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# SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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## **SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES MASTER FRENCH FILMMAKER ALAIN RESNAIS' LATEST FILM WILD GRASS**

**NEW YORK, NY (August 10, 2009)** - Sony Pictures Classics announces the acquisition of master French filmmaker Alain Resnais' latest film *WILD GRASS*, produced by Jean-Louis Livi, for U.S., Australian and New Zealand rights from Alain Vannier and Orly Films.

*WILD GRASS* premiered at the 2009 Cannes International Film Festival, where it was unanimously acclaimed by the international press as one of the youngest and sprightliest films in Competition and Resnais received a Special Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sony Pictures Classics stated, "Alain Resnais is one of the world's great film masters and with *Wild Grass* he has not only made one of his best films but also something new and fresh and very accessible to the American audience. Speaking of masters, we are also pleased to be in business again with our friends of almost 30 years, producer Jean-Louis Livi and sales agent/producer Alain Vannier."

Alain Vannier added, "We are delighted to continue with *Wild Grass* a long and fruitful line of collaborations with America's leading cinematic impresarios."

Based on French writer Christian Gailly's 1996 novel "L'incident", which tells the story of how a lost wallet opens the door to romantic adventure for its principal characters, George, played by veteran French actor Andre Dussollier and Marguerite, played by Sabine Azema, the film also showcases French stars Mathieu Amalric, Emmanuelle Devos and Anne Consigny. In addition to his extraordinary cast, Resnais assembled a world class crew to work on *WILD GRASS* including director of photography Eric Gautier who recently shot Ang Lee's *TAKING WOODSTOCK* as well as *INTO THE WILD*, *THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES* and Resnais' own *PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES* and editor Herve de Luze (Polanski's *THE PIANIST*, *TELL NO ONE*, *JEAN DE FLORETTE* and *MANON OF THE SPRING*).

At 87, Resnais is among a small coterie of French directors, which includes Jean Luc Godard and Eric Rohmer who came of age as influential auteurs a half a century ago and continue to entertain audiences around the world with their fresh and complex insights on love and human interaction. Among Resnais' most well known achievements and heralded as a landmark of the post World War II period, *HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR* set the tone for the themes of love and memory that pervade Resnais' more recent work including his 2006 *PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES*, his 2003 *NOT ON THE LIPS* and 1997's *SAME OLD SONG*, a musical love story set in Paris which won the Cesar for Best Film. *WILD GRASS* is the third film produced by Jean-Louis Livi that Sony Pictures Classics has released including Claude Miller's 1992's *THE ACCOMPANIST* and Giuseppe Tornatore's 1994 *A PURE FORMALITY* and the sixth film acquired from sales agent Alain Vannier, including *INDOCHINE*, which won the 1992 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.

## **ABOUT SONY PICTURES CLASSICS**

Michael Barker and Tom Bernard serve as co-presidents of Sony Pictures Classics—an autonomous division of Sony Pictures Entertainment they founded with Marcie Bloom in January 1992, which distributes, produces, and acquires independent films from around the world.

Barker and Bernard's films are among the most prestigious films of all time. They have produced 24 Academy Award<sup>®</sup> winners (21 of those at Sony Pictures Classics) and have garnered over 100 Academy Award<sup>®</sup> nominations (72 at Sony Pictures Classics) including Best Picture nominations for *Capote*, *Howards End*, and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Over the years, Barker and Bernard fostered relationships with many of the world's finest independent filmmakers including Robert Altman, Ang Lee, Richard Linklater, Guillermo del Toro, Francois Truffaut, David Cronenberg, Jonathan Demme, Woody Allen, Walter Salles, Todd Haynes, Nicole Holofcener, Errol Morris, Zhang Yimou, Wong Kar Wai, Ingmar Bergman, Neil Jordan, Francis Ford Coppola, and David Mamet.

Additional honors include “The Honors Award” from the Director's Guild of America, the “Chevalier Order of Arts and Letters” from the French government, the Gotham Industry Lifetime Achievement Award (IFP), the FINDIE Award (IFP/West Spirit Awards), and the GLAAD Media Award. At Sony Corporation's global management conference, SPC received the “Distinguished Special Recognition” award two years in a row for their successful business operation.

## **ABOUT SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT**

Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) is a subsidiary of Sony Corporation of America (SCA), a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Corporation. SPE's global operations encompass motion picture production and distribution; television production and distribution; digital content creation and distribution; worldwide channel investments; home entertainment acquisition and distribution; operation of studio facilities; development of new entertainment products, services, and technologies; and distribution of filmed entertainment in more than 100 countries. Sony Pictures Entertainment can be found at <http://www.sonypictures.com>.