35 SHOTS OF RUM
DIRECTED BY CLAIRE DENIS
AT AMERICAN CASINO
35 SHOTS OF RUM, by Claire Denis, sets her story in a Paris suburb: a widowed metro conductor, approaching 35, who gets herself invited to high-level corporate conferences and onto television. This is Denis’s first film in English. Although she uses French dialogue in her films, she has always been very interested in English cinema, in the possibilities of the language and in the specific way it is used in cinema. Claire Denis, long known for her subtle, fluid and intriguing movies (BEAU TRAVAIL, 1997; JUST ACROSS THE RIVER & INTO THE ETL, 1999; 35 SHOTS OF RUM), is best known to U.S. audiences), sets her story in a Paris suburb: a widowed metro conductor, approaching 35, who gets herself invited to high-level corporate conferences and onto television. This is Denis’s first film in English. Although she uses French dialogue in her films, she has always been very interested in English cinema, in the possibilities of the language and in the specific way it is used in cinema. Here, she draws on her experience as a scriptwriter for a large number of British films, from PETER GREENAWAY to BERYL MARKHAM, as well as her connection to screenwriter BAILEY CARTER, who is also a director and designer, to tell in English the story of a working-class woman who suddenly finds herself involved in the world of corporate executives. The film explores the complexities of gender, class and power in a society that values individualism and material success. Claire Denis’s films have always been about the power of language and the importance of storytelling, and this film is no exception. Whether set in Paris or in the seaside town of The Sun, Denis’s films have always been characterized by their poetic and lyrical style, their attention to detail and their exploration of the human condition. With 35 SHOTS OF RUM, Denis continues to explore these themes in a new and unique way, creating a powerful and moving portrait of a woman who must navigate the complexities of the corporate world while trying to maintain her sense of self and identity. The film is a testament to Denis’s ability to tell stories that are both universal and specific, that speak to the human experience while also being deeply rooted in a particular time and place. 35 SHOTS OF RUM is a film that challenges our assumptions about gender, class and power, and invites us to think about the ways in which we are shaped by our circumstances and our choices. It is a film that reminds us of the importance of storytelling and the power of language to connect us to each other and to the world around us.