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***FRENCH CULT CLASSIC 'BETTY BLUE: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT'
TO BE RELEASED FOR FIRST TIME IN US THEATRES JUNE 12***

**AUTEUR JEAN-JACQUES BEINEIX' COMPLETE BODY OF WORK TO BE RELEASED BY
CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO THIS FALL**

LOS ANGELES (May 5, 2009) – *Betty Blue* the 1986 international hit by Jean-Jacques Beineix (*Diva*), which titillated viewers worldwide with its full frontal nudity and unapologetic sexuality, will charm audiences once again this summer when it is released in select markets beginning in New York on June 12 at the Cinema Village. The film will be released for the first time in US theatres as a Director's Cut with an additional hour of footage on a recently struck 35mm print.

Quintessential French cinema, *Betty Blue* is the uninhibited and tumultuous story of an obsessive relationship that descends into madness. Zorg, an aspiring novelist who gets by as a handyman at a dilapidated beach resort, is happy with his life until he meets Betty; beautiful, wild and unpredictable. Life with Betty becomes a carnival ride filled with prolific sex and increasingly madcap adventures, until Betty's mental state turns dark. Based on the novel by Philippe Dijan the film introduced the effervescent Beatrice Dalle to the world accompanied by the handsomely attributed Jean-Hugues Anglade.

Betty Blue: The Director's Cut features an additional 60 minutes of footage from the version shown previously in US theaters. The characters of Zorg and Betty are more fully realized, with the leads' performances and the voluptuous, early days of their relationship fleshed out in more detail. Betty's crossover from obsessive passion to full-on emotional breakdown is more fully depicted and this version gives more screen time to the secondary characters who add a sense celebration and wild abandon with plenty of extremely funny moments along the way. A darker and even more memorable ride.

After opening in New York, *Betty Blue: The Director's Cut* will open July 3 in Los Angeles, CA (Landmark's Nuart); in Minneapolis, MN on July 24 at Landmark; on August 7 in Seattle, WA (Landmark's Varsity); at the Starz FilmCenter in Denver, CO on August 21; and in Boston, MA at Landmark's Kendall Square on September 11. (Mono sound, 35mm print, TRT; 185 minutes, Unrated.)

Cinema Libre Studio, an independent company known for distributing controversial art house films and documentaries, will be releasing eight of Beineix' films, some of which have never before been released in North America, including his documentaries and shorts.

"The American audience, by giving a cult status to my movies *Diva* and *Betty Blue* was essential in the launching of my career," says Beineix. "It is therefore extremely gratifying for me that all my movies will be re-released in the US by Cinema Libre, that also plans to release those titles that are still unknown there."

Beineix started as an assistant director in France, before he directed his first short, *Le Chien de Monsieur Michel*, which earned a César nomination in 1977. In 1981, he directed his first feature, *Diva*, a stylish thriller that became a word-of-mouth sensation eventually winning four Césars. Five years later, *Betty Blue* became an international cult sensation and was nominated for Best Foreign Film at both the Oscars and Golden Globes, and earned 9 César nominations.

In the 90's, Beineix turned towards more socially conscious subjects; he directed a BBC television documentary, *Locked-In Syndrome*, about Jean-Dominique Bauby, the French fashion magazine editor who suffered a massive stroke that left him paralyzed except for his left eye. This story was the inspiration for Julian Schnabel's award-winning feature, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Beineix continues to produce and direct films through his Paris-based company, Cargo Films.

In addition to *Betty Blue: The Director's Cut*, Cinema Libre has the English speaking North American rights and will be releasing through home entertainment channels:

- *Locked-In Syndrome* (Documentary, 1997) with *Otaku* (Documentary, 1994) and Beineix' first short film *The Dog of Mr. Michel* (Drama, 1977 also known as *Le Chien de Monsieur Michel*). Streets June 23.
- *IP5: The Island of Pachyderms* (Drama, 1992), streets July 14.
- *Roselyne and the Lions* (Drama, 1989), streets August 18.
- *Mortal Transfer* (Comedy/Thriller, 2001), streets September 22.
- *The Moon in the Gutter* (Drama, 1983), streets October 20.

About Cinema Libre Studio:

Cinema Libre Studio has been a leader in the distribution of social issue films that tackle timely topics. Headquartered in Los Angeles, the company is a haven for independent filmmakers offering one-stop shopping for production, distribution and foreign sales. The six-year old company is best known for distributing controversial documentaries and quirky independent features such as: *Outfoxed*, *Uncovered: The War on Iraq*, *Raising Flagg* starring Academy-Award winner @Alan Arkin, and *Angels In The Dust*. The company has recently produced *The End of Poverty?* which premiered during the Cannes Film Festival and has subsequently been selected to over 20 international festivals with a September 2009 theatrical release planned. For more information, please visit www.cinemalibrestudio.com.

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