

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE PRESENTS FILM SERIES 'FIVE BY CLAIRE DENIS'

Retrospective includes preview screening of *Bastards* and new 35mm prints of *Chocolat* and *Trouble Every Day*

October 13–22, 2013

Astoria, New York, October 9, 2013—Museum of the Moving Image will present five films by the French director Claire Denis, to coincide with the theatrical release of her latest feature, *Bastards*, which is being distributed by Sundance Selects. The Museum's retrospective, running from October 13 through 22, will include four of Denis's greatest films and concludes with a preview screening of *Bastards*.

The series ***Five by Claire Denis*** opens with her best-known film *Beau Travail* (1999), an adaptation of Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*, set amongst the French Foreign Legion in Djibouti, and starring Denis Lavant (*Holy Motors*) and Claire Denis regular Grégoire Colin. The films *Chocolat* (1988), Denis's debut feature and semiautobiographical tale of a young girl growing up in 1950s Cameroon, and *Trouble Every Day* (2001), a vivid, sensuous, and gory take on horror starring Vincent Gallo and Beatrice Dalle, will be presented in brand new 35mm prints from Film Desk. The series also includes *The Intruder (L'Intrus)* (2004), a film of lush, mysterious images and textures, which follows an inscrutable older man (Michel Subor) as he searches the globe for his lost son (Colin).

Bastards (Les salauds) (2013), which recently premiered at the New York Film Festival, is Denis's first digitally shot film (by the great cinematographer and frequent Denis collaborator Agnes Godard), a contemporary film noir and savage revenge drama starring Vincent Lindon, Chiara Mastroianni, and Julie Bataille. About its festival showing Keith Uhlich of *Time Out New York* wrote "It's almost certain you'll be lost during Claire Denis's elliptical, bracingly angry portrait of a French family undone by its failures and perversities. That's the point, though, and it makes for one of the festival's most difficult yet rewarding experiences." Journalist and film critic Eric Hynes will introduce the Museum's preview screening on October 22.

"There can be a stark, ominous beauty in Claire Denis's films, which are at once mysterious, precise, and breathtaking," said David Schwartz, the Museum's Chief Curator.

Five by Claire Denis is part of the Museum's ongoing series *See It Big!*, presented in collaboration with the online film journal *Reverse Shot*.

Press contact: Tomoko Kawamoto, tkawamoto@movingimage.us / 718 777 6830

SCHEDULE FOR 'FIVE BY CLAIRE DENIS,' OCTOBER 13–22, 2013

All screenings take place in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater or the Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria. Screenings are included with Museum admission and free for Museum members unless otherwise noted. Tickets for Friday evening screenings (when the Museum offers free gallery admission) are \$12 adults / \$9 students and senior citizens.

All films directed by Claire Denis.

Beau Travail

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:00 P.M.

1999, 90 mins. 35mm. With Denis Lavant, Grégoire Colin. Denis transplants Herman Melville's *Billy Budd* to the French Foreign Legion in Djibouti in this transcendent film which brought her cinema to new heights of visual poetry. She creates an insular, homoerotic world in which a drama plays out between a master sergeant (Lavant, of *Holy Motors*) and a handsome new recruit (Colin) whose immaculateness he finds both attractive and alarming. Nearly every shot is a stunner in this sensual experience, which many consider Denis's very best film.

Chocolat

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 4:30 P.M.

1988, 105 mins. **New 35mm print courtesy of Film Desk.** With Isaach de Bankolé, Giulia Boschi, François Cluzet. The first feature from the brilliant French filmmaker Claire Denis is a searing and eloquent work of semiautobiography that centers on a young white woman's memories of growing up in 1950s Cameroon. Most of the film deals with the complicated relationship between her mother and their houseboy, Protée (a remarkable de Bankolé). This beautifully made meditation on class, race, nationality, and colonialism touches on many themes Denis would continue to plumb through her formidable career.

Trouble Every Day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:00 P.M.

2001, 101 mins. **New 35mm print courtesy of Film Desk.** With Vincent Gallo, Tricia Vessey, Beatrice Dalle. Denis brings her brand of cinematic intimacy to the horror genre, and the result is, unsurprisingly, shocking. *Trouble Every Day* is a different kind of vampire movie, a vivid and sensuous—and very gory—tale of all-consuming

seduction concerning a man and a woman infected with a sickness that conflates the urge for sex and blood. As tender as it is terrifying, Denis's film is a remarkable plunge into carnality.

The Intruder (L'intrus)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:00 P.M.

2004, 130 mins. **Imported 35mm print.** With Michel Subor, Grégoire Colin, Beatrice Dalle. A film of lush, mysterious images and textures, Denis's globe-skipping epic follows an inscrutable man (Subor) from France's Jura mountains to Switzerland, Korea, and Tahiti as he searches for a lost, illegitimate son. He also is in dire need of a heart transplant. But this simple description barely does justice to the fragmented, enigmatic, and indescribably rich world Denis creates here, which rewards patient, attentive viewers with an internal, metaphorical portrait of heartsickness and the search for happiness.

PREVIEW SCREENING

Bastards

Introduced by journalist and film critic Eric Hynes

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 7:00 P.M.

2013, 100 mins. DCP courtesy of IFC Films. With Vincent Lindon, Chiara Mastroianni, Julie Bataille. Denis's nighttime thriller is her first digitally photographed work (by the great cinematographer Agnès Godard), a graphic and absorbing tale of murder, sex, and business that was loosely inspired by Akira Kurosawa's film *The Bad Sleep Well*, and by an act of sexual violence from William Faulkner's *Sanctuary*.

Tickets: \$15 public / \$9 Museum members / free for Silver Screen members and above.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its expanded and renovated facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Tickets for regular film screenings are included with paid Museum admission and free for members.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free.

Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings

and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.

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