

Artificial Eye presents

*From the Director of HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR  
& LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD*

# PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES

(Cert TBC)

(COEURS)

A film directed by **Alain Resnais**

Based on the play by **Alan Ayckbourn**



**WINNER SILVER LION - VENICE FILM FESTIVAL 2006**

Starring

**SABINE AZEMA, LAURA MORANTE, LAMBERT WILSON, PIERRE ARDITI,  
ISABELLE CARRE & ANDRE DUSSOLLIER**

France / Italy / 2006 / Colour / 120 Mins / SCOPE

SOUDAINE COMPAGNIE  
STUDIOCANAL – FRANCE 2 CINÉMA – SFP CINÉMA  
BIM DISTRIBUZIONE  
SACUTO

UK RELEASE DATE: 20 July 2007 (TBC)

Opening at the **CURZON SOHO, RENOIR, CURZON MAYFAIR**  
and other West End Cinemas and selected screens nationwide

An Artificial Eye Release

Images are available on [image.net](http://image.net)

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Established as one of the all-time greats of cinema, Alain Resnais, now into his eighties, clearly has nothing to prove, but his adaptation of Alan Ayckbourn's comedy of manners **PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES** lives up to all the expectations.

The story has three intersecting strands: one concerns real estate agent Thierry (André Dussollier), his sister, Gaelle (Isabelle Carré), and his pious assistant Charlotte (Sabine Azéma); the second follows Nicole, (Laura Morante) and her unemployed boyfriend (Lambert Wilson); and the third focuses on an ageing, possibly gay bartender Lionel (Pierre Arditi), living alone with his ailing, foul-mouthed and garrulous father, who is never seen but very much heard (Claude Rich, another Resnais veteran).

The result of transporting **PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES** from a London setting to Paris and from the theatre to the big screen is in no way a compromise - it is faithful to its theatrical origins but more than suited to the big screen. The result is funny, compassionate and sad.

The film's music soundtrack is particularly impressive with a disquieting score by Mark Snow of 'X-files' fame.

"I like the way Ayckbourn's play has 54 scenes with characters who don't know each other, including some who may never meet. It's like a spider's web; one insect moves and shakes the web, affecting the others. This was my structure. Nothing is certain: time flees, back and forth, characters may be sharing the same space, or not - a little like in 'Hiroshima Mon Amour.'

'Auteur' is a label Resnais refutes, saying he doesn't write his own scripts – "directing is hard enough," he says. "I'm no more an auteur than the actors or technicians on the film. My producer, too, could be called an auteur; he too takes risks."

Of his own films he says, "I'm a little melancholic because I don't work enough, I would like to be Chabrol, who has made 55 movies. I don't have enough energy. I'm like the characters in **PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES**, I would like to do better, to be better than I am."

**Alain Resnais**

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

Directed by	Alain Resnais
Based upon the play	PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES By Alan Ayckbourn
Adapted Dialogue	Jean-Michel Ribes
Camera	Eric Gautier
Set Design	Jacques Saulnier Jean-Michel Ducourty Solange Zeitoun
Costumes	Jackie Budin
Sound	Jean-Marie Blondel
Assistant Director	Christophe Jeauffroy
Script	Sylvette Baudrot
Editor	Hervé de Luze
Sound Editor	Thomas DesJonquères
Sound Mixer	Gérard Lamps
Music	Mark Snow
Production director	Hervé DuHamel
Executive Producer	Julie Salvador
Co-producer	Valerio de Paolis
Producer	Bruno Pesery

A France and Italian co-production

SOUDAINE COMPAGNIE  
STUDIOCANAL – FRANCE 2 CINÉMA – SFP CINÉMA  
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SACUTO

NICOLE	Laura Morante
DAN	Lambert Wilson
LIONEL	Pierre Arditi
GAËLLE	Isabelle Carré
THIERRY	André Dussollier
CHARLOTTE	Sabine Azéma
ARTHUR	Claude Rich

**- An Artificial Eye Release -**

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**SYNOPSIS**

When not trying to find an apartment for his difficult clients, Nicole (Laura Morante) and Dan (Lambert Wilson), Thierry (André Dussollier) tries to charm his alluring but saintly co-worker, Charlotte (Sabine Azéma). She lends him a tape of her favourite religious TV programme, but Thierry's in for a huge surprise. Meanwhile, his sister, Gaëlle (Isabelle Carré), is on a quest of her own to find the love of her life. With the help of Lionel (Pierre Arditi), a friendly bartender, she meets Dan and they get on well until Gaëlle spots Dan with Nicole. Dan confides in Lionel, who has hired Charlotte as a night nurse for his terminally sick and unbearably rude father, Arthur. Charlotte performs a miracle in getting Arthur to behave himself. She leaves behind a tape of her "favourite religious TV programme"...

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**Alain Resnais**

Alain Resnais is a living and very vibrant legend. In a career stretching back fifty years, his films have marked successive generations of movie-goers, starting with Night And Fog in 1955. In the wake of his first short, Van Gogh, which won an Academy Award, Resnais films have garnered top prizes at major festivals and provoked enduring controversies and debate. With the witty and innovative Private Fears In Public Places, Alain Resnais proves he is still firmly on the cutting edge.

**Selected Filmography**

2006	PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES - An Artificial Eye Release -
2003	NOT ON THE LIPS (PAS SUR LA BOUCHE)
1997	SAME OLD SONG (ON CONNAÎT LA CHANSON)
1993	SMOKING/NO SMOKING
1989	I WANT TO GO HOME
1986	MÉLO - An Artificial Eye Release -
1984	LOVE UNTO DEATH (L'AMOUR À MORT)
1983	LIFE IS A BED OF ROSES (LA VIE EST UN ROMAN) - An Artificial Eye Release -
1980	MY AMERICAN UNCLE (MON ONCLE D'AMERIQUE)
1977	PROVIDENCE
1974	STAVISKY
1973	THE YEAR 01 (L'AN 01)
1968	JE T'AIME, JE T'AIME
1967	FAR FROM VIETNAM (LOIN DU VIETNAM)
1966	THE WAR IS OVER (LA GUERRE EST FINIE)
1963	MURIEL OU LE TEMPS D'UN RETOUR
1961	LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD (L'ANNEE DERNIERE A MARIENBAD)
1959	HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR
1955	NIGHT AND FOG

## PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES (COEURS)

### Extracts from an interview with Alain Resnais

I've been a fan of Alan Ayckbourn's plays since 1972. I like his plot constructions, manipulation of time and conception of directing which gives the imagination pride of place.

What struck me first when I read *Private Fears in Public Places* was the characters' constant determination to shake off their solitude, with all the obstacles that implies. The sense of solitude is irreversible. There's no cure for the desire not to be alone. It's the eternal quest for happiness. It's easy to believe it's within your grasp and hard to accept that it is a figment of your imagination.

With *Private Fears in Public Places*, I realized that I could take an opposite track compared to *Smoking and No Smoking*. In both those films, which were a declaration of my love of England, I pushed attention to detail to fanatical extremes, by ensuring that all the props and costumes were as English as possible, and by recording, for example, the church bells and seagulls in the small Yorkshire town which provided the backdrop. This time, we were dealing with a typically London play, which offered the possibility of transposing it to Paris. It occurred to me that the equivalent of the new London setting was the rapidly expanding district around Bercy, the Avenue de France and the new National Library with its very singular light. Also, it's a neighborhood that fits in well with a modern-day story about real estate brokers and their clients.

I asked Jean-Michel Ribes to write the French dialogue. It seemed to me that he was close to Ayckbourn, that he could understand how his brain worked. Like Ayckbourn, not only has he written a large number of plays, but he is also a phenomenally dynamic director and artistic director of a theatre. In *Musée haut, musée bas*, to take just one example, there is a kind of drift into madness that one also finds in Ayckbourn. And I like his Alphonse Allais side. Unlike *Smoking and No Smoking*, where we had to squeeze eight plays into two films, we couldn't cut anything out this time. The writing is very sparing. As soon as you lose one line, you sense it's missing. The screenplay is very faithful to the play but it is as French as Ayckbourn is English, especially in all the nuances of everyday spoken language. We had to find a delicate balance: keeping the characters' feelings without replicating the English mindset or imitating the rhythm of spoken English.

The great challenge when you have around fifty scenes, some of which are very short, is to get across the perpetual interactions between the seven characters, even though some of them never meet. The relationships between the characters remind me of a spider's web draped between two gorse bushes and covered in dew by the night. Thierry, Charlotte, Gaëlle, Dan, Nicole, Lionel and Arthur are like insects struggling to break free of a trap. Each time one of them moves, it impacts on another part of the web and on another character, therefore, who may have no links whatsoever to the first.

Interview by François Thomas

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**Laura Morante - NICOLE**

Acclaimed as one of Italy's leading stars, Laura Morante's moving performance as Paola in Nanni Moretti's Golden Palm winner *The Son's Room* established her credentials as an international box-office draw.

**Selected Filmography**

2006	PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES directed by Alain Resnais - An Artificial Eye Release -
2005	ORCHESTRA SEATS directed by Danièle Thompson
2005	THE EMPIRE OF THE WOLVES directed by Chris Nahon
2004	REMEMBER ME, MY LOVE directed by Gabriele Muccino
2003	HOTEL directed by Mike Figgis
2003	THE DANCER UPSTAIRS directed by John Malkovitch
2002	A JOURNEY CALLED LOVE directed by Michele Placido
2001	THE SON'S ROOM directed by Nanni Moretti
2000	VAJONT directed by Renzo Martinelli
1998	KILLER COUPLE directed by Claudio Fragasso
1997	SANTO STEFANO directed by Angelo Pasquini

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**Lambert Wilson - DAN**

Lambert Wilson is an amazingly versatile talent. Having studied drama in London and Paris, he started out on the stage before breaking into film in the mid-1980s. His singing voice has also brought him acclaim and roles in both the classical register and musicals. Now a star on both sides of the Atlantic, Wilson continues to divide his time successfully between stage and screen, and between comedy and drama.

**Selected Filmography**

2006	PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES directed by Alain Resnais - An Artificial Eye Release -
2005	PALAIS ROYAL directed by Valérie Lemerrier
2005	SAHARA directed by Breck Eisner
2004	CATWOMAN directed by Pitof
2003	TIMELINE directed by Richard Donner
2003	NOT ON THE LIPS (PAS SUR LA BOUCHE) directed by Alain Resnais
2003	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS directed by The Wachowski Brothers
2003	THE MATRIX RELOADED directed by The Wachowski Brothers
1997	SAME OLD SONG (ON CONNAÎT LA CHANSON) directed by Alain Resnais
1997	THE LEADING MAN directed by John Duigan
1997	MARQUISE directed by Véra Belmont
1995	JEFFERSON IN PARIS directed by James Ivory

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**Pierre Arditi – LIONEL**

A major star of big and small screens in France, Pierre Arditi has been a regular in Alain Resnais' films since My American Uncle (1980). In 1993, he won a César award for his performance in Resnais' Smoking/No Smoking. He has also established himself as one of France's foremost stage actors in a full range of roles.

**Selected Filmography**

2006	PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES directed by Alain Resnais - An Artificial Eye Release –
2005	LE PARFUM DE LA DAME EN NOIR directed by Bruno Podalydès
2003	NOT ON THE LIPS directed by Alain Resnais
2000	ACTORS directed by Bertrand Blier
1999	THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO directed by Josée Dayan
1998	LET THERE BE LIGHT directed by Arthur Joffé
1996	BEAUMARCHAIS directed by Edouard Molinaro - An Artificial Eye Release -
1996	MEN, WOMEN: A USER'S MANUAL directed by Claude Lelouch
1995	THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau - An Artificial Eye Release -
1993	SMOKING/NO SMOKING directed by Alain Resnais
1986	MÉLO directed by Alain Resnais - An Artificial Eye Release -
1984	LOVE UNTO DEATH directed by Alain Resnais
1984	SWANN IN LOVE directed by Volker Schlöndorff
1983	LIFE IS A BED OF ROSES (LA VIE EST UN ROMAN) directed by Alain Resnais - An Artificial Eye Release -
1980	MY AMERICAN UNCLE (MON ONCLE D'AMÉRIQUE) directed by Alain Resnais

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**Isabelle Carré – GAËLLE**

Vivacious and sensual, Isabelle Carré is an intoxicating presence on both stage and screen. She has worked with an impressive roll-call of French directors that includes Bertrand Tavernier, Cédric Kahn, Noémie Lvovsky, Anne Fontaine, Christian Vincent and Diane Kurys, and won a César award for Best Actress for her performance in Zabou Breitman's Beautiful Memories.

**Selected Filmography**

2006	PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES directed by Alain Resnais - An Artificial Eye Release –
2006	FOUR STARS directed by Christian Vincent
2005	L'AVION directed by Cédric Kahn
2005	ENTRE SES MAINS directed by Anne Fontaine
2004	HOLY LOLA directed by Bertrand Tavernier
2003	LES SENTIMENTS directed by Noémie Lvovsky
2003	HE LOVES ME, HE LOVES ME NOT directed by Laetitia Colombani
2002	BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES directed by Zabou Breitman
2002	CHILDREN OF THE CENTURY directed by Diane Kurys
2000	TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY directed by Jeanne Labrune
1999	THE CHILDREN OF THE MARSHLAND (LES ENFANTS DU SIÈCLE) directed by Jean Becker
1996	BEAUMARCHAIS directed by Edouard Molinaro - An Artificial Eye Release -
1995	JEFFERSON IN PARIS directed by James Ivory
1995	THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau - An Artificial Eye Release -

## PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES (COEURS)

### André Dussollier – THIERRY

One of France's most instantly recognizable character actors, André Dussollier is equally at ease in comedies, such as Coline Serreau's *Three Men and A Cradle* (1986), and drama, such as Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *A Very Long Engagement* (2004).

He has won two César awards, for Best Actor in Alain Resnais' *Same Old Song* and Best Supporting Actor in Claude Sautet's *A Heart In Winter*, and is also an acclaimed theatre actor.

### Selected Filmography

2006	PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES directed by Alain Resnais - An Artificial Eye Release –
2006	UN TICKET POUR L'ESPACE Eric Lartigau
2006	TELL NO ONE directed by Guillaume Canet
2005	SHUT UP directed by Francis Weber
2005	MON PETIT DOIGT M'A DIT directed by Pascal Thomas
2005	LEMMING directed by Dominik Moll - An Artificial Eye Release –
2004	36, QUAI DES ORFÈVRES directed by Olivier Marchal
2004	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet
2004	SECRET AGENTS directed by Frédéric Schoendoerffer
2003	TAIS-TOI directed by Francis Veber
2003	STRANGE GARDENS directed by Jean Becker
2003	18 ANS APRÈS directed by Coline Serreau
2001	TANGUY directed by Etienne Chatliez
2001	THE OFFICER'S WARD directed by François Dupeyron
2001	VIDOCQ directed by Pitoff
2001	A CRIME IN PARADISE directed by Jean Becker
2000	CRIME SCENES directed by Frédéric Schoendoerffer
1999	CHILDREN OF THE MARSHLAND directed by Jean Becker
1998	STOLEN LIFE directed by Yves Angelo
1997	SAME OLD SONG directed by Alain Resnais

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

- 1997 AN AIR SO PURE directed by Yves Angels
- 1994 COLONEL CHABERT directed by Yves Angelo
- 1994 LIFE'S LITTLE TREASURES directed by Michel Deville
- 1994 MONTPARNASSE PONDICHERY  
directed by Yves Robert
- 1993 THE LITTLE APOCALYPSE directed by Costa Gavras
- 1992 UN COEUR EN HIVER directed by Claude Sautet  
- An Artificial Eye Release –
- 1991 SUSHI SUSHI directed by Laurent Perrin
- 1990 LA FEMME FARDÉE directed by José Pinheiro
- 1989 BORDER LINE directed by Danièle Dubroux
- 1988 FREQUENT DEATH directed by Elisabeth Rappeneau
- 1987 BLOOD AND SAND directed by Jeanne Labrune
- 1986 MÉLO directed by Alain Resnais  
- An Artificial Eye Release –
- 1985 THREE MEN AND A CRADLE directed by Coline Serreau
- 1984 L'AMOUR PAR TERRE directed by Jacques Rivette
- 1984 STRESS directed by Jean-Louis Bertucelli
- 1984 L'AMOUR À MORT directed by Alain Resnais
- 1984 THE CHILDREN directed by Marguerite Duras
- 1984 FRONTIÈRES directed by Léon de Winter
- 1983 LIFE IS A BED OF ROSES directed by Alain Resnais  
- An Artificial Eye Release –
- 1982 A GOOD MARRIAGE directed by Eric Rohmer
- 1979 PERCEVAL directed by Eric Rohmer
- 1977 THE MODEL COUPLE directed by William Klein
- 1977 ALICE OR THE LAST ESCAPADE  
directed by Claude Chabrol
- 1975 IT IS RAINING ON SANTIAGO directed by Helvio Soto
- 1974 AND NOW MY LOVE directed by Claude LeLouch
- 1972 UNE BELLE FILLE COMME MOI  
directed by François Truffaut

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**Sabine Azéma – CHARLOTTE**

Having started her career in the theatre, Sabine Azéma has subsequently acted under the direction of some of France's most prestigious and successful filmmakers, including Bertrand Tavernier, Etienne Chatiliez, Gérard Oury, Arnaud and Jean Marie Larrieu, Bruno Podalydès and Alain Resnais. She has won two César awards, for Tavernier's A Sunday In The Country (1984) and Resnais' Mélo (1986).

**Selected Filmography**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2006 | PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES<br>directed by Alain Resnais<br>- An Artificial Eye Release –               |
| 2005 | PEINDRE OU FAIRE L'AMOUR<br>directed by Jean-Marie and Arnaud Larrieu                                      |
| 2003 | NOT ON THE LIPS directed by Alain Resnais  |
| 2003 | LE MYSTERE DE LA CHAMBRE JAUNE<br>directed by Bruno Podalydès  |
| 2001 | TANGUY directed by Etienne Chatiliez   |
| 1999 | SEASON'S BEATINGS<br>directed by Danièle Thompson  |
| 1997 | SAME OLD SONG directed by Alain Resnais  |
| 1996 | MY MAN (MON HOMME) directed by Bertrand Blier<br>- An Artificial Eye Release –                             |
| 1995 | LE BONHEUR EST DANS LE PRE<br>directed by Etienne Chatiliez  |
| 1993 | SMOKING/NO SMOKING directed by Alain Resnais   |
| 1990 | LIFE AND NOTHING BUT<br>directed by Bertrand Tavernier   |
| 1986 | MÉLO directed by Alain Resnais<br>- An Artificial Eye Release –  |
| 1984 | DEATH UNTO LOVE (L'AMOUR A MORT)<br>directed by Alain Resnais  |
| 1984 | A SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY<br>directed by Bertrand Tavernier  |
| 1983 | LIFE IS A BED OF ROSES<br>(LA VIE EST UN ROMAN) directed by Alain Resnais<br>- An Artificial Eye Release – |
| 1977 | THE LACEMAKER directed by Claude Gorette   |

**PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
(COEURS)**

**Alan Ayckbourn**

Alan Ayckbourn is frequently quoted as the most performed playwright in the English language... after Shakespeare.

Born in London in 1939, he has written nearly seventy plays and won numerous awards and prizes. He premieres his new plays in Scarborough, at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, of which he is the Artistic Director, before they transfer to the West End.

Alan Ayckbourn is also an acclaimed director of his own plays and those of other playwrights he appreciates. His work has been translated into over thirty-five languages and is regularly performed all over the world.

**Jean-Michel Ribes**

Born in Paris in 1946, Jean-Michel Ribes is an author, screenwriter and stage and screen director. Since 2001, he has been Artistic Director of the Théâtre du Rond-Point in Paris.

Involved in theatre from an early age, he staged his first play, *Les Fraises Musclées*, in 1970. He has since written and directed around fifteen plays, which have won numerous awards, and has also directed productions of other contemporary writers' work (Sam Shephard, Copi, Topor...).

Between 1997 and 2003, at the Avignon Festival, Ribes chaired "Texte Nu", intended to promote contemporary dramatic writing. In 2000, two hundred playwrights formed "Les Ecrivains Associés du Théâtre" and elected him President.

In 2001, he was awarded the Plaisir du Théâtre prize for his contribution to the theatre and, in 2002, the Grand Prix Théâtre de l'Académie Française.