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BEFORE NIGHT FALLS

USA, 2000, 125 minutes

A Fine Line Features Release

U.S. Premiere

Director: Julian Schnabel

Producer: Jon Kilik

Associate Producer: Matthias Ehrenberg

Production: El Mar Pictures

Screenplay: Cunningham O'Keefe, Lazaro Gomez Carriles and Julian Schnabel

Photography: Xavier Perez Grobet and Guillermo Rosas

Editor: Michael Berenbaum

Music: Carter Burwell

Additional Music: Lou Reed and Laurie Anderson

Production Design: Salvador Parra

Costumes: Mariestela Fernandez

Principal cast (in alphabetical order):

Javier Bardem (Reinaldo), Johnny Depp (Bon Bon and Lt. Victor), Andrea Di Stefano (Pepe Malas), Olatz Lopez Garmendia (Reinaldo's Mother), Olivier Martinez (Lazaro), Sean Penn (Cuco Sanchez), Michael Wincott (Heberto Zorilla Ochoa)

About the film:

Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas was one of the major talents to have emerged from the Latin American literary boom of the 1960s; yet, running afoul of the Castro regime as both a political dissident and an openly gay man, Arenas was harassed, imprisoned, and physically abused—all the more so because he managed to smuggle out and publish his works abroad. Adapting Arenas' brilliant, posthumously published autobiography, painter and now very much film director Julian Schnabel magnificently captures the style and flavor of Arenas' writing, with brief, intensely vivid scenes that evoke a succession of remembrances. He is immeasurably aided by a wonderful, star-making performance by Spanish actor Javier Bardem as Reinaldo, who embodies both the strength and vulnerability of a man for whom, as he wrote during his New York exile, "there is really no solace anywhere."

About the director:

Born in New York City in 1951, Julian Schnabel moved to Brownsville, Texas, in 1965, where he received a BFA at the University of Houston. He had his first solo art exhibition in New York City in 1979. Since then, Schnabel's paintings and sculptures have been exhibited all over the world. His work is included in public collections such as New York's Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Guggenheim Bilbao, Centre Georges Pompidou, and the Tate Modern. Schnabel's directorial and screenwriting debut, *BASQUIAT*, opened the 1996 Venice Film Festival.