

wexner center
for the arts

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**WEXNER CENTER PRESENTS FILMS OF ACCLAIMED
FRENCH DIRECTOR CLAIRE DENIS**

***OCTOBER RETROSPECTIVE CULMINATES IN APPEARANCE BY
THE DIRECTOR, PREVIEW SCREENING OF LATEST FILM***

Columbus—The Wexner Center presents a monthlong retrospective of the films of critically acclaimed French director Claire Denis, culminating in a public appearance by Denis and a preview screening of her latest film. ***Retrospective: Claire Denis***, organized by the Wexner Center, runs **October 1–29** and includes Denis's feature-length films, shorts, and documentaries. On the final night of the series, **Denis will be at the Wexner Center** to introduce a preview screening of her latest film, *The Intruder*, and participate in an onstage conversation with Ohio State Professor Judith Mayne, who has written a forthcoming book on Denis.

The subjects of Denis's moody, sensual films range from life in the French foreign legion (*Beau travail*) to modern-day vampires (*Trouble Every Day*, starring Vincent Gallo) to a one-night stand in Paris (*Friday Night*). Her films often explore the tensions between insider and outsider, and the link between desire and violence. Dave Filipi, associate curator of media arts at the Wexner Center and organizer of this series, says, "What first comes to mind about Denis's films is their visual beauty. Denis reminds us that a film must be more than a series of plot points and that it is the moving image, above all else, that distinguishes the cinema."

Born in Paris in 1948 to a family of civil servants, Denis spent the first 13 years of her life in various West African countries during the end of French colonialism. Following film school in Paris, Denis worked as an assistant director for Jim Jarmusch, Costa-Gavras, and Wim Wenders, among others. Denis attracted international attention with her 1988 debut feature (*Chocolat*), and she's continued to create works that blend sensuality and restraint. Upon the release of *Beau travail* in 1999, *Film Comment* characterized Denis as "French cinema's post-colonial poet laureate of outsiders and exiles." Charles Taylor of salon.com notes, "Perhaps better than any other current French filmmaker, Claire Denis has been able to reconcile the lyricism of French cinema with the impulse to capture the often harsh face of contemporary France."

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A **commemorative booklet** will be given out to audience members the night of Denis's visit. The booklet features a full filmography, an introduction by Filipi, and an essay by Mayne.

Special thanks to **Marie Bonnel, Cultural Services of the French Embassy, New York City** and **Florence Charmasson, Unifrance**.

RETROSPECTIVE SCHEDULE:

Unless otherwise indicated, tickets for each evening/double feature are \$6 for the general public, \$4 for members, students, and senior citizens. Tickets are available at the Wexner Center Ticket/Information Desk, or by calling 614-292-3535. All films are screened in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St.

Friday, October 1 / 7 pm | 2nd film 9 pm

Chocolat (1988)

Man No Run (1989)

Set in the 1950s, Denis's autobiographical debut feature, *Chocolat* (105 mins.), focuses on a French woman who returns to her childhood home in colonial Cameroon. The rarely seen *Man No Run* (90 mins.) is a feature-length documentary about the Cameroonian band Les Têtes Brulées, which plays music influenced by both rock 'n' roll and ancient rhythms from the rain forest.

Friday, October 8 / 7 pm | 2nd film 8:50 pm

Trouble Every Day (2001)

U.S. Go Home (1994)

In *Trouble Every Day* (101 mins.), Denis's most controversial film, Vincent Gallo's character discovers modern-day vampires in Paris. *U.S. Go Home* (64 mins.) is Denis's contribution to the European television series *All the Boys and Girls in Their Time*, which commissioned noted directors to make films based on their own adolescence. Denis's coming-of-age story follows three teenage girls discovering themselves in France in the mid-1960s.

Thursday, October 14 / 7 pm | 2nd film 8:45 pm

No Fear, No Die (1990)

I Can't Sleep (1994)

In *No Fear No Die* (91 mins.), an immigrant to Paris struggles to survive in the world of cockfighting. *I Can't Sleep* (110 mins.) features a diverse bunch of working-class Parisian immigrants who must cope with a murder in their midst.

Thursday, October 21 / 7 pm | 2nd film 9:15 pm

Cinema of Our Time: Jacques Rivette, the Watchman (1990)

The Hoop Skirt (1992)

Keep It for Yourself (1991)

Jacques Rivette, the Watchman (124 mins.) is Denis's priceless documentary about the legendary New Wave director. *The Hoop Skirt* (24 mins.) is her adaptation of Jacques Nolot's story about a young woman's unconventional apparel, told by the

author himself. John Lurie provides the music in *Keep It for Yourself* (40 mins.), originally intended as a Japanese car commercial. With Vincent Gallo.

Friday, October 22 / 7 pm | 2nd film 8:45 pm

Beau travail (1999)

A propos de Nice, la suite (1995)

Beau travail (90 mins), the director's most acclaimed film to date, tells a tale of life in the Foreign Legion. *A propos de Nice, la suite* (99 mins) is a collective homage to Jean Vigo's 1930s' masterpiece, *A propos de Nice*.

Thursday, October 28 / 7 pm | 2nd film 8:45 pm

Friday Night (2002)

Nenette and Boni (1996)

Paris has rarely seemed as magical as Denis renders it in *Friday Night* (90 mins.), the story of a one-night stand that takes place in a Paris traffic jam. *Film Comment* called it "simply one of the sexiest films ever made about two people who find each other for one night." *Nenette and Boni* is a warmly observed story of two teenage siblings in Marseilles dealing with an unwanted pregnancy.

Friday, October 29 / 7 pm

The Intruder (2004)

Preview screening/regional premiere introduced by Claire Denis

Followed by conversation with Denis and OSU's Judith Mayne

Admission: \$7 general public; \$5 students, members, senior citizens

Moving from the Jura Mountains in France to the South Seas, *The Intruder* (130 mins.) follows a man trying to reconcile events from his past with his present life. Eschewing conventional narrative devices, Denis relies heavily on longtime collaborator Agnès Godard's striking cinematography to tell the story. Following the screening, Denis participates in a Q & A with the audience moderated by Judith Mayne, a professor in Ohio State's Departments of Women's Studies and French and Italian. Mayne is one of the country's preeminent scholars on issues related to women and film, and her book devoted to Denis's cinematic achievements will be published in 2005.

SERIES AND SEASON SUPPORT

Retrospective: Claire Denis is presented with support from the **Puffin Foundation** and the **Ohio Arts Council**.

The 2004-05 film/video season is presented with support from the **Rohauer Collection Foundation** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

FILM AND VIDEO AT THE WEXNER CENTER

Every year the Wexner Center screens more than 100 film and video works from around the world, including award-winning independent international and American films, documentaries, and Hollywood classics. The Center often invites directors to introduce their own films as part of retrospectives; previous filmmakers who have participated in retrospectives include Philip Kaufman, Todd Haynes, Allison Anders, Jim Jarmusch, Gus Van Sant, Olivier Assayas, and Sadie Benning.

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