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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Street Date - November 8, 2011
Pre-Book Date - October 11, 2011

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

From the internationally acclaimed director of
Bluebeard, The Last Mistress, Fat Girl, Romance,
Sex Is Comedy, and Anatomy Of Hell

On Tuesday, November 8, 2011 Strand Releasing proudly releases on DVD the latest of French provocateur Catherine Breillat's subverted fairytales, THE SLEEPING BEAUTY, a twisted retelling that ends far from "happily ever after". Starring Clara Besnainou, Julia Artamonov, Kerian Mayan, and David Chausse.

Based on a tale by Charles Perrault, three fairies alter a curse on a young princess who is destined to die at an early age. Instead she embarks upon a hundred-year sleep, in which she is allowed to live a full and vivid life within her dreams. She experiences a sexual awakening that reshapes her view on Prince Charming when she has no clear perception of reality.

Charles Perrault's *Stories or Fairy Tales From Bygone Eras* has drawn countless retellings in the form of animated films, ballets and children's books. BLUEBEARD was the first film Catherine Breillat deconstructed from one of his classic tales as THE SLEEPING BEAUTY is her second quintessential fairytale retold for adults and SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS will be the final installment of her vision to the trilogy.

Winner of the Art Cinema Award (C.I.A.E.) at the Venice International Film Festival. An Official Selection at the Rendez-Vous with French Cinema in New York, ColCoa (French Film Festival in Los Angeles), Toronto, and San Francisco International Film Festivals. The critically acclaimed film opened with rave reviews in theatres on July 8th.

**"SLY AND PLAYFUL,
IT'S A BEAUTY"**

- Sheri Linden, *Los Angeles Times*

**"LOVELY...
EERIE AND COMPELLING"**

- Elizabeth Weitzman,
New York Daily News

**"MAGICAL...
HEARTWARMING ENTERTAINMENT,
GORGEOUSLY RENDERED"**

- V.A. Musetto, *New York Post*

"WILY AND WITTY... RAW, SOMETIMES VERY FUNNY"

- Manohla Dargis, *The New York Times*

"EROTICALLY DARING"

- Lisa Schwarzbaum,
Entertainment Weekly

**"PROVOCATIVE
AND COMPELLING"**

- Leslie Felperin, *Variety*

"BOLDLY SEXUAL"

- Mick LaSalle,
San Francisco Chronicle

"AWAKE, ALIVE AND AGELESS"

- Stephanie Zacharek, *Movieline*

**"VISUALLY STUNNING...
A THINKING WOMAN'S
FAIRY TALE"**

- Caryn James, *James on screens*

Synopsis

Cursed at birth by an evil fairy, Anastasia is destined to prick her finger and die at the age of sixteen. When three fairy sisters discover this, they hatch a plan to alter the curse: rather than die, Anastasia will sleep for 100 years and live in a world of dreams. Through her active dream life, Anastasia will find love, loss, and possibly a waking life. French provocateur Breillat (*FAT GIRL*, *BLUEBEARD*) continues her deconstruction of classic fairytales with her latest, *THE SLEEPING BEAUTY*.

82 minutes, Color, Widescreen, In French with English Subtitles

Not Rated: This Film Contains Mature Subject Matter

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LONG SYNOPSIS

The films of French director Catherine Breillat (*Fat Girl*, *Romance*, *Sex Is Comedy*, *Anatomy of Hell*) are not known for ending with “. . .happy ever after.” There is always a twist. Although the heroine may find happiness, there is always a price.

The twists are plentiful in Ms. Breillat’s current feature *THE SLEEPING BEAUTY*. In a castle in a far away land in a bygone age, a little girl named Anastasia is born. Carabosse, an older fairy, waits impatiently for three younger fairies to arrive so that they can bestow a blessing on the child. When they finally arrive all is lost. Carabosse has placed a curse on the child: at the age of sixteen Anastasia will pierce her hand and die. Feeling somewhat guilty that their tardiness has brought about an early demise for the child, the three younger fairies alter the curse so that instead of dying Anastasia will sleep for one hundred years. And during that century long slumber she will have the ability to wander the world in dreams.

This is no mere fairytale. It is not surprising that Ms. Breillat continues to examine the female mythologies in *The Sleeping Beauty*: the innocence of beauty and youth versus the perceived evils of “the spinster”; the reinterpretation of the classic “girl in peril” scenario;

and the idea that true love is all a woman needs for a “happily ever after.”

Noah Cowan, speaking of Ms. Breillat at the Toronto Film Festival, “Breillat is simply one of the most intriguing and surprising filmmakers working today and *The Sleeping Beauty* is a fascinating testament to her abilities.”

About Catherine Breillat

One of the most provocative French directors of the last three decades, Catherine Breillat’s acclaimed films include *The Last Mistress*, *Sex is Comedy*, *Brief Crossing* and *Fat Girl*. She began her film career after studying acting at Yves Furet Acting Studio in Paris. She acted in Bernardo Bertolucci’s *Last Tango in Paris* (1972) and wrote the screenplay for Maurice Pialat’s film *Police*. Ms. Breillat is also a successful novelist, who has adapted several of her own books into films. At the age of 17 she had her novel “l’Homme facile” published. Ironically the French government banned it for readers under 18 years old. Her unconventional approach to filmmaking is often reflected in her casting. She has cast the pornstar Rocco Siffredi in her films *Romance* (1999) and *Anatomy of Hell* (2004). With uncompromising vision, Ms. Breillat’s films often explore issues of sexuality, gender conflict and sibling rivalry.

DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

As opposed to *Bluebeard*, I would like to deal with this tale, not as a story that two little girls tell each other, but as the story of a little girl who is born into a world she has no clear idea of, and so she fabricates a child’s world of her own. What comes before adolescence are just the long, gentle, and cruel “unfinished” moments of childhood. Even if that’s where the fairytale aspects of the tale begins.

That’s how she creates a character for herself and becomes an adolescent who thinks she knows all about life.

But life isn’t a fairytale, and a teenage love-affair, like precocious motherhood, imposes a different view of things.

It brings you “back down to earth,” as the saying goes. So it’s not a fairytale, but a tale

about the beginning of life.

CAST

CARLA BESNAINOU
JULIA ARTAMONOV
KERIAN MAYAN
DAVID CHAUSSE

Anatasia
Anastasia (age 16)
Peter
Johan

CREW

Director and Screenplay
Producer
Producer
Sound

Editing
Costumes
Set
Production Company
Co-production Companies

CATHERINE BREILLAT
JEAN-FRANCOIS LEPETIT
SYLVETTE FRYDMAN
YVES OSMU
SEBASTIEN NOIRE
EMMANUEL CROSET
PASCALE CHAVANCE
ROSE-MARIE MELKA
FRANCOIS-RENAUD LABARTHE
FLACH FILM PRODUCTION
CB FILMS/ARTE FRANCE

If you'd like more information about this film please call Samantha Klinger at 310.836.7500 or email samantha@strandreleasing.com.