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Presented by
The Maison française at Boston College

February 11–February 25, 2011
Devlin Hall, room 008
Free admission

Presented in collaboration with the Romance Languages and Literatures Department, the Film Studies Department, the Institute for Liberal Arts, the Jewish Studies Minor Department, Pi Delta Phi, Boston College Hillel

Friday, February 11th, 7pm

UN SECRET
A SECRET
Claude Miller
2007 / 110 min.

A Secret follows the life of a Jewish family in post-World War II Paris. François, the son of Maxime and Tania, is a solitary and imaginative child. One day, he discovers a dark family secret that shatters his life forever: before the war and well before François’s birth, his father Maxime was married to another woman with whom he had a son. When François discovers the truth, the family will be forced to revisit their difficult past.

Sunday, February 13th, 4pm

"L’ORIGINE DE LA TENDRESSE" ET AUTRES CONTES
"L’ORIGINE DE LA TENDRESSE" AND OTHER TALES
Miscellaneous directors

A program of six short films:
Gratte-papier - Pen-pusher [Guillaume Martinez] 2005 / 8 min. In the train a young man and a young woman seating next to each other will be introduced in an unexpected fashion. Ma mère, une histoire d’immigration - My Mother, Story of an Immigration [Felipe Canales] 2005 / 15 min. The story of the director’s mother who left Algeria in 1956 to reunite with her husband in Paris. Une voix, Un vote - One Voice, One Vote [Jeanne Fatuille & Cécile Rousselet] 2007 / 13 min. In the run-up to the 2007 presidential elections, a look at the importance of voting. Le Dernier jour - The Last Day [Olivier Bourbeillon] 2006 / 12 min. On July the 1st 2005, the 1867 Schneider and Co power hammer N°125 ceased operating at the former smithy of the Brest military harbour. This is the story of the machine and its workers’ last working day. L’origine de la tendresse [Alain-Paul Mallard] 1999 / 32 min. Elaine is a quiet, solitary woman who works as a museum attendant. Nothing really happens in her life. And in a life in which nothing happens, no moment is devoid of meaning. Kitchen [Alice Winocour] 2004 / 15 min. A woman, her husband and two lobsters, A recipe that turns sour...

Wednesday, February 16th, 7pm

SÉRAPHINE
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Martin Provost
2008 / 125 min.

As the title character in Martin Provost’s Séraphine, a real-life naïve artist who died in an insane asylum in 1942, Brussels-born Yolande Moreau is unforgettable, courageously forgoing the histrionics usually associated with biopics about the mentally disturbed. Moreau plays the painter as no one’s fool, and, in several scenes marked by silence, conveys Séraphine’s mental state as utterly inscrutable.

Monday, February 21st, 2011

WELCOME
Philippe Lioret
2008 / 110 min.

Both a study of a budding friendship and a compassionate look at the perils faced by illegal immigrants, Philippe Lioret’s Welcome centers on Bilal, a 17-year-old Iraqi Kurd who is stuck in Calais, in Northern France, and Simon, a recently divorced swimming teacher. Desperate to join his girlfriend in London, Bilal vows to swim across the English Channel if he has to, setting the stage for his meeting with Simon. Unmistakably a condemnation of xenophobia in France, Welcome also features richly drawn, fully fleshed-out lead characters.

Friday, February 25th, 7pm

COCO AVANT CHANEL
COCO BEFORE CHANEL
Anne Fontaine
2009 / 110 min.

Anne Fontaine’s thoughtful exploration of the pre-fame life of the world’s greatest fashion designer focuses on Coco Chanel during the Belle Époque. The film opens in 1893 with a powerfully gritt scene of 10-year-old Coco and her sister unceremoniously dumped at an orphanage and ends around World War I, a few years before the Chanel empire is launched.