



PRESS RELEASE: 8 December 2010

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S (USA 1961)

Directed by Blake Edwards

Starring Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Patricia Neal

115 mins | Colour | Cert PG

A BFI release

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Release date: 21 January 2011

Opening venues: BFI Southbank plus key cities nationwide

Celebrating 50 years since Audrey Hepburn first captivated audiences as the ultra-chic, riotously scatty Holly Golightly, who threw the most hedonistic parties in town, the BFI releases ***Breakfast At Tiffany's***, directed by the late Blake Edwards, in cinemas on 21 January.

Studded with sparkling moments, Edwards' film tells the story of two bohemians falling in love against a Manhattan backdrop. When aspiring writer Paul Varjak (George Peppard) moves into his new apartment, he is both intrigued by and drawn to his unconventional neighbour Holly Golightly. But Holly is more interested in money — and the fun it brings — than in love and poverty. Supporting herself by earning dollars from dubious sources, Holly Golightly isn't the only person in the Manhattan brownstone to receive money for favours — Paul Varjak is also "kept" in enviable style by 2-E (Patricia Neal), a wealthy designer. But Paul recognises the lost soul in Holly, and is determined that — whatever the cost — he's the one to help her.

Truman Capote — on whose novella the film is based — wanted Marilyn Monroe to play Golightly and thought Audrey Hepburn wrong for the part. Monroe wanted the role, but Paula Strasberg, her acting coach and mentor, advised her not to take it. At that time, Hepburn was looking to bring her film image up-to-date — she was 31, had just had a baby, and was no longer the Hollywood ingenue. Screenwriter George Axelrod therefore transformed Holly Golightly, and with her Audrey Hepburn, into a Givenchy-clad free spirit, a party girl whose intensely stylish façade masks an inner despair and a hidden past.

Following the 1961 release, the sophisticated Givenchy look, complete with pearls and streaked beehive, was widely imitated, while Henry Mancini's Oscar-winning ballad 'Moon River', which underscores the film's sublimely romantic climax, became a standard and has been frequently reinterpreted ever since.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Breakfast at Tiffany's is released on 21 January. It plays at BFI Southbank as part of its Audrey Hepburn season which runs from 2 to 30 January.

Blake Edwards: July 26, 1922 - December 15, 2010 aged 88.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2010/dec/16/blake-edwards-dies-88>

Breakfast at Tiffany's The Official 50th Anniversary Companion by Sarah Gristwood is published by Pavilion.

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