WHY NOT PRODUCTIONS
PRESNTS

WHITE MATERIAL

A FILM BY CLAIRE DENIS
CO-PRODUCED BY
FRANCE 3 CINEMA  WILD BUNCH  LES FILMS TERRE AFRICAINE

FRANCE • 102’ • 35MM • SCOPE • DOLBY SRD • COLOUR • 2009

WORLD SALES: wild bunch

Vincent Maraval | TEL +33 6 11 91 23 93 | vmaraval@wildbunch.eu
Gaël Nouaille | TEL +33 6 21 23 04 72 | gnouaille@wildbunch.eu
Carole Baraton | TEL +33 6 20 36 77 72 | cbaraton@wildbunch.eu
Laurent Baudens | TEL +33 6 70 79 05 17 | lbaudens@wildbunch.eu
Silvia Simonutti | TEL +33 6 20 74 95 08 | ssimonutti@wildbunch.eu

PLEASE NOTE: High definition images can be downloaded from the ‘press’ section of http://www.wildbunch.biz
SYNOPSIS

“No more smirking. We’re stopping the bullshit right now and staying put.”

The regular army is preparing to reestablish order in the country. To clean up. To eliminate the rebel officer also known as The Boxer and rid the countryside of roving child soldiers.

All the expatriates have gone home, getting out before things turn nasty.

Of the Vials - coffee planters who have lived here for two generations - Maria stands firm. She’s not about to give in to rumors or abandon her harvest at the first sound of gunfire.

Just like her father-in-law and her ex-husband who is also the father of her son (a little too much of a slacker in her opinion) she is convinced that Cherif, mayor of the neighboring town, will protect them. If she asks him, he will save the plantation. He has a personal guard, a private militia of tough guys, heavily armed and well trained.

CAST

Maria Vial
Isabelle Huppert
The Boxer
Isaach De Bankole
André Vial
Christophe Lambert
Manuel Vial
Nicolas Duvauchelle
The Mayor
William Nadylam
Lucie Vial
Adèle Ado
Jeep
Ali Barkai
José
Daniel Tchangang
Henri Vial
Michel Subor

CREW

DIRECTOR
Claire Denis
SCREENPLAY
Claire Denis
Marie NDiaye
DP
Yves Cape
EDITOR
Guy Lecorne
MUSIC
Stuart S. Staples (TINDERSTICKS)
SET DESIGNERS
Saint Père Abiassi
Alain Veissier
SOUND
Jean Paul Mugel
Christophe Winding
Christophe Vingtrinier
COSTUME DESIGNER
Judy Shrewsbury
PRODUCER
Pascal Caucheteux
PRODUCTION
WHY NOT PRODUCTIONS
CO-PRODUCTION
FRANCE 3 CINEMA
WILD BUNCH
LES FILMS TERRE AFRICAINE
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Had I burdened it with all the intentions I wanted, this film would have sunk like an overladen container ship. Luckily, at every stage - from the writing with Marie, to the location scouting, to the shoot - at every stage we jettisoned them.

It remains, nonetheless, the conduit of a primitive, visceral obsession - fortitude struggling against lassitude, against slackness.

I’d like to dedicate this film to Sony Labou Tansi for his novels, his plays, for the Rocado Zulu Theatre Company, for his struggle against rotten luck.

He said, “We didn’t invent the wheel. We handled that which is found only in the great works of poetry - the sap of the world.” (Les Yeux du Volcan)

- Claire Denis

DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY

35 RHUMS (35 SHOTS OF RUM)
EXHIBITION AT MUSÉE DES ARTS PREMIERS - PARIS: AFRICAN DIASPORA VERS MATHILDE L'INTRUS (THE INTRUDER) VERS NANCY (from TEN MINUTES OLDER) VENDREDI SOIR (FRIDAY NIGHT) TROUBLE EVERY DAY BEAU TRAVAIL NÉNETTE ET BONI U.S. GO HOME (from TOUS LES GARÇONS ET LES FILLES - ARTE) J'AI PAS SOMMEIL (I CAN'T SLEEP) KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF LA ROBE A CERCEAU (ARTE) JACQUES RIVETTE, LE VEILLEUR (from CINÉMA DE NOTRE TEMPS - ARTE) S'EN FOUT LA MORT MAN NO RUN CHOCOLAT

MARIE NDIAYE BIOGRAPHY

Marie NDiaye is a French novelist and playwright. She published her first novel, QUANT AU RICHE AVENIR, when she was only 17 and won the Prix Femina in 2001 for her novel ROSIE CARPE.

NDiaye began writing at the age of 12. After her first novel she wrote a further six, all published by Minuit, and a collection of short stories. She also wrote her COMÉDIE CLASSIQUE - a two-hundred page novel made up of a single sentence published by P.O.L. - when she was 21.

Her play PAPA DOIT MANGER has been taken into the repertoire of the Comédie Française.

NOVELS & SHORT STORIES


PLAYS

LES SERPENTS - Minuit RIENT'HUMAN - Les Solitaires Intempestifs PAPA DOIT MANGER - Minuit HILDA - Minuit

CHILDREN'S NOVELS

LE SOUHAIT - École des loisirs LES PARADIS DE PRUNELLE - Albin Michel Jeunesse LA DIABLESSE ET SON ENFANT - École des loisirs
ISABELLE HUPPERT FILMOGRAPHY

VILLA AMALIA - Benoît Jacquot
UN BARRAGE CONTRE LE PACIFIQUE (THE SEA WALL) - Rithy Panh
HOME - Ursula Meier
NUE PROPRIÉTÉ (PRIVATE PROPERTY) - Joachim Lafosse
L'IVRESSE DU POUVOIR (A COMEDY OF POWER) - Claude Chabrol
GABRIELLE - Patrice Chéreau
LES SOEURS FÂCHÉES - Alexandra Leclère
I HEART HUCKABEES - David O. Russell
MA MÈRE (MY MOTHER) - Christophe Honoré
LE TEMPS DU LOUP (THE TIME OF THE WOLF) - Michael Haneke
LA VIE PROMISE (GHOST RIVER) - Olivier Dahan
8 FEMMES (8 WOMEN) - François Ozon
LA PIANISTE (THE PIANO TEACHER) - Michael Haneke
COMÉDIE DE L'INNOCENCE - Raoul Ruiz
MERCI POUR LE CHOCOLAT - Claude Chabrol
LES DESTINÉES SENTIMENTALES - Olivier Assayas
SAINT-CYR (THE KING'S DAUGHTER) - Patricia Mazuy
LA VENGEANCE D'UNE FEMME (A WOMAN'S REVENGE) - Jacques Doillon
LA STORIA VERA DELLA SIGNORA DALLE CAMELIE (LADY OF THE CAMELIAS) - Mauro Bolognini
HEAVEN'S GATE - Michael Cimino
SAUVE QUI PEUT (LA VIE) - Jean-Luc Godard
LOULOU - Maurice Pialat
LES SOEURS BRONTË - André Téchiné
QUI PEUT LA VIE - Jean-Luc Godard
VIOLETTE NOZIERE - Claude Chabrol
LE JUGE ET L'ASSASSIN (THE JUDGE AND THE ASSASSIN) - Bertrand Tavernier
DOCTEUR FRANÇOISE GAUILLAND - Jean-Louis Bertucelli
ROSEBUD - Otto Preminger
LE JUGE ET L'ASSASSIN (THE JUDGE AND THE ASSASSIN) - Bertrand Tavernier
DOCTEUR FRANÇOISE GAUILLAND - Jean-Louis Bertucelli
ROSEBUD - Otto Preminger
DUPONT LAJOIE (RAPE OF INNOCENCE) - Yves Boisset
LES VALSEUSES - Bertrand Blier
CÉSAR ET ROSALIE - Claude Sautet

COUP DE Foudre - Diane Kurys
STORIA DI PIERA - Marco Ferreri
LA TRUITE (THE TROUT) - Joseph Losey
PASSION (GODARD'S PASSION) - Jean-Luc Godard
EAUX PROFONDES - Michel Deville
COUP DE TORCHON (CLEAN SLATE) - Bertrand Tavernier
LES AILES DE LA COLOMBE (THE WINGS OF THE DOVE) - Benoît Jacquot
LA STORIA VERA DELLA SIGNORA DALLE CAMELIE (LADY OF THE CAMELIAS) - Mauro Bolognini
HEAVEN'S GATE - Michael Cimino
SAUVE QUI PEUT (LA VIE) - Jean-Luc Godard
LOULOU - Maurice Pialat
LES SOEURS BRONTË - André Téchiné
QUI PEUT LA VIE - Jean-Luc Godard
VIOLETTE NOZIERE - Claude Chabrol
LA DENTELLIERE (THE LACEMAKER) - Claude Goretta
LE JUGE ET L'ASSASSIN (THE JUDGE AND THE ASSASSIN) - Bertrand Tavernier
DOCTEUR FRANÇOISE GAUILLAND - Jean-Louis Bertucelli
ROSEBUD - Otto Preminger
DUPONT LAJOIE (RAPE OF INNOCENCE) - Yves Boisset
LES VALSEUSES - Bertrand Blier
CÉSAR ET ROSALIE - Claude Sautet

AMATEUR - Hal Hartley
APRÈS L'AMOUR - Diane Kurys
MADAME BOVARY - Claude Chabrol
LA VENGEANCE D'UNE FEMME (A WOMAN'S REVENGE) - Jacques Doillon
UNE AFFAIRE DE FEMMES (STORY OF WOMEN) - Claude Chabrol
LES POSSÉDÉS (THE POSSESSED) - Andrzej Wajda
THE BEDROOM WINDOW - Curtis Hanson
SAC DE NOEUDS (ALL MIXED UP) - Josiane Balasko
LA GARCE - Christine Pascal
LA FEMME DE MON POTE (MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL) - Bertrand Blier
ISAACH DE BANKOLE FILMOGRAPHY

THE LIMITS OF CONTROL - Jim Jarmusch
THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY - Julian Schnabel
CASINO ROYALE - Martin Campbell
MIAMI VICE - Michael Mann
STAY - Marc Forster
THE SKELETON KEY - Ian Softley
MANDERLAY - Lars von Trier
COFFEE & CIGARETTES - Jim Jarmusch
GHOST DOG: THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI - Jim Jarmusch
A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES - James Ivory
NIGHT ON EARTH - Jim Jarmusch
S'EN FOUT LA MORT - Claire Denis
VANILLE FRAISE - Gérard Oury
ADA DANS LA JUNGLE - Gérard Zingg
CHOCOLAT - Claire Denis
LES KEUFS - Josiane Balasko
BLACK MIC MAC - Thomas Gilou

CHRISTOPHE LAMBERT FILMOGRAPHY

LA DISPARUE DE DEAUVILLE (TRIVIAL) - Sophie Marceau
LE LIÈVRE DE VATANEN (VATANEN'S HARE) - Marc Rivière
SOUTHLAND TALES - Richard Kelly
À TON IMAGE - Aruna Viliers
JANIS ET JOHN - Samuel Benchetrit
VERCINGÉTORIX - Jacques Dorfmann
HIGHLANDER: Endgame - Douglas Aarniokoski
RESURRECTION - Russell Mulcahy
BEOWULF - Graham Baker
FORTRESS 2 - Geoff Murphy
ARLETTE - Claude Zidi
NIRVANA - Gabriele Salvatores
HERCULE ET SHERLOCK (MUTTS) - Jeannot Szwarc
NORTH STAR - Nils Gaup
MORTAL KOMBAT - Paul W.S. Anderson
THE HUNTED - J.F. Lawton
HIGHLANDER III: The Sorcerer - Andrew Morahan
GUNMEN - Deran Serafian
LOADED WEAPON 1 - Gene Quintano
FORTRESS - Stuart Gordon
MAX & JEREMIE - Claire Devers
KNOIGHT MOVES - Carl Schenkel
HIGHLANDER II: The Quickening - Russell Mulcahy
TO KILL A PRIEST - Agnieszka Holland
THE SICILIAN - Michael Cimino
I LOVE YOU - Marco Ferreri
HIGHLANDER - Russell Mulcahy
SUBWAY - Luc Besson
PAROLES ET MUSIQUE (LOVE SONGS) - Elie Chouraqui
GREYSTOKE: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes - Hugh Hudson
NICOLAS DUVAUCHELLE FILMOGRAPHY

THE BLONDE WITH BARE BREASTS  - Manuel Pradal
LES HERBES FOLLES (WILD GRASS)  - Alain Resnais
LA FILLE DU RER (THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN)  - André Téchiné
SECRET DÉFENSE (SECRETS OF STATE)  - Philippe Haïm
LE DEUXIÈME SOUFFLE (THE SECOND WIND)  - Alain Corneau
À L’INTÉRIEUR (INSIDE)  - Alexandre Bustillo & Julien Maury
LE GRAND MEAULNES  - Jean-Daniel Verhaeghe
AVRIL (APRIL IN LOVE)  - Gérald Hustache-Mathieu
UNE AVENTURE  - Xavier Gianolli
POIDS LÉGER (LIGHTWEIGHT)  - Jean-Pierre Améris
À TOUT DE SUITE (RIGHT NOW)  - Benoît Jacquot
LES CORPS IMPATIENTS (EAGER BODIES)  - Xavier Gianolli
SNOWBOARDER  - Olias Barco
TROUBLE EVERY DAY  - Claire Denis
DU POIL SOUS LES ROSES (HAIR UNDER THE ROSES)  - Jean-Julien Chervier & Agnès Obadia
BEAU TRAVAIL  - Claire Denis
LE PETIT VOLEUR (THE LITTLE THIEF)  - Érick Zonca

WILLIAM NADYLAM

THEATRE

VIOL (RAPE)  - Botho Strauss
Directed by Luc Bondy
Théâtre National de l’Odéon
THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET  - Peter Brook
LE CID  - Declan Donnellan
Festival IN d’Avignon,
Bouffes du Nord (Paris),
Riverside Studios (London),
Toured: New York, France, Russia
LA PANOPLIE DU SQUELETTE  - Olivier Py
Créteil and Festival d’Avignon
QUARTETT  - Heiner Muller
Directed by William Nadylam
EDMOND  - David Mamet
Directed by William Nadylam

CINEMA

LES ENFANTS DU PAYS  - Pierre Javaux
TRANSFIXIONS  - Francis Girod
MILLE MILLIÈMES  - Rémi Waterhouse
BLACK MIC MAC 2  - Marco Pauly

MICHEL SUBOR BIOGRAPHY

Michel Subor came to fame playing Brigitte Bardot’s lover in LA BRIDE SUR LE COU. In Hollywood, he starred in Clive Donner’s WHAT’S NEW, PUSSYCAT? and Alfred Hitchcock’s TOPAZ. Perhaps his most notable role was as Bruno Forestier opposite Anna Karina in Jean-Luc Godard’s LE PETIT SOLDAT. Subor made a remarkable comeback in Claire Denis’ BEAU TRAVAIL. His most recent film credits include Philippe Garrel’s SAUVAGE INNOCENCE and Claire Denis’ L’INTRUS.