**JULIAN SCHNABEL**

Julian Schnabel is an artist and filmmaker. His paintings, sculptures, and works on paper have been exhibited all over the world. He has written and directed six feature films: Basquiat (1996); Before Night Falls (2000) which won the 2000 Venice Film Festival Grand Jury Prize and the Coppa Volpi for Best Actor for Javier Bardem, who was also nominated for Best Actor at the Academy Awards; The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007) for which Mr. Schnabel won Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival, Best Director and Best Foreign Language Film at the Golden Globes, four Oscar nominations including Best Director, and a César for Best Actor for Mathieu Amalric as Jean-Dominique Bauby; Lou Reed’s Berlin (2007); Miral (2010); and At Eternity’s Gate (2018) a film about Vincent Van Gogh starring Willem Dafoe who won the Coppa Volpi at the 2018 Venice Film Festival, and who was also nominated for Best Actor at the Golden Globes and 2019 Academy Awards.

**BEFORE THE NIGHT FALLS**

Before Night Falls is an episodic look at the life of Cuban poet and novelist, Reinaldo Arenas (1943-1990), from his childhood in Oriente province, joining Castro’s rebels and marching to Havana in 1964, until his death in New York City.

ADDITIONAL TEXTS:

Working on Before Night Falls was one of the richest and most transforming experiences I ever had as an actor. And knowing and being close to Julian Schnabel in this marvelous adventure is one of the most memorable on a personal level. Julian is a person with a huge heart who is always in the frontline of battle, always ready to go one step further. Much further than what is hoped for, further than what is evident, of what is common. I never saw a limit to his creativity; he is one of the most courageous people I ever met whose way of understanding art is his way of understanding life, without fear and without prejudice.

**Javier Bardem**

I believe Before Night Falls is an emblematic portrait of the word below the Equator. It is a strong, poetic, and imaginative piece of work, a beautiful parable that begins in a place of extreme poverty and ends in a place of extreme wealth. It has far more than one reading; perhaps most important, Before Night Falls is a portrait of the artist as a free man. It’s very difficult to make movies about artist; I believe Julian has succeeded because he always considers the humanity of the character more than the plot of the story. He also has an extraordinarily poetic vision in terms of how he sees the background and how he inserts the character into the landscape. Mr. Schnabel has invented his own cinematic vocabulary with this movie.

Before Night Falls epitomizes freedom of expression both in its form and its content. What is so interesting to me is that a Jew who lives in New York – a man who is almost the paradigm of the “successful artist,” and not a guy who grew up in Colombia or Brazil or Havana – arrives and tells us the story that we were never able to tell. Julian Schnabel has created the best Latin American movie ever made about the subject of freedom.

Brazil, November 2000

**Héctor Babenco**