUBTFIRE, PATCH ADAMS, JAKOB THE LIAR), Sabath supervised the development of projects by writers Eric Roth, Gus Van Sant, James V. Hart, Patti Sullivan, Charles Leavitt and David Hwang. As Senior Vice President of Production for Paul Schiff Productions, he oversaw MY COUSIN VINNY, directed by Jonathan Lynn; and co-produced GHOST IN THE MACHINE and PCU. As an executive at Columbia Pictures, Sabath supervised over 30 projects in development. He was the executive in charge of Joel Schumacher's FLATLINERS and Jonathan Kaplan's IMMEDIATE FAMILY. Sabath is a resident scholar and cinema historian of French Film. He brings his expertise and experience to help educate and illuminate French Cinema.

Time/Location:

Each program will begin at 7:30 pm. ArcLight Hollywood is located at 6360 W. Sunset Boulevard (at Ivar), Hollywood, CA.

Tickets:

Tickets are sold through ArcLight. Individual screenings are \$11 for the general public and \$10 for ArcLight, AFI and Skirball members. Tickets to the entire series

can be purchased by calling ArcLight directly at 323.464.4226, on-line at www.arclightcinemas.com, or by visiting the Arclight boxoffice.

About AFI at ArcLight:

AFI hosts a variety of international film programs at the ArcLight Hollywood theatres. Among them have been Latin Cinema Milestones, The Music Documentary Series, Academy-Award Nominated Shorts and the AFI International Film Festival. Ongoing premieres and special events are part of the ever-expanding line-up of unique film programs.

ArcLight Hollywood provides an unrivaled movie-going experience featuring diverse international cinema programs combined with unprecedented technology, amenities and comfort.

About AFI:

AFI is the preeminent organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers, coordinates nationwide film preservation efforts and explores new technologies in moviemaking. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST); the AFI National Film Theater at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland (opening April 11, 2003); and the AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. AFI's annual almanac for the 21st century, **AFI AWARDS**, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year. In addition, **AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies, 100 Stars, 100 Laughs, 100 Thrills, 100 Passions and 100 Heroes & Villains** (airing June 2003) have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com

###

CONTACT:

Liza deVilla, American Film Institute, 323.856.7896, ldevilla@AFI.com