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PRESS SCREENING INVITATION

RENAISSANCE RIALTO THEATERS INC.

2101 BRYANT STREET SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94110 (415)821-FILM

FILM: Messidor, directed by Alain Tanner

TIME: 11 a.m. Wednesday, September 16th
PLACE: JWA Screening Room, 582 Market St., San Francisco

OPENING DATES: MESSIDOR will be shown as part of a complete retrospective of the films of Alain Tanner Wednesday, September 23rd through Tuesday, September 29th at the York Theatre, 2789 - 24th Street. It will also be presented September 30th through October 17th at the Rialto Theatre in Berkeley.

Dear Friend,

You are cordially invited to attend a press screening of MESSIDOR, the latest film by the talented Swiss director Alain Tanner.

As in many of his earlier films (LA SALAMANDRE, MIDDLE OF THE WORLD, JONAH WHO WILL BE 25 IN THE YEAR 2000 among them), Tanner explores, in MESSIDOR, the unusual lives of those who find themselves by choice or circumstance on the fringes of Switzerland's rich, bland, and staid society.

MESSIDOR depicts a tragic journey undertaken by two teenage girls, portrayed in screen debuts by Clementine Amouroux and Catherine Retore. Marie, 18, is a small-town shopgirl who has lost her train ticket. Jeanne, 19, is a Geneva college student on her way to the countryside for a few days. They meet while hitchhiking and decide to travel together, eventually daring one another to play a strange "game" -- traveling without a destination, living without money in a wealthy country. As they slip farther and farther outside the limits of the society surrounding them, they in turn become participants in a frightening television/media game -- one in which they are hunted criminals. Their voyage, in Tanner's words, "begins to resemble that of balls on a pool table. . .The character of the trip corresponds to the absurdity of the game: billiard balls or insects under glass."

We hope you will be able to join us Wednesday to view the striking insights of Tanner into individuals and the society they try to avoid. We will have press materials available and look forward to seeing you.

Best regards,

Shelley Diekman

Leslie Clark

Grand Lake Twin, Oakland

4 Star, San Francisco
Fine Arts, Palo Alto
York, San Francisco
Park, Menlo Park
Rialto 4, Berkeley
Guild, Menlo Park

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