uniFrance films presents

A Single Girl

On set with French cinema

Thursday, November 8 at 7pm

Boston University College of Communication, Room B-05
640 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

www.onsetwithfrenchcinema.com

Benoit Jacquot

SPECIAL GUEST

www.athoms.fr
uniFrance films presents

A tout de suite

On set with french cinema

Monday, November 5
at 7pm

Chace Center Auditorium
RISD Museum of Art, 20 North Main Street, Providence

www.onsetwithfrenchcinema.com
uniFrance films presents
Farewell My Queen

New York

On set with french cinema

Monday, October 29
3pm: screening followed by a discussion with Benoit Jacquot

School of Visual Arts

www.onsetwithfrenchcinema.com
uniFrance films
and Wellesley College French House present

Farewell My Queen

On set with
french cinema

SPECIAL GUEST
Benoit Jacquot

Tuesday, November 6
at 4:30pm

Collins cinema
Wellesley College
106 Central Street, Wellesley

www.onsetwithfrenchcinema.com
On set with French cinema

SPECIAL GUEST
Benoît Jacquot

Boston
New York
Providence
Wellesley

www.onsetwithfrenchcinema.com
Benoit Jacquot was young cinema lover aged 17 when he started his film career as an assistant to Bernard Borderie on one of the films of the Angélique series. He was also assistant director to Duras for Nathalie Granger and India Song. For his first film, L’Assassin musicien (1975), he chose to make a screen version of a Dostoevsky novel. The austere staging and the actors’ flat style of delivery seem to place him in the Bressonian tradition, an impression confirmed by his second film Les Enfants du placard. His next film Les Ailes de la colombe (1981) with Isabelle Huppert and Dominique Sanda is an ambitious adaptation of a James novel. At the end of the 1980s it was in fact with his theatre work, adapted for television, especially Elvire Jouvet 40, that Jacquot made a particular name for himself.

In 1990, inspired by young actress Judith Godrèche, the filmmaker made a fresh start with The Disenchanted, a moving portrayal of a high-spirited teenage girl. A Single Girl (1995) was built around another young actress, Virginie Ledoyen; this refined work won the acclaim of the international press. Seventh Heaven marked another step towards mainstream cinema and from that point onwards film stars were jockeying to perform in front of his camera: Huppert (The School of Flesh, presented at Cannes in 1998, Pas de scandale in 1999), Adjani (Adolphe) and also Deneuve (Princesse Marie, a TV drama).

His favourite theme is love, but above all Jacquot, by now one of France’s most prolific filmmakers, is unusually eclectic: after making another detour via the theatre (La Fausse Suivante, filmed in a theatre and a brilliant exercise in style), he directed a period film about the life of Sade (2000) as well as an opera (Tosca). In 2004, he again surprised his audience with A tout de suite, filmed in black and white and DV, about a woman on the run played by his new muse Isild Le Besco, who then followed him to India for The Untouchable, presented in Venice in 2006.

This was followed by another journey, this time to an Italian island, for the making of Villa Amalia, adapted from the novel by Pascal Quignard, for which he once again teamed up with Isabelle Huppert (2009). The following year it was back to the 19th century accompanied by the faithful Isild Le Besco for his film Deep in the Woods, an ambiguous variation on the theme of love.

In 2011 the filmmaker, true to his love of costume drama films, made Farewell My Queen, a work of historical fiction about the final days of Queen Marie-Antoinette just before the storming of the Bastille in 1789. For the purposes of this new fresco he assembled a sublime cast composed of Léa Seydoux, Virginie Ledoyen and Diane Kruger. The film, a hit in France and abroad, had its world première at the last Berlin Film Festival.