



OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

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MK2
presents

certified copy

an Abbas KIAROSTAMI film
starring Juliette BINOCHÉ and William SHIMELL

106 minutes - 35 mm - Colour - 1.85:1 - Dolby SRD - France/Italy - 2010

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synopsis

This is the story of a meeting between one man and one woman, in a small Italian village in Southern Tuscany. The man is a British author who has just finished giving a lecture at a conference. The woman, from France, owns an art gallery. This is a common story that could happen to anyone, anywhere.



How can one tell yet another story about love in Tuscany? Certified Copy: by playing around with the clichés. With the usual settings, the small love-nest hotels, the cups of coffee cooling as the lovers drink each other in, the narrow streets where they go astray, hurt themselves, find themselves, their heels clattering on the cobblestones: "If I'd known we'd be coming here, I would have worn other shoes," says the woman played by Juliette Binoche. Other paths following in the same footsteps: in a little street, the film takes a new turn. Words take on a disconcerting twist, a detour into the unfamiliar, the uncanny. This man and this woman who have—it seems—only just met are playing at being a couple.

They pretend so well, in fact, that they seem to become one, or to have already been one for fifteen years. They have already come here. They have already played this scene. As have all couples who come to make love in Tuscany, to invent their own love story, to play in their own film. "I have a train to catch at nine o'clock." The man is, according to the woman, "always absent." The first thing the camera films is an empty chair: all we see is a book, Certified Copy. We await the author. The credits scroll over a long shot of this absence and its only legacy, the work. A self-portrait of Kiarostami? "He can't claim he's stuck in traffic, he's staying in an apartment upstairs," explains the translator, the first double of the author. Who finally arrives. And who is pleased by the recognition accorded him here,

in Tuscany. His book hasn't enjoyed even the faintest echo of acclaim in his own country. Recognition and echo: the film is off and running, the copy is rolling. Reflections, rearview mirrors, windows and glasses, everything shimmers. And that assessment the woman will keep seeking, so that others will tell her who she is, whom she loves.

The author is English, played by William Shimell, a well-known opera singer, a baritone. The film is also about voices. Full shot of the audience at a lecture, showing their faces, their reactions. The sonorous voice drones on; sitting between her son and the translator, the woman fidgets. Then grows annoyed. It's annoying, to be seduced.

The opposite is true, but not completely symmetrical: the eternal misunderstanding between men and women. Around the older couple swirl young brides and grooms, suits and white dresses. The copies they make, the model ancestral couples, the rehearsals and repetitions from parents to children: three generations keep intersecting, discreetly, in the film.

A dragonfly pendant dances between the woman's breasts: a mayfly. A lifetime of love in a single day: the film disrupts the great classic pattern, but without looping through deep shifts in time—we're not in Marienbad, here. Without any psychological nostalgia, either. The love affair of a single day that opens onto life: this is a film neither of phantoms nor regrets, and where all illusions are not lost.



The focus of the camera seems to be the mayfly, between her breasts. The weather is warm; the shadow there gleams softly. The woman takes her shoes off first. There is no end to her modesty and sensuality.

Binoche is an actress who has always had a body, blunt fingertips, full breasts. Here she embodies a whole woman, who sweats, wears earrings that leave marks, lipstick that smears. "I made myself beautiful for you, and you're not looking at me?" He doesn't remember their wedding anniversary. Time-honored complaints, in every language. Except that we hear the words as if for the first time, thanks to the actors, their voices, their bodies, carried along by the way in which the story is "out of synch". . . . Words spoken to seduce? To find each other, or to leave each other? She takes off her bra underneath her dress, in that maneuver so soon mastered by women who wear one. She wants to show him the mark where it was bothering her, hurting her. Is she the wife of fifteen years, languidly at home in the physical routine of flesh and fluids? Is she the bold seductress of barely a moment's acquaintance, who wants a man and has the courage to show that she does? And he, does he want her? Does he know her? As of an hour ago, a whole lifetime ago, what does he know about her? And about art, and love, and his desire, and what he must make of his life, this evening at nine, and every evening?

Marie DARRIEUSSECQ

One woman may hide another. To an actress, the director's role is to reveal this hidden woman. His ear, his camera, and his expectations push her to look deep within and face herself. She did not know before who she was. She finds out at the same time as he does. But there is an even stronger force at work, a call travelling with the winds, like the slightest kiss: The Unknown. When each step, each thought, each sensation joins the physical matter completely as if in wedlock, the actress awaits her fiancé, she awaits him like a wound waiting to be soothingly scalded. She waits for him at the edge, at an inner crossroads, ready, from within her black hole, to give the unspeakable, the inaudible, the untouchable, a flaw, a broken heel, a crooked stripe, from the darkness at the heart of her soul.

Once upon a time, I went to Iran to meet Abbas (I had seen him in Cannes, at UNESCO, at Jean-Claude Carrière's). He told me, "Come to Teheran!" I took him up on his offer and went. Twice. One night he told me the story we shot together this summer. He told me every detail: the bra, the restaurant, the hotel. In short, he told me that the story had happened to him.

At the end, after talking for 45 minutes in perfect English, he said, "Do you believe me?" I said, "Yes." And he said, "It's not true!" I burst out laughing so hard, and I think that may have been what made him want to do the film! Reality and fiction have always made me laugh because I truly believe that anything is possible. To this day, I'm sure he lived this story. Just as I'm sure that he didn't.

Tuscany is one of those places where miracles can happen. It's no surprise that there are so many saints, oils and greens there. We lived through this film as a family made up of old friends, just like the dream of films. We were a small team, in a village, the coolness inside, the heat outside. Time had no place there. Everyone's eyes sparkling with passion, and we were all happy to be together. Abbas was about to make his first feature film away from the cocoon of his homeland, and his native tongue. And the actor, William, left the Opera to join Abbas' world. I watched him, nervously, courageously cross the actor's space, slowly letting go of what he believed, of what he had learned, in other words, letting go of the script he had learned by heart!

Juliette BINOCHE





When rehearsals started in Aix-en-Provence in the summer of 2008, I liked Abbas and his assistant and translator Massoumeh Lahidji, straight away. I don't speak Farsi and Abbas' English is a work in progress, but we didn't seem to have too much trouble understanding each other and I was intrigued by his ideas for *Così fan Tutte* and more particularly for 'Don Alfonso', the role I was playing. We'd been working only a few days when he asked if I'd ever been in a film. 'Well no' I said. A few days later he asked 'Would you like to be in a film?' 'Well yes, that might be interesting' I replied rather more casually than I felt. I didn't think much more about it but it turned out that he was serious. Frankly if the offer had come from anyone else I would probably have politely refused, for although I am moderately successful in Opera I know nothing of the cinema. But I enjoyed working with him

enormously and knew that he was accustomed to working with non-professionals. However, I was somewhat taken aback to find that I was to work with Juliette Binoche and I realised that Abbas was taking a huge risk in casting me in the role of 'James' especially since several established film actors had shown an interest in working on the film. Once we started to rehearse I saw that Juliette was prepared to do everything she could to help me, and her generosity and support were, simply, beyond value. In fact the whole crew, from the wardrobe assistants to Luca Bigazzi behind the camera were unfailingly patient. After almost 30 years of conveying an emotion by singing about it, acting for the camera presented quite a challenge. However I found 'James' a sympathetic character and working with my mouth shut made a refreshing change. I'm really rather glad I said yes.

William SHIMELL



abbas kiarostami

Abbas Kiarostami was born on 22 June 1940 in Teheran, Iran. He showed a keen interest in drawing early on and, at age 18, entered a graphic-art contest and won. He studied at the fine arts school in Teheran whilst making ends meet as a graphic designer, poster illustrator and commercial ad director. In 1969, he founded the cinema department of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children & Young Adults, which is also where he directed his first short films. In his first film, *THE BREAD AND THE ALLEY*, (1970), Abbas Kiarostami explores the weight of images and the relationship of realism and fiction. His preferred theme, the universe of childhood, is expressed over a long series of short, medium-length and feature films, during which he has managed to establish a subtle balance between narrative and documentary style. *HOMEWORK* (1989), his last childhood film, is a good example of warm and poetic cinema that discreetly denounces the

heavy aspects of Iranian society. With *CLOSE-UP* (1990), he turned a page. In less than one week, the director embraced a news story and, with the participation of the real-life protagonists, made it a pretext to introduce reality into the realm of fiction. *LIFE AND NOTHING MORE* (1992) and *THROUGH THE OLIVE TREES* (1994) complete a trilogy that began with *WHERE IS MY FRIEND'S HOUSE?* (1990). In the latter, the devastating effects of an earthquake in northern Iran serve to uncover the lie that is cinema. *A TASTE OF CHERRY* (1997) marked the director's coming into his own, and his entry into the ranks of award winners. The film, which tells the story of a 50-year-old man's obsession with suicide, is an ode to individual freedom. The film was praised by critics and denounced by religious authorities in Iran. A slow and contemplative pace, limited intrigue, and references to Persian poetry and Western philosophy

are the trademarks of this deeply original director's work. His taste for improvisation is grounded in loosely written scripts, amateur actors, and his own editing. *THE WIND WILL CARRY US* (1999), the story of a group of city dwellers who go to find something in a rural village, is yet another example of his unique style. The film was also his first creative collaboration with Marin Karmitz and MK2. Since 2001, Kiarostami has been involved in a love affair with a small camera and, as a result, works only with digital film. He has gained more freedom with this «camera-pen» of his and has with its help, directed several nature films of varying lengths, among which we find *ABC AFRICA* (2001), *TEN* (2002), *FIVE DEDICATED TO OZU* (2003), *10 ON TEN* (2004), *ROADS OF KIAROSTAMI* (2005) and *SHIRIN* (2008). *CERTIFIED COPY* marks Kiarostami's first production outside of his native Iran.



FILMOGRAPHY

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|------|---|
| 2010 | CERTIFIED COPY
(original title: Copie Conforme) | 1987 | WHERE IS MY FRIEND'S HOME?
(original title: Kaneh-ye doust kojast ?) | 1975 | TWO SOLUTIONS FOR ONE PROBLEM
(original title: Dow rahe hal baraye yek massaleh) |
| 2008 | SHIRIN | 1984 | FIRST GRADERS
(original title: Avali ha) | 1975 | SO I CAN (original title: Man ham mitounam) |
| 2004 | FIVE | 1982 | THE CHORUS
(original title: Hamsarayan) | 1974 | THE TRAVELER
(original title: Mossafer) |
| 2004 | 10 ON TEN | 1981 | ORDERLY OR UNORDERLY
(original title: Be tartib va bedoun-e tartib) | 1973 | THE EXPERIENCE
(original title: Tadjrobeh) |
| 2002 | TEN | 1980 | DENTAL HYGIENE
(original title: Behdasht-e Dandan) | 1972 | THE BREAKTIME
(original title: Zang-e tafrih) |
| 2001 | ABC AFRICA | 1970 | THE BREAD AND ALLEY
(original title: Nan va koutchek) | | |
| 1999 | THE WIND WILL CARRY US
(original title: Baad ma ra khahad bord)
<i>Jury Grand Prix - Venice 1999</i> | 1978 | SOLUTION NO 1
(original title: Rah-e hal-e yek) | | |
| 1996 | TASTE OF CHERRY
(original title: Tam'e Guilass)
<i>Palme d'Or - Cannes 1997</i> | 1979 | FIRST CASE, SECOND CASE
(original title: Ghazieh-ye shekl-e aval, Ghazieh-e shekl-e dovom) | | |
| 1994 | THROUGH THE OLIVE TREES
(original title: Zir-e derakhtan-e zeytoun) | 1977 | THE REPORT
(original title: Gozarech) | | |
| 1992 | LIFE AND NOTHING MORE...
(original title: Zendegi edame darad) | 1976 | THE COLOURS
(original title: Rang ha) | | |
| 1990 | CLOSE-UP
(original title: Nema-ye Nazdik) | 1976 | A SUIT FOR WEDDING
(original title: Lebassi baraye aroussi) | | |
| 1990 | HOMEWORK
(original title: Mashgh-e Shab) | | | | |

juliette binoche

BIOGRAPHY

Raised in a family of artists (her mother was an actress and her father a sculptor), Juliette Binoche began taking acting lessons from her mother at a very young age. After performing in several stage productions, she was propelled into the world of Godard (*HAIL MARY*, 1984), Doillon (*FAMILY LIFE*, 1984) and Téchiné (*RENDEZ-VOUS*, 1985). She met director Leos Carax in 1986 on the set of *BAD BLOOD* and became romantically involved with him. She began work on his *THE LOVERS ON THE BRIDGE*, a love story involving two vagabonds. The film was beset by problems and took three years to finish. The completion of the film marked the end of their relationship. Her strong and sensual performances in the English-language films *THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING* (1987), directed by Philip Kaufman and starring Daniel Day-Lewis, and *DAMAGE* (1992), directed by Louis Malle and starring Jeremy Irons, inspired Hollywood to take an interest in her. Affectionately called "La Binoche"

by the French press, she also piqued the interest of Steven Spielberg, who offered her the role of Dr. Ellie Sattler in *JURASSIC PARK*. She declined the offer, choosing instead to join Krzysztof Kieslowski on the set of *BLUE* (1993), a performance for which she won the César for Best Actress. She shines as a romantic heroine in Jean-Paul Rappeneau's *THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF* (1995) and Anthony Minghella's *THE ENGLISH PATIENT* (1997), for which she was awarded an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, thirty-seven years after Simone Signoret, the first French actress to win an Academy Award. Binoche was nominated to an Academy Award for Best Actress three years later for her performance in Lasse Hallström's romantic comedy *CHOCOLAT*, starring Johnny Depp. Binoche is currently in production on Dito Montiel's *SON OF NO ONE*, starring opposite Al Pacino, Channing Tatum and Katie Holmes.



FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

- 2010 *CERTIFIED COPY* directed by Abbas Kiarostami
- 2008 *SUMMER HOURS* directed by Olivier Assayas
- 2008 *DISENGAGEMENT* directed by Amos Gitai
- 2008 *PARIS* directed by Cédric Klapisch
- 2007 *DAN IN REAL LIFE* directed by Peter Hedges
- 2007 *FLIGHT OF THE RED BALLOON* directed by Hou Hsiao Hsien
- 2006 *BREAKING AND ENTERING* directed by Anthony Minghella
- 2005 *MARY* directed by Abel Ferrara
- 2005 *HIDDEN* directed by Michael Haneke
- 2005 *BEE SEASON* directed by Scott MacGehee and David Siegel
- 2004 *IN MY COUNTRY* directed by John Boorman
- 2002 *JET LAG* directed by Danièle Thompson
- 2000 *CHOCOLAT* directed by Lasse Hallström
- 2000 *CODE UNKNOWN* directed by Michael Haneke
- 2000 *THE WIDOW OF SAINT PIERRE* directed by Patrice Leconte
- 1999 *THE CHILDREN OF THE CENTURY* directed by Diane Kurys
- 1998 *ALICE AND MARTIN* directed by André Téchiné
- 1996 *THE ENGLISH PATIENT* directed by Anthony Minghella
- 1995 *THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF* directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau
- 1993 *THREE COLOURS: BLUE* directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski
- 1992 *DAMAGE* directed by Louis Malle
- 1991 *THE LOVERS ON THE BRIDGE* directed by Leos Carax
- 1988 *THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING* directed by Philip Kaufman
- 1986 *BAD BLOOD* directed by Leos Carax
- 1985 *RENDEZ-VOUS* directed by André Téchiné
- 1984 *HAIL MARY* directed by Jean-Luc Godard

William Shimell has made his screen acting debut alongside Juliette Binoche in Abbas Kiarostami's *CERTIFIED COPY*.

Born in 1952, he is one of Britain's most accomplished operatic baritones and has earned himself an international reputation in the world's leading opera houses.

William is well known for his interpretations of Don Giovanni, which he first sang in Britain for Welsh National Opera and ENO, and has since sung in opera houses throughout the world. He has recorded the role for EMI with Riccardo Muti.

His reputation has been further enhanced by his worldwide performances of Marcello in *LA BOHÈME*, as Nick Shadow in *THE RAKE'S PROGRESS*, as Sharpless in *MADAME BUTTERFLY*, as Count Almaviva in *LE NOZZE DI FIGARO*, as Don Alfonso in *COSÌ FAN TUTTE* and as Dourlinski in Cherubini's *LODOÏSKA* at La Scala, which was recorded live for Sony.

In 2005 William took the title role in Handel's *HERCULES* in a Luc Bondy production, which was filmed for broadcast and DVD release.

He is also much in demand on the concert platform, appearing at a range of venues including Orange Festival, and recording performances with the likes of Sir Georg Solti and Riccardo Chailly.

Forthcoming plans include *THE RAKE'S PROGRESS* at La Scala and Brussels' La Monnaie and a return to Covent Garden for *COSÌ FAN TUTTE* and *MANON*.

william shimell





luca bigazzi

Director of Photography

FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

- 2009 WHITE SPACE directed by Francesca Comencini
- 2009 THE SICILIAN GIRL directed by Marco Amenta
- 2008 IL DIVO directed by Paolo Sorrentino
- 2007 THE MISSING STAR directed by Gianni Amelio
- 2006 L'AMICO DI FAMIGLIA directed by Paolo Sorrentino
- 2006 A CASA NOSTRA directed by Francesca Comencini
- 2006 ROMANZO CRIMINALE directed by Michele Placido
- 2005 MARIO'S WAR directed by Antonio Capuano
- 2005 AN ITALIAN ROMANCE directed by Carlo Mazzacurati
- 2005 I LOVE TO WORK directed by Francesca Comencini
- 2005 THE CONSEQUENCES OF LOVE directed by Paolo Sorrentino
- 2004 THE KEYS TO THE HOUSE directed by Gianni Amelio
- 2003 CARLO GIULIANI, RAGAZZO directed by Francesca Comencini
- 2002 A JOURNEY CALLED LOVE directed by Michele Placido
- 2002 THE WORDS OF MY FATHER directed by Francesca Comencini
- 2000 BREAD AND TULIPS directed by Silvio Soldini
- 2000 I PREFER THE SOUND OF THE SEA directed by Mimmo Calopresti
- 1998 TOTO CHE VISSO DUE VOLTE directed by Daniele Cipri, Franco Maresco
- 1998 SHOOTING THE MOON directed by Francesca Archibugi
- 1997 THE ACROBAT directed by Silvio Soldini
- 1995 NASTY LOVE directed by Mario Martone
- 1994 L'AMERICA directed by Gianni Amelio
- 1993 UN'ANIMA DIVISA IN DUE directed by Silvio Soldini
- 1990 THE PEACEFUL AIR OF THE WEST directed by Silvio Soldini
- 1983 PAESAGGIO CON FIGURE directed by Silvio Soldini

production



MK2 - MARIN KARMITZ

The producer, distributor and exhibitor Marin Karmitz has during the last 30 years produced over 100 films and distributed close to 350 films. Jean-Luc Godard, Alain Resnais, Claude Chabrol, Gus Van Sant, Jonathan Nossiter, Ken Loach, Jacques Doillon, Pavel Lounguine, Hong Sang Soo, Michael Haneke, Raphaël Nadjari, Olivier Assayas. The films under his banner have been graced with an impressive list of awards: three Golden Palms at Cannes, three Golden Lions from the Venice Film Festival, a Golden Bear from the Berlin Film Festival, three Oscar nominations, 25 César Awards and over one hundred international film festival awards.

Gus Van Sant's *PARANOID PARK* (60th Anniversary Award in Cannes 2007) and Olivier Assayas' *SUMMER HOURS* are among his recent productions. MK2 is currently in production with Abdellatif Kechiche's *BLACK VENUS*.

CERTIFIED COPY is the latest in a long line of collaborations between Abbas Kiarostami and Marin Karmitz, a creative partnership that started out over a decade ago with *THE WIND WILL CARRY US* (1999).



ANGELO BARBAGALLO - BÌBÌ FILM

After starting out in production in 1979, working mainly with Marco Bellocchio, Angelo Barbagallo founded the production company Sacher Film with Nanni Moretti in 1986. Sacher Film produced among others Carlo Mazzacurati's ITALIAN NIGHT, Nanni Moretti's RED LOB, Daniele Luchetti's IT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW, Daniele Luchetti's THE YES MAN, Mimmo Calopresti's THE SECOND TIME AS WELL as Nanni Moretti's DEAR DIARY, APRIL, THE SON'S ROOM and THE CAIMAN. Since 1995, while continuing to work with Sacher Film and Nanni Moretti, he has produced films for BiBi Film TV, among these Marco Tullio Giordana's THE BEST OF YOUTH and THE FUTURE, Stefano Consiglio's COMIZI INFANTILI, Marco Tullio Giordana's WILD BLOOD, Marco Risi's FORTAPASC, Stefano Consiglio's HYMN TO LOVE, Abbas Kiarostami's CERTIFIED COPY and Italo Spinelli's DIETRO IL CORSETTO.



cast

Juliette BINOCHÉ
She

William SHIMELL
James Miller

Jean-Claude CARRIÈRE
The man at the square

Agathe NATANSON
The woman at the square

Gianna GIACHETTI
The café owner

Adrian MOORE
The son

Angelo BARBAGALLO
The interpreter

Andrea LAURENZI
The guide

Filippo TROIANO
The bride groom

Manuela BALSIMELLI
The bride

and the inhabitants of Lucignano

filmmakers

A film by Abbas KIAROSTAMI
Original screenplay: Abbas KIAROSTAMI
Adaptation: Massoumeh LAHIDJI
Director of Photography: Luca BIGAZZI
Editor: Bahman KIAROSTAMI
Sound: Olivier HESPEL and Dominique VIEILLARD
Set design: Giancarlo BASILI and Ludovica FERRARIO
Executive producer: Gaetano DANIELE
Production supervisor: Ivana KASTRATOVIC and Claire DORNOY
Producers: Marin KARMITZ, Nathanaël KARMITZ, Charles GILLIBERT
and Angelo BARBAGALLO
In coproduction with : Bibi Film, France 3 Cinéma
In collaboration with : Canal +, France Télévision,
le Centre National de la Cinématographie, RAI Cinema
With the support of : Regione Toscana et Toscana Film Commission,
le Programme MEDIA de la communauté Européenne
In association with : Artémis Productions /Patrick Quinet, Cofinova 6,
Cinémage 4, Soficinéma 5

SONGS

« O surdato nnammurato » (E. Cannio - A. Califano), Gennarelli- Bideri editori
« Dolce mamma », (A.Albrizio), Edizioni Zanzarino

pictures: © Laurent Thurin Nal



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