Anida Ait Abdesselam
Claire Atherton
Éric Baudelaire
Ambrine Belarbi
Andres Castro Henao
Assia Chaihab
Melinda Damis
Alyssa David
Alexandra Delage
Dafa Diallo
Océane El Faqir
Sabou Fofana
Gaëtan Gichtenaere
Alan Guichaoua
Lina Ikhlef
Bintou Kamate
Erwan Kerzanet
Guy-Yanis Kodjo
Ibrahima Konate
Basile Leignel
Hélène Maes
Claire Mathon
Gabriel-David Pop
Aissé Sacko
Rabyatou Saho
Mohammed Samassa
Fatimata Sarr
Raphaël Vandenbussche
Philippe Welsh
Manelle Zigh
LOG LINE

For four years Éric Baudelaire regularly met with students from the film group at Dora Maar middle school in Saint-Denis. Time for them to grow together, time to find the form of a film in which they would be the true subjects: its characters, its authors and its promise.

SYNOPSIS

What are we doing together? A recurring question for the students of the film group at Dora Maar middle school, and for Éric Baudelaire who worked with them over their four years starting in the 6th grade. Answering this political question – one that involves representations of power, social violence and identity – led them to seek a cinematic form that does justice to the uniqueness of each student, but also to the substance of their group. What are we doing together, if it is neither documentary nor fiction? A dramatic film, perhaps, where time does its work on the students’ bodies and discourse, and where we discover the possibility for each to speak in their own name by filming for others, and to become co-authors of the film and subjects of their own lives.
UN FILM DRAMATIQUE

a film by Éric Baudelaire

and

Anida Ait Abdesselam, Ambrine Belarbi, Andres Castro Henao, Assia Chaihab, Melinda Damis, Alyssa David, Dafa Diallo, Océane El Faqir, Sabou Fofana, Gaëtan Gichtenaere, Lina Ikhlef, Bintou Kamate, Guy-Yanis Kodjo, Ibrahima Konate, Basile Leignel, Gabriel-David Pop, Aissé Sacko, Rabyatou Saho, Mohammed Samassa, Fatimata Sarr, Manelle Zigh

France
2019
114 min
1.85 - Dolby 5.1 - DCP
French / Eng subs

Produced by Poulet-Malassis
www.pouletmalassis.com
info@pouletmalassis.com

Co-produced by Les Films d’Ici
Camille Laemlé
camillelaemle@gmail.com
Rabyatou: It's a film.

Guy-Yanis: You keep saying that, but about what? There are films about everything.

Rabyatou: Everything we’ve filmed so far isn’t a documentary. There’s no voice-over saying “Here, you have...”

Guy-Yanis: So what's it about then?

Rabyatou: It's just a film.

Guy-Yanis: A travel film?

Rabyatou: So what do you think the documentary is about?

Guy-Yanis: About life in middle school.

Rabyatou: It could be a film about life in middle school.

Guy-Yanis: But is it dramatic, or a comedy?

David: Isn’t it about us?

Anida: It could be just expressing something.

David: You could say it's a drama.

Guy-Yanis: If it's a film, there's a theme.
Rabyatou: OK... But we did foley effects!

Guy-Yanis: Wait, you’re telling me the film is a comedy or a drama?

David: It could be a drama because it’s dramatic to forget the sound in St-Denis when we need sound. It’s dramatic. In a film, when someone dies, it’s dramatic. Here, the sound stayed in St-Ouen and that’s dramatic.

[Silence]

David: Is that dramatic, yes or no?

Guy-Yanis: No.

Rabyatou: But we never described life in middle school: “Every morning, we wake up...” So it’s not a documentary.

David: It’s about how we felt the shock of sound disappearing. How we survived it.

Anida, Rabyatou: But it’s not a documentary!
STARRING,  
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Ibrahima Konate  
Gaëtan Gichtenaere  
Basile Leignel  
Alyssa David  
Aissé Sacko  
Gabriel-David Pop  
Mohammed Samassa  
Fatimata Sarr  
Manelle Zigh  
Océane El Faqir  
Lina Ikhlef  
Guy-Yanis Kodjo  
Assia Chaihab  
Mélinda Hammiche  
Dafa Diallo  
Sabou Fofana  
Ambrine Belarbi  
Rabyatou Saho  
Bintou Kamate  
Anida Ait Abdesselam  
Melinda Damis  
Andres Castro Henao

THIS FILM IS THE FRUIT OF 4 YEARS OF ENCOUNTERS AND SHARED ENDEAVOUR WITH STUDENTS IN THE FILM GROUP OF DORA MAAR MIDDLE SCHOOL IN ST DENIS, WITH THE GUIDANCE OF

Leslie Guillochon, Manon Bordes  
Hervé Mamino and the school faculty

THESE ENCOUNTERS WERE FILMED BY

Claire Mathon  
Raphaël Vandenbussche  
Alan Guichaoua

AND THEIR SOUNDS RECORDED BY

Erwan Kerzanet  
Philippe Welsh  
Bart Velay  
Mikael Kandelman  
Jean-Philippe Marin

EDITING

Claire Atherton

A FILM BY

Éric Baudelaire

PRODUCED BY

Poulet-Malassis Films  
Éric Baudelaire  
Alexandra Delage  
Hélène Maes

WITH IMAGES BY

Fatimata Sarr  
Alyssa David  
Lina Ikhlef  
Gabriel-David Pop  
Melinda Damis  
Manelle Zigh  
Aissé Sacko  
Dafa Diallo  
Guy-Yanis Kodjo  
Gaëtan Gichtenaere  
Bintou Kamate
ÉRIC BAUDELAIRE BIOGRAPHY

Éric Baudelaire is an artist and filmmaker based in Paris, France. After training as a political scientist, Baudelaire established himself as a visual artist with a research-based practice. His feature films Also Known As Jihadi (2017), Letters to Max (2014), The Ugly One (2013) and The Anabasis of May and Fusako Shigenobu, Masao Adachi and 27 Years Without Images (2011) have circulated widely in film festivals, including Locarno, Toronto, New York, FID Marseille and Rotterdam.

FILMOGRAPHY

Also Known As Jihadi
2017, 101 minutes

Festivals:
FID Marseille (International competition)
Festival dei Popoli (Best Feature-Length Documentary)
DocLisboa, Lisbon (International competition)
Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival
RIDM Montréal
Mar del Plata, Argentina
If Istanbul Independent Film Festival, Istanbul, Turkey
FICUNAM International Film Festival, Mexico City
Jeonju International Film Festival, South Korea
Taiwan International Documentary Film, Taiwan

Letters to Max
2014, 103 minutes

Festivals:
FID Marseille (International competition)
Toronto International Film Festival (Wavelengths)
New York Film Festival (Projections)
BFI London International Film Festival
RIDM Montréal (Editing Prize)
DocLisboa, Lisbon (Special Jury Prize)
Festival de Belfort (International competition)
Porto/PostDoc, Porto (Grand Prize)
CPH:DOX, Copenhagen
International Film Festival Rotterdam (Spectrum)
Punto de Vista, Pamplona (international competition)
BAFICI, Buenos Aires (Best Feature Film, Vanguardia y Género)

The Ugly One
2013, 101 minutes

Festivals:
Locarno Film Festival (Cineasti del presente)
DocLisboa, Lisbon (New Visions)
Dubai International Film Festival (Arabian Nights)
Rotterdam International Film Festival (Bright Futures)
Courtisane Festival, Ghent
L'Anabase de May et Fusako Shigenobu, Masao Adachi et 27 années sans images
2011, 66 minutes

Festivals:
DocLisboa, Lisbon (Prix special du jury)
Punto de Vista, Pamplona
CPH:DOX, Copenhagen
Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival
Migrating Forms, New York (Opening film)
San Francisco International Film Festival
Visions du Réel, Nyon
BAFICI, Buenos Aires
FICUNAM International Film Festival, Mexico City
International Film Festival Rotterdam
Festival de Belfort
Festival dei Popoli
Festival International du Film de La-Roche-sur-Yon
Thessaloniki International Film Festival
FID Marseille