

For Immediate Release - Media Contact: Renee Amory Ketcham – 203-531-9101 – amory777@aol.com

FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA 2014 - GREENWICH, CT | NEW YORK, NY

10th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OPENS IN GREENWICH, CT.

Friday, April 4-Sunday, April 6 - Bow Tie Cinemas, 2 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Tuesday, April 8 - FI:AF, Florence Gould Hall, 55 East 59th Street, New York, NY

FOCUS ON FRENCH CINEMA 2014, the annual festival of French cinema from around the world, presented by the Alliance Francaise of Greenwich, CT, is coming to Greenwich for its 10th Anniversary. A premiere film event, Focus on French Cinema has screened over 100 films since 2005 to an audience of over 30,000 spectators in the NY/CT area. "Entering our 10th year, we are thrilled and proud to bring the very best of a vast selection of over 260 films produced in France annually" (Catherine Lamairesse, Founder and Chair).

Joined by two "NEW THIS YEAR" partners: Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême, the largest francophone (French-speaking countries) festival in France with 50,000 attendees, and New York's renowned FI:AF (French Institute - Alliance Francaise), the largest Alliance Francaise in the world with 10,000 members, Focus on French Cinema is broadening the scope of the festival with a unique selection of around-the-clock screenings of French Cinema from around the world.

Also "NEW THIS YEAR", the 10th anniversary LOGO, designed by the world famous graphic designer Philippe Apeloig, brings the festival's image to a new light.

Focus on French Cinema 2014 will screen 20 newly released feature films from France, Belgium, Canada, Africa and Switzerland and will include multiple genres: drama, comedy, thriller, adventure and everything in between, as well as documentaries and short films, in two theaters at Bow Tie Cinemas in Greenwich the weekend of April 4-6. The festival will then continue into Manhattan on Tuesday, April 8th, where Focus on French Cinema will be hosted by FI:AF's Florence Gould Hall for a day of film screenings and a sumptuous closing ceremony at "Le Skyroom".

The weekend in Greenwich, CT will adhere to the tradition of the festival with an Opening Night US Premiere film. 9 mois ferme (9 Month Stretch), the laugh-out-loud black comedy starring Albert Dupontel and Sandrine Kimberlain, opens the festival on Friday, April 4th followed by the annual "Gala Buffet Dinner" -- this year at the Greenwich Arch Street Teen Center and hosted again by Les Maitres Cuisiniers de France, L'Académie Culinaire de France and Le Wine Shop. Saturday morning's Round Table will feature a panel of guests directors, actors and producers from the world of French Cinema, moderated by film studies experts and film critics. The screenings will then be followed by fascinating Q&As, a Purchase College student film competition and other festival Special Events. |

Tuesday, April 8th, takes the festival to Manhattan, where FI:AF will host a screening of the 20th anniversary selection of Les Talents de Cannes, seven short films directed by and starring upcoming talents of French cinema (<http://festivalcinemania.com/content/talents-cannes-2013?language=en>). Les Talents de Cannes is co-produced by festival partner Dominique Besnehard, also co-founder of Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême (www.filmfrancophone.fr). Two screenings of the US Premiere and hit French comedy of the year Les Garçons, et Guillaume à Table (Me Myself and Mum), by and starring Guillaume Gallienne, will bring the festival to its "Closing Night Gala" at state-of-the-art "Le Skyroom" at FI:AF.

These amazing partnerships with Angoulême and FI:AF establish Focus on French Cinema as an international meeting place for its 10th Anniversary, where film professionals and movie-goers can interact together with directors, actors and celebrities in the French language film industry. Dominique Besnehard, iconic French "agent to the stars", director, producer, actor and, as mentioned, co-founder of Le Festival du Film Francophone d'Angoulême in 2008, will be on-hand throughout the 4 days festival to share his expertise on French-speaking films with guests and American viewers. FI:AF, New York's premiere center for French Culture and Language, widens the audience and venues of the festival to one of the most respected such center in the United States. In addition, FI:AF's mission and expertise in "creating innovative and unique programs that explore the evolving diversity and richness of French culture" will expand upon the ongoing mission of Focus on French Cinema, "to bring extraordinary people together to share and discover French language film", confirming Focus on French Cinema as an international cultural landmark.

24 César Nominations, 9 César Awards:

2 automnes 3 hivers (2 Autumns 3 Winters)

9 mois ferme (9 Month Stretch)

11.6

Avant l'hiver (Before the Winter Chill)

Belle et Sébastien (Belle and Sebastien)

En solitaire (Turning Tide)

Gibraltar

Grigris

Hiver Nomade (Winter Nomads)

Je fais le mort (Playing Dead)

Je te survivrai (I'll Bury You)

Le Démantèlement (The Auction)

Les Garçons et Guillaume, à table ! (Me, Myself and Mum)

Le sens de l'humour

Les Talents de Cannes (Selection of Shorts)

Planète Océan (Planet Ocean)

Quai d'Orsay (The French Minister)

Rue Mandar (Where We Grew Up)

Sur le chemin de l'école (On the Way to School)

Un beau dimanche (Going Away)

Violette

For more information, please visit www.focusonfrenchcinema.org