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FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES

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The Mondavi Center's Focus on Film: "Breathless"

Davis, Calif.—The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, continues its **Focus on Film** spring segment—**Paul Haggis Picks**—with Jean Luc Godard's "**Breathless**" (1960; in French with English subtitles). The screening takes place at **6:30 p.m.** on **Monday, April 27**, in the **Studio Theatre**.

Said **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director, "**Academy Award winner Paul Haggis** will be visiting the Mondavi Center on **May 11** to deliver a lecture entitled **From 'Crash' to the 'Valley of Elah': The Art and Craft of Hollywood**. We asked him to share with us those films that most influenced the way he makes movies. We think his choices make for great viewing and give insights into his filmmaking philosophy, which will make Haggis' talk even more fascinating.

"Haggis' pick '**Breathless**' is the cult film at the heart of the **French New Wave**, which has influenced three generations of American Filmmakers. Ironically, Godard (and his partner in crime, Francois Truffaut) was most influenced by the great American genre films of the thirties, forties and fifties. This black-and-white film, set in Paris, is beautiful, stark and atmospheric.

"**Breathless**' made an international star of the incredibly charming **Jean-Paul Belmondo**, who portrays Michel, a young thug who models himself after Humphrey Bogart. While some of Godard's later films became self-consciously theoretical, '**Breathless**' demonstrates the great skill (and knowledge of film history) that the former critic brought to his debut work."

"This film hit me like a ton of bricks when I first saw it as a young man," remarked **Paul Haggis**, who credited Godard for taking his cameras away from movie sets and into the streets to film in "real life" locations. "Nothing was the same after that ... The impact of this film is beyond measure to me. It changed the very way that I understood what film could be."

The **Mondavi Center Focus on Film Series** brings timeless art-house films to the Studio Theatre on selected Monday nights throughout the 2008–09 events season. Coming soon in the **Haggis Picks** series: "**Dog Day Afternoon**" on **May 18**. For details, visit MondaviArts.org/events.

Pricing for all Focus on Film events is \$10 for regular tickets and \$5 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request.

- **Paul Haggis Picks: "Breathless"**
- **Mon., April 27, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Studio Theatre**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$10 regular; \$5 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**
866-754-2787 (toll-free)
530-754-5402 (TDD)
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