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With support from
Département de la Seine-Saint-Denis
Centre national du cinéma
et de l'image animée
In association with
ARTE France - La Lucarne

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 Vandebussche

Philippe Welsh

Manelle Zigh

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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



EXTRACT

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?*

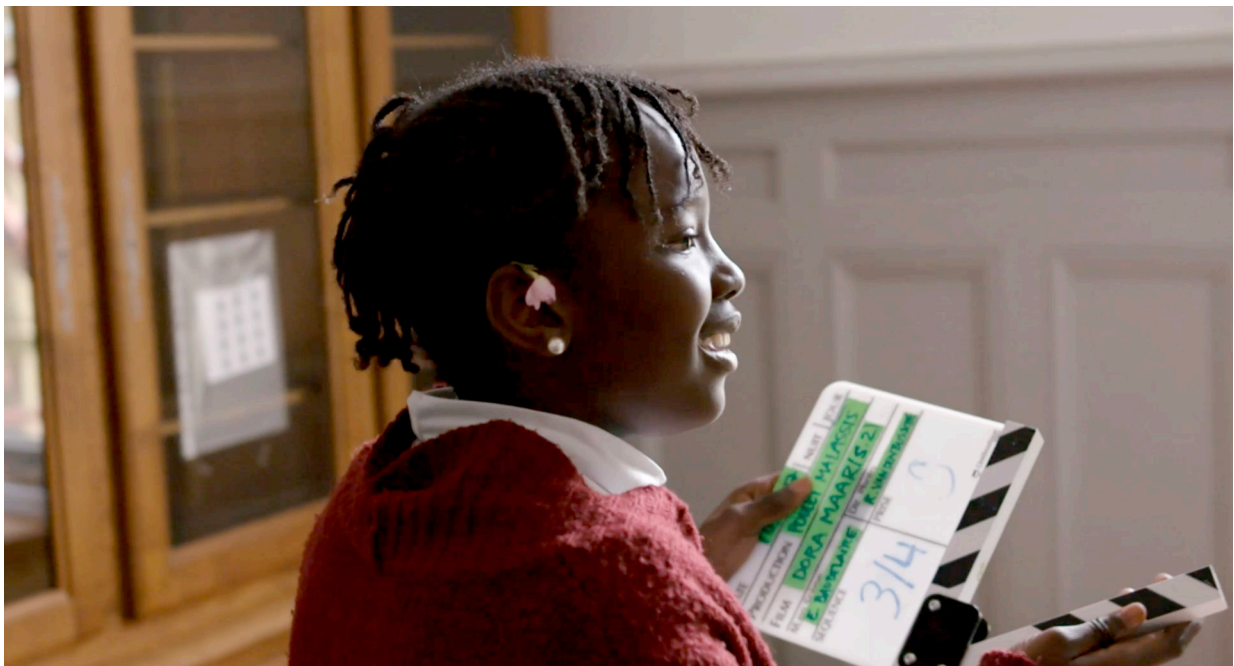
Rabyatou: *It's just a film.*

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

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

**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

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
!f 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/Post/Doc, 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 minute

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