

SFFS SCREEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2009

Media Contacts: Hilary Hart 415-561-5022 / hilary@sffs.org

Bill Proctor 415-561-5024 / bproctor@sffs.org

**THE BEAUTIFUL PERSON, A FIERCELY FRENCH EXAMINATION OF YOUNG LOVE,
OPENS ON SFFS SCREEN AT SUNDANCE KABUKI CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 4**

**Drama Reminiscent of the French New Wave, Set in a Parisian High School,
Features Dynamic Performances by Louis Garrel and Léa Seydoux**

San Francisco, CA – *The Beautiful Person* (*La belle personne*, France 2008), Christophe Honoré's inventive contemporary update of a classic 17th-century story about a scandalous love triangle, opens **Friday, September 4** on **SFFS Screen** at the **Sundance Kabuki Cinemas**.

Loosely based on Madame de Lafayette's landmark 1678 novel *La Princesse de Clèves*, maverick director Christophe Honoré's new film, ***The Beautiful Person***, tracks an ensemble of Parisian high school students as they navigate through the turbulent imbroglios of young love. The voluptuous and enigmatic Léa Seydoux plays Junie, a world-weary 16-year-old who has just transferred into the school following the death of her mother. Immediately becoming the center of attention, she chooses the gentle but intense Otto as her boyfriend. But what could have been a smooth transition into her new environment is complicated by the ardent attentions of her unscrupulous Italian teacher Nemours, a serial seducer played in a carefully disheveled bohemian manner by the dashing Louis Garrel. As passions flare, it becomes readily apparent that Nemours maintains a rather liberal approach to student-teacher relationships. Director Honoré brings to the mix a heartfelt empathy for the emotional enormity and painful yearning that are part and parcel of teenage relationships, deftly capturing the romantic intrigue and sexual frisson familiar to teenagers everywhere. A former critic for *Cahiers du cinéma*, Honoré revises the familiar filmic iconography of the French New Wave with rigor and affection, adding to it a contemporary pop sensibility and a willingness to treat teenagers as intelligent and interesting human beings.

Written by Christophe Honoré, Gilles Taurand. Photographed by Laurent Brunet. With Louis Garrel, Léa Seydoux, Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet. In French with English subtitles. 90 min. Distributed by IFC Films.

For screeners and interviews contact hilary@sffs.org.

For photos and press materials visit: http://download.sffs.org/press/02_SFFS_Screen.

At the Sundance Kabuki all seats are reserved and an amenities fee is in effect for most shows. Tickets are available through the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas box office, at kiosks in the lobby and online at sundancecinemas.com/kabuki with print-at-home capability. San Francisco Film Society members receive discounted admission only to SFFS Screen programs and only at the box office, not online or at the lobby kiosks.

Now playing on SFFS Screen

Lion's Den A young pregnant woman tries to survive in an Argentinean prison in Pablo Trapero's story of redemption.

Coming soon to SFFS Screen

September 11: *Tony Manero* Set in 1978 Chile during the Pinochet dictatorship, Pablo Larrain's drama focuses on a man whose obsession with John Travolta's character from *Saturday Night Fever* reflects the troubled state of Chilean society at that time.

September 18: *The Headless Woman* Lucrecia Martel, a major figure in contemporary Argentine cinema, directs a complex and exquisite film about a bourgeois woman who may have been involved in a hit-and-run accident.

September 25: *You, the Living* Roy Andersson continues to display his unique take on humanity in this dryly humorous, surreal and unforgettable amalgamation of encounters and tableaux covering various facets of existence.

For full, complete and up-to-date information on all SFFS Screen programming, including buying tickets, visit sffs.org. Information and tickets are also available at sundancecinemas.com.

The San Francisco Film Society is a nonprofit arts and education organization dedicated to celebrating film and the moving image.

SFFS Screen, the innovative exhibition partnership with Sundance Cinemas, enables the Film Society to present its acclaimed film programs and events at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas year-round on a daily basis.

This press release is available at sffs.org/press.

###