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présente

JEANNE DAMAS  
CHARLES PEPIN  
MANON PALMER  
JACKY TERRASSON

# SINCERITY

A FILM OF CHARLES GUÉRIN SURVILLE

CHARLEYNE **BIONDI** / ANNIKA **STENVALL** / MUSIC JACKY **TERRASSON** / VOICE MANON **PALMER** / LYRICS CHARLES **PÉPIN** /  
IMAGE MIKAËL **LUBTCHANSKY** / EDITOR ALICE **MOINE** / SOUND LOIC **GOURBE**, CORENTIN **DELENTE** / COLOR RODNEY **MUSSO** /  
FINISHING JEAN-BAPTISTE **PERRIN** /

Nour Rouje   

BEABIA FILMS present

Jeanne DAMAS

Charles PEPIN

Manon PALMER

Jacky TERRASSON

Charleyne BIONDI

Annika STENVALL

# SINCERITY

A FILM BY CHARLES GUÉRIN SURVILLE

**82 minutes**

2019 - 1.85 - Dolby 5.1

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

BEABIA FILMS

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## SYNOPSIS

To seduce Louise, a young actress, Jean decides to shoot a film. He invites two beautiful muses to join him, Mia and Alma, together with Jimmy, a famous jazz pianist, and Guillaume, his long-time friend and philosopher who comes with a brainy neuroscientist. Day by day, the team imagines the script of the film.

But soon, feelings, emotions and creativity start to overshadow the characters they are all supposed to play... As if sincerity required fiction to arise.



## INTERVIEW

### CHARLES GUERIN SURVILLE

#### **Where did you get the idea for this project?**

By a swimming pool, in Los Angeles. The actress Paz de la Huerta had hired me as her driver, assistant and reader for her role in « Dream of Summer Night » with Ted Levine. At some point, Paz looked me straight in the eyes and told me: « You, you are sincere. I know that! » She looked serious. I did not understand what she meant. But that's how I got the idea for this film.

#### **Where do these characters of philosopher and pianist come from ?**

The character of the philosopher came from the conferences of Charles Pépin, that I had been filming for years, and that we turned into a DVDV. His metaphysical improvisations on the stage of the Mk2 Cinema reminded me of Alvy Singer's one-man-show in « Annie Hall ». I got the idea of the pianist after working with Jacky Terrasson for my medium short film *Mae West*, an adaptation of Dan Fante's novel. Both were so charismatic, I wondered how Jacky Terrasson and Charles Pépin would perform, as actors: could they stand up to Ryan Gosling when he incarnates pianist in LA LA LAND or a drunk philosopher in « The Irrational Man » from Woody Allen's. In hindsight, I'd say they did, although I might be a little biased.

#### **How did you come to make films ?**

The writing of a first novel and a career in international development of technological start-up brought me to this road. A film has many similitudes with a start-up : it requires a team of high profile professional, able to take risks, to move fast to create the best product possible, the spectator being the final customer, shall he be French, Italian or cinese.

#### **Were there a script ? What is the part of writing or improvisation ?**

I can't answer this. One will find what he is looking for.





### **There is the question of « the film within the film »...**

In « Day for Night », Truffaut shows the difficulties of making a film all while staging himself. In *Sincerity*, the difficulties appear during the shooting, most of them are totally unexpected. For example, every morning, I was waking up with new insect bites. It looked like my character was having an epidermic reaction to his heart ache! Many directors, such as Lars van Trier, prohibit make up. In our case, each character was responsible for her or his own wardrobe and image. The fact that there was no make up artist on set actually helped us forget about the camera, it made it easier for everyone to just « be » their character. Having said that, Jeanne Damas had just launched her own ready-to-wear brand, *Rouje*, and *Isabel Marant* lent us 13 outfits, which was of great help. The toughest part for me was to get the clothes back after the shooting!

### **What were the main difficulties you had?**

The first was to gather everyone from New-York, Helsinki, Toulon and Paris... It was like taking care of an international production. The first evening, before nightfall, we all arrived pretty tired. Mikaël Lubtchansky made a camera test: it turned out to be one of the first scenes of the film...

### **The film is a “mise en abîme”... Isn’t it?**

It rests on a paradox. How do you truly let go, without totally losing your balance?

What happens to our characters is pure fiction, yet it allowed to reach out to our deepest, most intimate selves. In my case, playing the role a director who was falling madly in love with an actress was profoundly intriguing, although it was (sadly!) not real.

I did truly let go, a few times... And the scary part is that it looked very credible! Many people would probably have ran away in the face of that necessary “mise en abîme,” but in our case, the exploration started and the characters progressively adapted. In a certain sense, the film could have been titled « Fragility ». I guess a lucky star was watching over us.

### **What about Jeanne Damas?**

During auditions, her brightness of her temperament marveled me. If I managed to play the character of Jean, a director gone mad for his muse, it is because Jeanne inspired me trust. In general, trust is really what made this film possible. The trust of Jeanne, Charles, Jacky, Manon, Charleyne, Annika, Mikaël, Corentin, Alice, Loïc, Rodney, Jean-Batiste. Actually, the film could also have been called « Trust »!





## BIOGRAPHIES

### Jeanne DAMAS

In France like abroad, Jeanne Damas is a symbol of French fashion and lifestyle. In 2017, she played a journalist in the Guillaume Canet feature film, « Rock&Roll », and launched her ready-to-wear brand, *Rouje*. Since then, she published her first book with journalist Lauren Bastide. Over 1.4 million fans are following her on Instagram.

Jeanne Damas is Louise, an aspiring actress.

### Charles PEPIN

Charles Pépin is the author of numerous essays (such as « Self-Confidence : a Philosophy », or « When Beauty Saves Us » - of best selling cartoons - « The Planet of the Wise », « Fifty Shades of Greeks ») but also a novelist. On the eve of the « Sincerity » shooting, Charles Pépin was working on the last edits of « The Virtues of Failure », published by Allary Editions. Today, this essay is sold in 30 countries. Charles Pépin is a philosophy professor at the Lycée de la Légion d'Honneur. Every Monday, at Mk2 Odéon Cinema in Paris, his public conference of philosophy is sold out.

Charles Pépin is Guillaume, a philosopher who lies to himself.

### Charles GUERIN-SURVILLE

After writing the novel *Do you like your job?* published by Hachette Littératures, Charles Guerin Surville had a career in developing start-ups internationally. In parallel, he began directing and producing films. « Sincerity » is his first long feature. His second long feature, FOLLIA, is out in France in September 2023.

Charles Guérin Surville is Jean, a completely lost director.



## Jacky TERRASSON

by the New York Time magazine as “one of the 30 artists able to change the American culture in the next 30 years.” He then signed with the prestigious label Blue Note. Today, he is one of the leading international jazz pianists in the World. His 13th album is just coming out in September 2019 with Blue Note.

Jacky Terrasson is Jimmy, an instinctive jazz pianist.

## CAST

**JEANNE DAMAS**

LOUISE

**CHARLES PÉPIN**

GUILLAUME

**JACKY TERRASSON**

JIMMY

**MANON PALMER**

ALMA

**CHARLEYNE BIONDI**

DIANE

**ANNIKA STENVALL**

MIA

**CHARLES GUÉRIN SURVILLE**

JEAN

## TECNICAL LIST

**DIRECTOR**

CHARLES GUÉRIN SURVILLE

**CINEMATOGRAFER**

MIKAËL LUBTCHANSKY

**EDITOR**

ALICE MOINE

**SOUND**

LOÏC GOURBE

**ORIGINAL MUSIC**

JACKY TERRASSON

**PRODUCTION BEABIA FILMS**



