



WHITE
AS
SNOW



Blue Monday Productions

presents

in co-production with MK2, Need Productions, Rhône-Alpes Cinéma and RTBF

in collaboration with Canal+, Cinécinéma, TPS Star, Centre National de la Cinématographie, Région Rhône-Alpes, Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

in association with La Banque Postale Image 2, Cofinova 5, Cofinova 6, Soficinema 5, Belgacom

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WHITE AS SNOW

A CHRISTOPHE BLANC FILM

Production company: Blue Monday Productions - Production year: 2009

Running time: 114 MINUTES - Language: French - Format: 35mm/Cinemascope/2.35

CREW

Director - CHRISTOPHE BLANC

Screenplay - CHRISTOPHE BLANC and ROGER BOHBOT

In collaboration with BÉRYL PEILLARD

Director of photography - LAURENT BRUNET

Assistant director - Frédéric GOUPIL

Sound - OLIVIER HESPEL

Sound Editor - BENOÎT GARGONNE

Sound mix - STÉPHANE THIEBAUT

Producer - BERTRAND GORE

Associate producers - NATHALIE MESURET, MARIN KARMITZ,

NATHANAËL KARMITZ, CHARLES GILLIBERT, DENIS DELCAMPE

and ARLETTE ZYLBERBERG

Casting director - AURÉLIE GUICHARD

Editor - GUY LECORNE

Production design - FRANCOIS GIRARD

Production manager - Philippe HAGEGE

Composer - KRISHNA LEVY

CAST

Maxime - FRANÇOIS CLUZET

Grégoire - OLIVIER GOURMET

Michèle - LOUISE BOURGOIN

Abel - JONATHAN ZACCAÏ

Simon - BOULI LANNERS

Matti - PERTTI KOIVULA

Jukka - ILKKA KOIVULA

Markku - KAI LEHTINEN

Timo - LAURI UUSITALO

Camille - SACHA QUEILLE

Nicole - JENNY BELLAY

Romuald - GRÉGORY MONTEL

Stéphane - HABIB SABOUR

Franz - JÜRGEN ZWINGEL

Werner - TIBO VANDENBORRE

Jonvelle - SERGE SWYSEN

Indra - ALESKSANDRA KEDZIERSKA

mk2



SYNOPSIS

Everything is going great for Maxime: his luxury car dealership is booming, his house is magnificent, and his young wife is drop dead gorgeous. All of that changes when his partner is murdered by a group of Finnish gangsters, who threaten Maxime with the worst if he doesn't pay off his partner's enormous debt. With no one else to turn to, he contacts his scheming band of brothers for help. When their plan doubly backfires, Maxime and his family are stuck with their backs against the wall.



INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTOPHE BLANC

In your medium-length film, *Faute de Soleil*, you described the birth of a relationship. In *An Outgoing Woman*, you examined a break-up. How would you describe *White as Snow*?
I'd say *White as Snow* is a "family thriller": it's both the story of a family-of three brothers and their particular way of loving one another-and a suspense film. The action and tension that run throughout the movie are essential but, in the end, the emotions are the most important element. There is no psychological dimension in the story, no manipulation, just an attempt at exploring the strong emotional and affective links

between characters that are caught in situations they don't understand. It's the story of a couple and three siblings caught up in a storm. The film begins with the couple and ends with the couple and, in the middle, these siblings question their relationship, with all the grudges and incomprehension rooted in the past and in their childhood. Cassavetes once said in an interview: "I only know how to film love." I can identify with that. The thriller is just a pretext to portray this love and these emotions under a raw light.



What influence did this have on the actors you chose to cast?

I wanted actors with both feet on the ground and who immediately embodied a theme ground. I, of course, needed an element of mystery, but also a very human aspect. For the three brothers, we were initially set on having them strongly resemble one another physically. We quickly abandoned this imperative for a common internal energy, a presence. I wanted my three brothers to be extremely there, grounded, all sharing a certain electricity. This dimension is present with François, Olivier and Jonathan. Then there was Michèle, Maxime's wife. She's married to a man who has everything, and who will have everything taken away from him. As a result, I wanted people to initially see this beautiful, elegant woman as a pure symbol of social status, and then more deeply as a loving wife. This couple are truly in love. There is a tenderness, a complicity between them. And Michèle also remains elusive for Maxime, with her “out-of-his-league” beauty. Louise Bourgoïn brought all these elements together: beauty, tenderness, and a more complex dimension, which is completely evasive.

And Bouli Lanners in the role of the crooked partner?

Simon is a key character in the story. He is Maxime's business associate, but also his friend. He's Maxime's ideal brother. Simon secretly makes his shady business deals and goes too far. But Maxime benefits from this scheming without really knowing what he's doing—or maybe he does... This remains ambiguous. Maxime, like all of us, is far from being white as snow...

Hence the title?

There are many things at play in the title. First of all, with reference to Maxime and, probably, to all characters, there is the notion of them being anything but “white as snow”. There's also a direct allusion to a part of the decor, to the snow at the beginning and end of the film. And then, there's this play on words with my own last name [blanc = white]. I liked the idea of having a piece of me in the title. Films always have an autobiographical dimension. I put a lot of myself in them.

White is also the colour of the film?

Gradually, yes. The film begins in Marseilles with its many colours: the blue sea, the bright yellow sun, a totally solar atmosphere. Then we find ourselves at the Brussels Auto Show. Maxime is at the height of his career and Michèle is by his side. I wanted a gaudy look to this scene because we're in a very tacky universe, that of luxury cars, the symbol of social success. Maxime is happy. He has everything he's ever dreamt of. For him, this is a moment of total happiness, he's convinced of it. But there is the inevitable snag in his designer suit... Something happens. A traumatic experience, that will radically reveal who he really is and transform him, has already been set in motion. For these first scenes, I wanted very bright colours. Everything in it is golden and ostensibly beautiful. The images convey materialistic happiness. Then, little by little, we move towards black and white, towards abstraction...



CHRISTOPHE BLANC

Christophe Blanc was born on August 1, 1966 in Saint Vallier in the French department Drôme. From 1984 to 1987, he completed his still photography and audiovisual studies at Université de Provence in Marseille.

FILMOGRAPHY

2010 **WHITE AS SNOW** ("Blanc comme neige")
Starring François Cluzet, Olivier Gourmet, Louise Bourgoin,
Jonathan Zaccà and Bouli Lanners
Blue Monday Productions

2003 **A BIG GIRL LIKE YOU** ("Une grande fille comme toi")
Starring Mercedes Cechetto, Laura Locatelli and Jean-Yves Dubois
Sunday Morning Productions
Berlin Film Festival 2003 Panorama
Jerusalem, Edinburgh, Vancouver, Cardiff, Brighton

2000 **AN OUTGOING WOMAN** ("Une femme d'extérieur")
Starring Agnès Jaoui and Serge Riaboukine
Sunday Morning Productions
Yokohama, Moscow, Barcelona, Florence, Mannheim Heidelberg 2000

1995 **FAUTE DE SOLEIL**
Starring Jean-Jacques Benhamou, Sarah Haxaire and Françoise Descarrega
Sunday Morning Productions
Cannes Film Festival 1995 - Director's Fortnight

1992 **VIOLENTE** (Short film)
Starring Jean-Jacques Benhamou and Françoise Descarrega
Les Films du Fleuve
Awards: Grand Prix Jury Pantin, Grand Prix Jury Nancy,
Prix Jury Écran Dunkerque, Runner-up Jury Aix-en-Provence, Prix Qualité CNC 1992



FRANÇOIS CLUZET

MAXIME

FILMOGRAPHY - SELECTION

2010 SIGNIFICANT OTHERS
("Les petits mouchoirs" by GUILLAUME CANET)

2009 IN THE BEGINNING ("A l'origine" by XAVIER GIANNOLI)
2009 ONE FOR THE ROAD
("Le dernier pour la route" by PHILIPPE GODEAU)

2008 PARIS (dir. CÉDRIC KLAPISCH)
2008 RIVALS ("Les liens du sang" by JACQUES MAILLOT)

2007 TRUE ENOUGH ("La vérité ou presque" by SAM KARMANN)
2007 MY PLACE IN THE SUN (MA PLACE AU SOLEIL
by ERIC DE MONTALIER)
2007 GAME OF FOUR ("Détrompez-vous"
by BRUNO DEGA and JEANNE LE GUILLOU)

2006 FOUR STARS ("Quatre étoiles" by CHRISTIAN VINCENT)
2006 TELL NO ONE ("Ne le dis à personne" by GUILLAUME CANET)
César for Best Actor 2007

2005 THE LOST DOMAIN ("Le domaine perdu" by RAOUL RUIZ)
2005 LA CLOCHE A SONNÉ (by BRUNO HERBULOT
and ADELINE LECALLIER)

2004 THE HOOK ("Je suis un assassin" by THOMAS VINCENT)

2003 FRANCE BOUTIQUE (by TONIE MARSHALL)
2003 MAIS QUI A TUÉ PAMELA ROSE? (by ERIC LARTIGAU)

2003 JANIS AND JOHN ("Janis et John" by SAMUEL BENCHETRIT)
2003 QUAND JE VOIS LE SOLEIL (dir. JACQUES CORTAL)

2002 THE ADVERSARY ("L'Adversaire" by NICOLE GARCIA)

1998 LATE AUGUST, EARLY SEPTEMBER
("Fin août début septembre" by OLIVIER ASSAYAS)
1998 SWEET IDLENESS ("Dolce farniente" by NAE CARANFIL)
1998 MIDNIGHT EXAM ("Examen de minuit"
by DANIELLE DUBROUX)

1997 THE SWINDLE ("Rien ne va plus" by CLAUDE CHABROL)

1996 BASTARD BROOD ("Enfants de salaud" by TONIE MARSHALL)

1995 LES APPRENTIS (by Pierre SALVADORI)
1995 FRENCH KISS (by LAWRENCE KASDAN)
1995 THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF
("Le Hussard sur le toit" by JEAN-PAUL RAPPENEAU)

1994 PRÊT À PORTER (by ROBERT ALTMAN)
1994 TORMENT ("L'Enfer" by CLAUDE CHABROL)
1994 WIND FROM WYOMING
("Le vent du Wyoming" by ANDRÉ FORCIER)

1993 ANGELS' WING ("L'Instinct de l'ange"
by RICHARD DEMBO)

1992 THE WEAKER SEXES! ("Sexes faibles" by SERGE MEYNARD)
1992 OLIVIER OLIVIER (by AGNIESZKA HOLLAND)

1992 SEE YOU TOMORROW ("A demain" by DIDIER MARTINY)

1989 THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
("La révolution française" by ROBERT ENRICO)
1989 TWO ("Deux" by CLAUDE ZIDI)
1989 UNCONTROLLABLE CIRCUMSTANCES ("Force majeure"
by PIERRE JOLIVET)

1989 TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR YOU ("Trop belle pour toi"
by BERTRAND BLIER)
1989 ROUNDABOUT ("Un tour de manège" by PIERRE PRADINAS)

1988 CHOCOLAT (by CLAIRE DENIS)
1988 STORY OF WOMEN ("Une affaire de femme"
by CLAUDE CHABROL)

1986 AROUND MIDNIGHT ("Autour de minuit"
by BERTRAND TAVERNIER)
1986 THE WAY OUT ("Rue du départ" by TONY GATLIF)

1985 ELSA, ELSA (by DIDIER HAUDEPIN) Prix Jean Gabin

1983 AT FIRST SIGHT ("Coup de foudre" by DIANE KURYS)
1983 ONE DEADLY SUMMER (L'Été meurtrier" by JEAN BECKER)

1982 THE HATTER'S GHOST ("Les Fantômes du chapelier"
by CLAUDE CHABROL)

1980 THE HORSE OF PRIDE ("Le Cheval d'orgueil"
by CLAUDE CHABROL)
1980 COCKTAIL MOLOTOV ("Cocktail Molotov" by DIANE KURYS)

OLIVIER GOURMET GRÉGOIRE

FILMOGRAPHY - SELECTION

2010 BLACK VENUS ("Venus noire" by ABDELLATIF KECHICHE)

2009 ROBERT MITCHUM EST MORT
(by OLIVIER BABINET and FRED KIHN)

2009 LE ROMAN DE MA FEMME (by DJAMSHED USMONOV)

2008 FOR A SON ("Pour un fils" by ALIX DE MAISTRE)

2008 FRAGMENT OF GRACE (by JESSICA WOODWORTH
and PETER BROSENS)

2008 ANGEL AT SEA ("Un Ange à la mer" by FRÉDÉRIC DUMONT)

2008 GO FAST (by OLIVIER VAN HOOFSTADT)

2008 MESRINE: PUBLIC ENEMY NO 1 ("L'Instinct de mort"
by JEAN-FRANÇOIS RICHEL)

2008 PARK BENCHES ("Bancs publics" by BRUNO PODALYDES)

2008 COLUCHE (by ANTOINE DE CAUNES)

2008 THE SILENCE OF LORNA ("Le Silence de Lorna",
by LUC and JEAN-PIERRE DARDENNE)

2007 HAVE MERCY ON US ALL ("Pars vite et reviens tard"
by RÉGIS WARGNIER)

2007 HOME (by URSULA MEIER)

2007 MADONNAS ("Madonnen" by MARIA SPETH)

2007 COW-BOY (by BENOÎT MARIAGE)

2006 THE COLONEL ("Mon Colonel", by LAURENT HERBIET)

2006 THE TIGER BRIGADES ("Les Brigades du tigre"
by JÉRÔME CORNUAU)

2006 CONGORAMA (by PHILIPPE FALARDEAU)

2005 THE GIRL FROM THE CHARTREUSE
("La Petite Chartreuse" by JEAN-PIERRE DENIS)

2005 LE PARFUM DE LA DAME EN NOIR
(by BRUNO PODALYDES)

2005 THE AXE ("Le Couperet" by COSTA-GAVRAS)

2005 THE CHILD
("L'Enfant" by LUC and JEAN-PIERRE DARDENNE)

2005 TROUBLE (by HARRY CLEVEN)

2004 EVERYBODY IS A KILLER ("Pour le plaisir"
by DOMINIQUE DERRUDDERE)

2004 BAD SPELLING ("Les Fautes d'orthographe"
by JEAN-JACQUES ZILBERMANN)

2003 THE TIME OF THE WOLF ("Le Temps des loups"
by MICHAEL HANEKE)

2003 THE MYSTERY OF THE YELLOW ROOM ("Le Mystere
de la chambre jaune" by BRUNO PODALYDES)

2003 WHERE IS MADAME CATHERINE?
("Les mains vides" by MARC RECHA)

2002 ONCE UPON AN ANGEL
("Peau d'ange" by VINCENT PEREZ)

2002 THE SON ("Le Fils" by LUC and JEAN-PIERRE DARDENNE)
Best Actor - Cannes Film Festival 2002

2002 A PIECE OF SKY
("Une Part du ciel" by BÉNÉDICTE LIENARD)

2002 SAFE CONDUCT
("Laisser passer" by BERTRAND TARVERNIER)

2001 READ MY LIPS ("Sur mes lèvres" by JACQUES AUDIARD)

2001 THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS ("Le Lait
de la tendresse humaine" by DOMINIQUE CABRERA)

2001 DAY OFF ("Mercredi, folle journée!" by PASCAL THOMAS)

2000 SAVE ME ("Sauve moi" by CHRISTIAN VINCENT)

2000 TOTEROS (by E. BARBIER)

1999 ROSETTA (by LUC and JEAN-PIERRE DARDENNE)

1999 MAYBE ("Peut être" by CEDRIC KLAPISCH)

1999 THE JOURNEY TO PARIS ("Le Voyage à Paris"
by MARC HENRI DUFRESNE)

1998 THOSE WHO LOVE ME CAN TAKE THE TRAIN ("Ceux qui
m'aiment prendront le train" by PATRICE CHEREAU)

1996 THE EIGHTH DAY ("Le Huitième jour"
by JACO VAN DORMAEL)

1996 THE PROMISE ("La Promesse"
by LUC and JEAN-PIERRE DARDENNE)

Grégoire
*The plot's worth a bundle, I know it. A big bundle!
If I could have it now, I could keep more dogs,
upgrade the kennels. I could pay Abel, help him out
of his hole. I'm sick of scrimping.
I want to break out.*

Maxime
Break out?

Grégoire
Yes, sort of.

Maxime
*Remember your Peruvian restaurant idea?
"Latino is big this year." I lost a fortune.*

Grégoire
*This is different, I promise.
Way different! Here's the bank report.*

Maxime
What does it say?

Grégoire
It says I have a record.



Michèle

Save it. Noémie called.

What's going on?

Maxime

What do you mean?

Michèle

She said you shut the showroom and put guards on it.

Don't tell me nothing's going on.

Maxime

Listen, Michèle. Calm down.

Those men we saw after the funeral, whose car broke down.

They're hassling me. I think it's a protection racket.

Michèle

Call the police.

Maxime

What for?

One guy nosing around the shop?

I'm just being careful.

Michèle

Noémie saw blood on Abel.

Maxime

He fought with the guy, that's why.

She's such a fusspot!

The guy ran off.

Michèle

I'm calling them, if you don't.

Maxime

Wait! Listen!

Just for one second. I will, later.

I'll go to the cops if it's really necessary.

First I need to wait a little longer. I

t can't be that bad.

Michèle

Why drag us out at midnight, then? Look at me!

Who do you see in front of you?

You're crazy! What have you done?

LOUISE BOURGOIN MICHÈLE

FILMOGRAPHY - SELECTION

2010 ADELE ("Les Aventures extraordinaires d'Adèle Blanc Sec" by LUC BESSON)

2010 L'AUTRE MONDE (by GILLES MARCHAND)

2010 SWEET VALENTINE (by EMMA LUCHINI)

2009 LITTLE NICOLAS ("Le petit Nicolas" by LAURENT TIRARD)

2009 MONSTERS VS ALIENS (voice cast) (by ROB LETTERMAN and CONRAD VERNON)

2008 THE GIRL FROM MONACO ("La Fille de Monaco" by ANNE FONTAINE)

JONATHAN ZACCAÏ ABEL

FILMOGRAPHY - SELECTION

2010 ROBIN HOOD (by Ridley Scott)

2009 L'AGE DE RAISON (by YANN SAMUELL)
2009 QUARTIER LOINTAIN (by SAM GARBARSKI)

2008 SIMON KONIANSKI (by MICHA WALD)

2007 FREE STUDENT ("Elève libre" by JOACHIMLAFOSSE)

2006 LES YEUX BANDES (by THOMAS LILTI)
2006 VENT MAUVAIS (by STÉPHANE ALLAGNON)

2005 THE BEAT THAT MY HEART SKIPPED
("De battre mon cœur s'est arrêté" by JACQUES AUDIARD)

2005 IN HIS HANDS ("Entre ses mains" by ANNE FONTAINE)

2004 THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE
("Le Plus beau jour de ma vie" by JULIE LIPINSKI)

2004 THEY CAME BACK ("Les Revenants" by ROBIN CAMPILLO)
2004 THE ROLE OF HER LIFE
("Le Rôle de sa vie" by FRANÇOIS FAVRAT)

2003 THE RASHEVSKI TANGO
("Le tango des Rashevski" by SAM GARBARSKI)

2002 THE TRUE STORY OF MY LIFE IN ROUEN ("Ma vraie vie
à Rouen" by OLIVIER DUCASTEL and JACQUES MARTINEAU)

2001 A HELL OF A DAY ("Reines d'un jour" by MARION VERNOUX)

2000 LITTLE DARLING ("Petite Chérie" by ANNE VILLACEQUE)

Maxime
What does Dr. Dog think?

Abel
I'm with Greg. We need to grow.

Maxime
*Try growing up, Abel. Get your ass in gear.
Life goes by before you know it.*

Abel
I know. I run too slow.





Maxime

You must have had fun working your secret scams.

Simon

Secret from who?

Maxime

From me. Behind my back. What?

Simon

Your Zen garden, your pool, Camille's school... You think they grow on trees? The rewards of honest work? I believed in our work. I trusted you.

You always knew I was tricky. I never made an honest penny. You liked me for it. You used me and I made you laugh.

Maxime

You're dead now. The joke's over.

Simon

Yeah, it's sad. I was having a ball.

Maxime

It's not my fault. My conscience is clear. Crystal clear.

BOULI LANNERS SIMON

FILMOGRAPHY - SELECTION

2010 MAMMUTH (by BENOIT DELEPINE and GUSTAVE KERVERN)
2010 SANS QUEUE NI TÊTE (by JEANNE LABRUNE)
2010 CHICAS (by Yasmia Reza)

2009 A TOWN CALLED PANIC (voice cast) ("Panique au village" by VINCENT PATAR and STÉPHANE AUBIER)
2009 NOTHING PERSONAL ("Rien de personnel" by MATHIAS GOKALP)
2009 THE VILLAIN ("Le Vilain" by ALBERT DUPONTEL)

2008 LOUISE-MICHEL (by BENOÎT DELEPINE and GUSTAVE KERVERN)
2008 ELDORADO (by BOULI LANNERS)
2008 ASTERIX AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES ("Astérix aux jeux olympiques" by FRÉDÉRIC FORRESTIER and THOMAS LANGMANN)

2007 I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A GANGSTER ("J'ai toujours rêvé d'être un gangster" by SAMUEL BENCHETRIT)
2007 COW-BOY (by BENOÎT MARIAGE)

2006 AVIDA (by BENOÎT DELEPINE and GUSTAVE KERVERN)
2006 LOCKED OUT ("Enfermés dehors" by ALBERT DUPONTEL)

2005 BUNKER PARADISE (by STEFAN LIBERSKI)

2004 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT ("Un long dimanche de fiançailles" by JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET)
2004 MADAME EDOUARD (by NADINE MONFILS)
2004 THE RETURN OF JAMES BATTLE ("Atomik Circus, le retour de James Bataille" by DIDIER and THIERRY POIRAUD)

2003 THE MISSING HALF ("L'Autre" by BENOIT MARIAGE)
2003 FEATHERS IN MY HEAD ("Des plumes dans la tête" by THOMAS DE THIER)

2002 SHOPPING ("Petites misères" by PHILIPPE BOON and LAURENT BRANDERBOURGER)

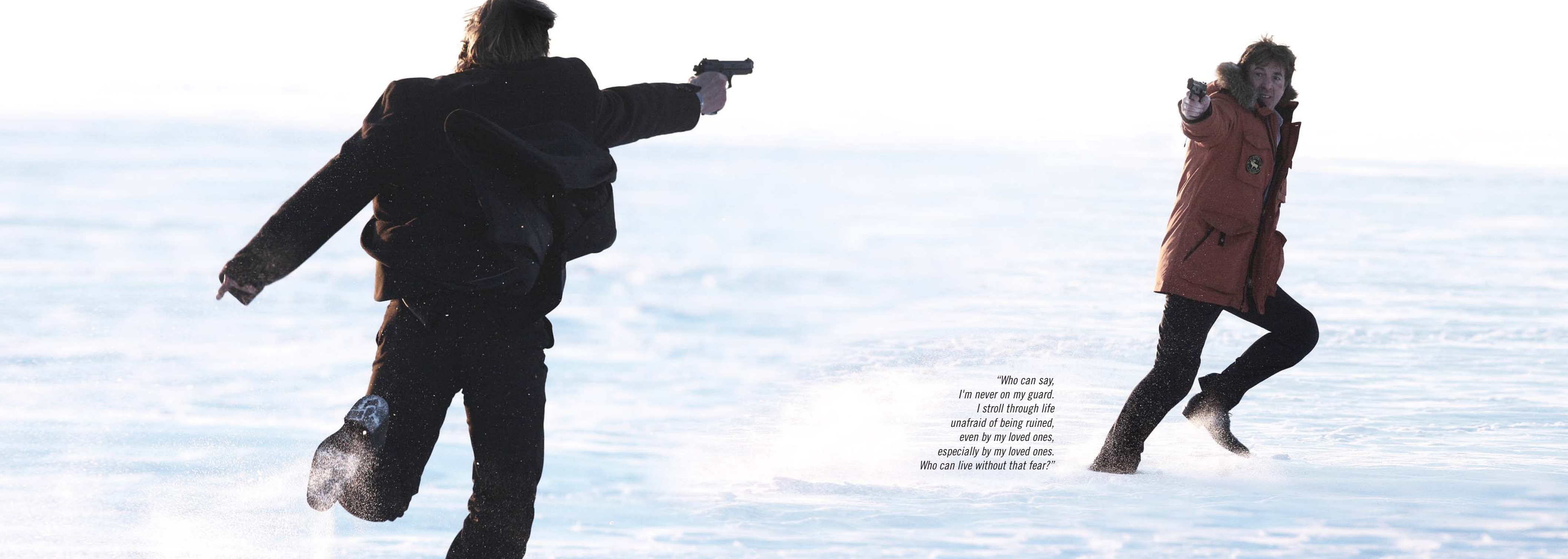
2001 PAULINE AND PAULETTE ("Pauline et Paulette" by LIEVEN DEBRAUWER)

2000 PRETEND I'M NOT HERE ("Faites comme si je ne n'étais pas là" by OLIVIER JAHAN)

1999 LUMUMBA (by RAUL PECK)
1999 THE CARRIERS ARE WAITING ("Les convoyeurs attendent" by BENOIT MARIAGE)

1998 A DOG OF FLANDERS (by KEVIN BRODIE)

1991 TOTO THE HERO ("Toto le héros" by Jaco van Dormael)



*"Who can say,
I'm never on my guard.
I stroll through life
unafraid of being ruined,
even by my loved ones,
especially by my loved ones.
Who can live without that fear?"*

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