

# AUDREY TAUTOU

Season at Cinema City, Norwich

Reviewed by Daniel May

When I caught wind that Cinema City were undertaking a season of Audrey Tautou films to tie in with the release of *Beautiful Lies*, I jumped at the chance to preview it. The season is jam-packed full of some of Tautou's finest cinematic work: *Pot Luck*, *Dirty Pretty Things*, *Priceless* and *Coco Before Chanel*.

The French are renowned for their brilliance in producing beautiful and supreme actresses such as *Bridgette Bardot*, *Sophie Marceau*, *Juliette Binoche*, *Vanessa Paradis* and *Marion Cotillard*, to name but a few. However, there is no doubt that *Madame Tautou* rates firmly amongst the very finest.

After starring in a handful of minor French TV roles during the early days of her career, Audrey Tautou made her first big screen appearance in *Vénus beauté Institut*. Tautou gained international

attention and acclaim in 2001 with her role as serial do-gooder *Amélie Poulain* in Jean-Pierre Jeunet's romantic fable *Le Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain*, known in the UK as *Amélie*. Tautou's grace, poise and inspired acting ability swiftly resulted in her being hailed as the Audrey Hepburn of her generation, and, in my opinion, this is a pretty accurate billing.

Since *Amélie*, Audrey Tautou has gone on to star in a variety of triumphant French features, and in 2006 she successfully dipped her toes into Hollywood blockbuster waters with her performance as *Sophie Neveu* in *The Da Vinci Code*, opposite Tom Hanks.

I have had the pleasure to view each of the films being shown during Cinema City's Audrey Tautou season and I would strongly recommend each to you. The one thing missing from their season is *Amélie*, so, for those of you who are not yet familiar with this French masterpiece, put it on your list of must-see DVDs! Enjoy...



## BEAUTIFUL LIES (2011) ★★★★★

Pierre Salvadori once again teams up with Audrey Tautou to take the directorial helm of *Beautiful Lies* (Tautou & Salvadori collaborated on *Priceless*, which you can catch at Cinema City on Monday 5th September, 8.15pm).

In some ways playing reverence to *Amélie*, *Beautiful Lies* is set on the same 'do good' principles that made *Amélie* such a success. Tautou plays *Emilie*, a salon owner and boss to an eclectic bunch of hairdressers and stylists. Set in the alluring South of France, *Beautiful Lies* commences with *Emilie* receiving an anonymous love letter from one of her adoring male employees, handyman *Jean* (*Sami Bouajila*). Quickly disregarding the love note, *Emilie*, with the constant worry of her mother's (*Nathalie Baye*) depression on her mind, decides that forwarding the note on to her may help in breaking down her miserable outlook on life.



Seeing the transformation in her mother from just one note encourages *Emilie* to continue writing to her as if she were a male admirer. The notes culminate in a clumsy, cringeworthy and extremely hilarious love triangle.

Very much in the same vein as recent French rom-coms, *Heartbreaker* and *Priceless*, *Beautiful Lies* is an amusing picture with plenty to offer in its sub-plots, characters, comedic performances and scenery (by scenery I mean the *Côte d'Azur* and not the leading lady, of course).

If, like me, you are a huge fan of French cinema, or if you have not yet acquainted yourself with it, *Beautiful Lies* is a great place to start.

You can catch a showing of *Beautiful Lies* at Cinema City between 12th and 25th August.



## CinemaCity



Sarah's Key

### AUDREY TAUTOU SEASON

- MON 15 AUG, 8.15 COCO BEFORE CHANEL (12A)
- MON 22 AUG, 8.15 DIRTY PRETTY THINGS (15)
- MON 29 AUG, 8.15 POT LUCK (15)
- MON 5 SEP, 8.15 PRICELESS (12A)

### MAIN FEATURES

- 5-18 AUG SARAH'S KEY (CERT TBC)
- 5-18 AUG SUPER 8 (12A)
- 12-25 AUG BEAUTIFUL LIES (12A)
- 19-25 AUG THE GUARD (CERT TBC)
- 26 AUG - 1 SEP PROJECT NIM (12A)
- 26 AUG - 8 SEP THE SKIN I LIVE IN (15)
- 26 AUG - 8 SEP ONE DAY (12A)

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