



## PRESS STORIES

<b>Publication:</b>	<b>Greenwich Time</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>March 14, 2008</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Barbara A. Heins</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Alliance Francaise Greenwich Premieres set for annual French film fest</b>

# Alliance Francaise Greenwich Premieres set for annual French film fest

Focus on French Cinema 2008, the fourth edition of the Festival of French Cinema, formally opens on March 28 at the Purchase College Performing Arts Center with a surprise East Coast premiere.

The opening night event at 7:15 p.m., hosted by Purchase alumnus David Schwartz, chief curator of the Museum of the Modern Image, will be followed by an audience discussion featuring festival actors and directors and a gala "apres-theatre" buffet dinner offering an assortment of French foods.

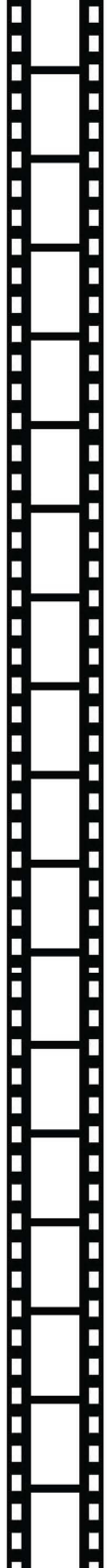
The weekend of 12 contemporary and cutting edge films - all in French with English subtitles - is organized by Alliance Francaise of Greenwich, French Feeling Films and Purchase College and will be presented in the Purchase College Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, N.Y.

It actually all starts at 7 p.m. March 27, with the screening of "Le Malentendu Colonial," ("The Colonial Misunderstanding") in the Durst Family Humanities Theater.

On March 28, there will be two films specifically designated for students & Laurent Tirard's "Moliere," with Romain Duris and Ludivine Sagnier at 11 a.m., and at 1 p.m., "Les Amities Malefiques" ("Poison Friends"), directed by Emmanuel Bourdieu with Malik Zidi, winner of the Cesar for most promising actor in 2007.

A "Meet the Director" breakfast on March 29 at 10:30 a.m. will be an informal meeting and discussion with participating actors and directors. The breakfast will be followed by a noon screening of "L'ivresse De Pouvoir" ("Comedy of Power"), the director Claude Chabrol's story of a 1990's political scandal in France starring international actress Isabelle Huppert. Other films throughout the day will include "Bluff" at 2:30 p.m., an American premiere film from Quebec, and two films starring the award-winning French actor Jean Dujardin. The first, "99 Francs" ("99 Francs"), directed by Jan Kounen and based on the book by Frederic Beigbeder, is a dark satire of the advertising industry and will be shown at 5 p.m. "Contre-Enquete" ("Counter Investigation"), a New York premiere, features Dujardin in a complex and touching story of revenge, written and directed by Franck Mancuso, himself a former cop, will be screened at 7:30 p.m.

Alain Resnais' "Coeurs" ("Private Fears in Public Places"), starring Lambert Wilson and the award-winning actress Laura Morante, will be screened at noon March 30 and followed at 2:30 p.m. 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. The American premiere of "Cowboy," directed by Benoit Mariage, features actor Benoit Poelvoorde will be shown at 5 p.m. "Lady Chatterly," directed by Pascale Ferran and winner of the 2007 Cesar for best film, will close the festival with a 7 p.m. screening.





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

Tickets start at \$10 for each film screening; \$7 for students and seniors; and \$5 for children younger than 12. A 3-day pass for all 12 movies is \$60; \$20 for students. For opening night, \$20 for the movie only; \$95 for the movie, gala and dinner; \$150 for a VIP pass that includes the gala and all 12 movies.

For more information, log onto the Web site [www.focusonfrenchcinema.org](http://www.focusonfrenchcinema.org) or call the Alliance Francaise of Greenwich at 629-1340.

Barbara A. Heins

