



PRESS STORIES

Publication: Greenwich Citizen
Date: March 7, 2008
Title: Festival to "Focus on French Cinema"

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The Alliance Francaise of Greenwich, Purchase College and French Feeling Films kick-off the "Focus on French Cinema" film festival March 28 with an evening hosted by David Schwartz, chief curator of the Museum of the Modern Image.

Following Schwartz's presentation will be an audience talk-back featuring festival actors and directors, and a gala "après-theatre" buffet dinner offering an assortment of French delicacies.

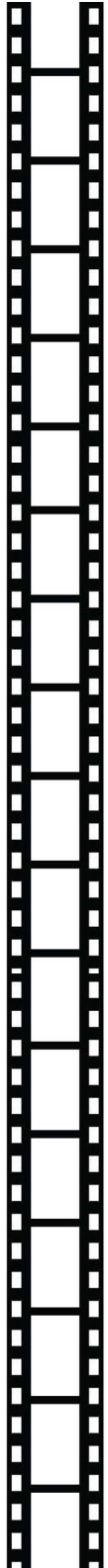
Once again, the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College will host the weekend festival of 12 contemporary and cutting edge films. On Friday afternoon March 28, the festival will feature two films specifically designated for students: Laurent Tirard's "Moliere" with Romain Duris and Ludivine Sagnier, and "Les Amities Malefiques" (Poison Friends), directed by Emmanuel Bourdieu with Malik Zidi, winner of the Cesar for most promising actor in 2007.

On Saturday morning, March 29, a "Meet the Director" breakfast will provide the community an opportunity to informally meet and talk with participating actors and directors. "L'ivresse De Pouvoir" (Comedy of Power), the legendary director Claude Chabrol's story of a 1990's political scandal in France starring internationally acclaimed actress Isabelle Huppert, will follow.

Other films throughout the day will include "Bluff," a U.S. premiere comedy from Quebec, and two films starring the award-winning French actor Jean Dujardin. The first, "99 Francs" (\$9.99), directed by Jan Kounen and based on the best-selling book by Frederic Beigbeder, is a dark satire of the advertising industry. The second is the New York premiere of "Contre-Enquete" (Counter Investigation), featuring Dujardin in a complex and touching story of revenge written and directed by Franck Mancuso, a former police officer.

On Sunday, March 30, the festival features Alain Resnais' "Coeurs" (Private Fears in Public Places), starring Lambert Wilson and the award-winning actress Laura Morante, followed by the New York premiere of "Nos Jours Heureux" (Those Happy Days), a comedy that received the 2006 City of Lights, City of Angels (COLCOA) award in Los Angeles.

Other films include "Cowboy," a U.S. premiere from Belgium directed by Benoit Mariage, featuring renowned actor Benoit Poelvoorde, and "Lady Chatterley," directed by Pascale Ferran and winner of the 2007 Cesar for best film, which will close the festival.





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Focus on French Cinema 2008 is organized by the Alliance Francaise of Greenwich, Purchase College and French Feeling Films in partnership with Tournees, a program of the French Embassy, the Delegation General du Quebec in New York, the Greenwich Arts Council, the Avon Theater and the Westchester Accueil.

Focus on French Cinema is placed under the patronage of the Ambassador of France, his Excellency Pierre Vimont as well as the Ambassador to the United Nations, Jean Maurice Ripert, the Ambassador of Francophone to the United Nations, Moussa Makan Camera, the patronage of the Consul General of France in New York, Francois Delattre and the "Society of Friends of Belgium in America" under the auspices of the Consul General of Belgium in New York.

For information on the festival, babysitting and shuttle service from Metro North in Port Chester, N.Y., visit www.focusonfrenchcinema.org or call the Alliance Francaise of Greenwich at (203) 629-1340.

