



Peek at private

PIAF film festival

by michael perrot

PRIVATE FEARS IN PUBLIC PLACES (M)

Director: Alain Resnais

Starring: Andre Dussollier, Lambert Wilson, Sabine Azema, Isabelle Carre, Laura Morante and Pierre Arditi

Screening: Somerville from February 25 to March 2

★★★★½

SIX disparate people, all seeking love, can't find it in Paris, the city of love. *Private Fears in Public Places* (*Coeurs*), an adaptation of Alan Ayckbourn's play and a very French adaptation, is a tale of lonely, confused and dissatisfied characters, all played by an extremely fine cast of Alain Resnais' regulars.

It is remarkable that at 84-years-old Resnais (*Hiroshima, My Love, Night and Fog*) is still making films, and while this is not one of his greats, his understanding of the human

condition is credit enough.

Together with writer Jean-Michel Ribes, they have created a perfectly fine adaptation, but it still looks like a play. Unfortunately, with so many scene changes, the characters barely get a chance to fully develop.

Thierry (Andre Dussollier) is a middle-aged real-estate salesman who manages a branch office with Charlotte (Sabine Azema), his assistant and office manager.

Thierry is trying to find a suitable apartment for Nicole (Laura Morante), but the problem is Nicole's unemployed boyfriend Dan (Lambert Wilson), who keeps finding things wrong with every apartment Thierry shows them.

Dan is forever boring Lionel with his ideas on women and love.

Charlotte spends her evenings caring for Lionel's obnoxious, bedridden, ageing father while Lionel is at work.

Will any of them ever connect?



Isabelle Carre and Lambert Wilson in a scene from *Private Fears in Public Places*.