Paulo Branco presents

Ashes and Blood

CENDRES ET SANG

a film by

Fanny Ardant

A co-production Alfama Films Production, Clap Filmes and Libra Film

www.cendresetsang-lefilm.com
How did this directing project come about? It started with the desire to tell a story, this story, that I wanted to tell. I was always torn between the imaginary and the concrete. I liked Gérard de Battista to ask me questions. I would talk to him using old terms and he would translate them into lenses, tracking shots and pans. Pierre Tucat, the sound engineer, also taught me a lot about patience, listening and details.

How did the encounter with Gérard de Battista, your director of photography, come about? I already knew him because he worked on HD on the lighting of Claude Lelouch’s “Roman de Gare” that I liked a lot. Then I saw Claude Miller’s film, “Un Secret”, that he had also worked on and that I found very interesting. We left France with a very small crew: the sound engineer, Gérard for the framing and lighting, the focus-puller and Marion Pin, the script supervisor who had also worked on Lelouch’s film. Isabel Branco joined us, a set and costume designer for whom nothing was impossible and who always came up with a solution in the most difficult situations.

Many of the characters have a handicap (Mira is deaf, one of the sisters limps, Louppos has a scar on his neck)… The history of violence is inscribed in the scars, visible or invisible. Violence is not only a physical thing. Everything that we lose or gain is often the result of violence, violence that we are subjected to as well. We bear all kinds of scars, the results of what we have accepted. In telling family’s story, I wanted to talk about the marks that can be left by violence, terrorizing others, the authority of the law, humiliation… Are you already thinking about another screenplay? It will be the result of a story being told. I think that it is because I loved being told stories. I don’t watch television, I don’t read the papers and so the news always reaches me through someone else. What I’m told makes me want to hear more. For me, morality has been passed on through stories too.

Tell us about the first day of shooting for Fanny Ardant, the director… On the first day, I remember that we shot the scene on the riverbank between Pashku (Abraham Belaga) and Ilaria (Madalina Constantin). We all got up very early. We left France with a very small crew: the sound engineer, Gérard for the framing and lighting, the focus-puller and Marion Pin, the script supervisor who had also worked on Lelouch’s film. Isabel Branco joined us, a set and costume designer for whom nothing was impossible and who always came up with a solution in the most difficult situations.

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Executive producers Paulo Branco & Tudor Giurgiu Co-produced by ALFAMA FILMS PRODUCTION / ARTE FRANCE CINEMA
DD PRODUCTIONS / HIRSCH / LIBRA FILM (Romania) / CLAP FILMES (Portugal) Produced by Paulo Branco Co-producer Tudor Giurgiu
Associate producer Micheline Rozan With the participation of CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA CINEMATOGRAPHIE / CANAL PLUS / CINECINEMA / ROMANIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTRE (CNC) / RADIO E TELEVISAO DE PORTUGAL (RTP)

105 MIN / 35MM / SCOPE (2.35) / DOLBY SRD

Ashes and Blood (Cendres et Sang)
A FILM BY FANNY ARDANT

CAST

JUDITH Ronit Elkabetz
PASHKO Abraham Belaga
ISMAEL Marc Ruchmann
MIRA Claire Bouanich
VENERA Olga Tudorache
TIMOS Ion Besoiu
LOUPPOS Tudor Aaron Istodor
ILARIA Madalina Constantin
SAMIR Razvan Vasilescu
DAMIAN Andrei Aradits
SLATOR Ion Cosma

CREW

Director & Screenplay Fanny Ardant
Director of photography Gérard de Battista (AFI)
Artistic direction Isabel Branco
Original score David Moreau
Editor Célia Lafiteduport
Sound engineer Pierre Tucat
Sound editor Nicolas Bouvet-Levraud
Dialogue editor Sébastien Pierre
Mix Marion Pin
Continuity Nicolas Picard
Line producer Anne Mattatia
Production manager

CONTACTS

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SCREENINGS PLANNING
CANNES 2009

Official Screening – Out of competition – Special Screening
Fri May 22 / 8.15 pm / Salle du 60°

FilmMarket screenings
Sat May 16 / 8.30 pm / Riviera 3
Tue May 19 / 4 pm / Riviera 1

Press screening
Thu May 21 / 1 pm / Salle Bazin

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