

La Fabrique 2 & Be-Films
present

THE PACK

(LA MEUTE)

Duration: 85'

PRESS

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SYNOPSIS

Charlotte is alone on a road trip. On an isolated side road, she picks up Max, a hitchhiker, who disappears in the bathroom of a truck-stop restaurant a few miles later. Puzzled, Charlotte comes back at night to look for him but gets caught by La Spack, a singular woman in charge of an odd pack. Charlotte quickly realizes....she's next on the menu.

INTRODUCTION

The Pack is a French-Belgium film with an uncommon tone. Thanks to its originality and surrealism, this project attracted famous actors who were not used to making genre films. Unlike French genre films produced or written in France over the past few years, *The Pack* is not showing torture and doesn't want to hurt the audience. *The Pack* embarks the audience in a travel in a post industrial world where regular and logical marks will be completely useless. The building model for the film is the one of a modern Western.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER OF INTENT

“I love genre films since childhood. At that time, this term didn't mean only horror movies, but various type of films, such as action, fantastic, science fiction, thriller and adventure ones.

To sum things up, let's say that I really appreciate cinema when it is smart and popular, and this is what I tried to achieve while filming THE PACK.

I do say “tried”, because it was a real try. I wanted to go back towards an atmospheric fantastic cinema that gets away, as much as possible, from the wave of films of torture that erupts on our screens today. That type of cinema is really unbearable for me. My real references are rather Franju's cinema, or Tourneur's one and even Carpenter's.

The lighting choices were dictated by the locations we chose to shoot. The slag heap had a particular ambiance (its wind, its dry ground...). Therefore, I wanted the night sequences to offer a very purified atmosphere and look, with a very contrasting light. Laurent Barès, the director of photography, allowed the shadows to do their job, and he did not hesitate to stow the moments that had to be stowed.

The mining background of the film allowed me to surround it in a reality that I knew. Using my past (the closing of the Lorraine mines in years 80-90) and a French region tradition, I tried to propose something new by avoiding, as much as I could copying the American big brother, Carpenter.

Starting here, many things followed, even the idea of having monsters (these golems born from the muck and the blood of the underground dead miners) who can only live in the ground of the slag heap. These heaps of waste, the last relics of the old times.

I did this film because I believe that it is still possible to make a good genre film in France, and because it is an excellent way to struggle against a certain hierarchical organization of culture....”

Franck RICHARD - Director

SET DESIGN

The director Franck Richard took all his team, over many nights, to shoot at the top of a slag heap near Mons in Belgium.

Nothing stopped the shooting on the top of this slag heap; neither the tempest, nor the horse that almost drowned pulling Spack's cart.

The other challenge in making this film was the construction of the farm. The chosen setting was built entirely on an arid and empty ground, which comes naturally out of the sky by an effect of twilight.

Belgian duo Florence VERCHEVAL and Eugénie COLLET were in charge of designing the sets.

"The barn, with its big woodwork on the ceiling, had a graphic interest.

We repainted everything and revised windows to make a sieved light. Then, we constructed the hall, the door... that sort of tunnel that represents anxiety and leads to the "circle", the machine to be force-fed, imagined by Franck Richard and the designer TANXXX... As if we were arriving in the allegory. The result is rather theatrical, it is almost an opera".



Storyboard by TANXXX

Another important visual element in the movie is that red is the colour of blood and only that. There is no red on screen (object, setting, clothes) unless it is blood.

Working on an ambience in the bluish, greenish and grey tones, accentuates the red colour of blood.

"The idea of the red colour was Franck's idea. Blood was the most important thing for him. And the best way for it to show, was to work on a monochrome picture, without any red in the costumes nor in the sets. The result is quite satisfying".

Florence VERCHEVAL & Eugénie COLLET - set designers

THE MUSIC

For the director Franck Richard, music is as important as cinema in life. Therefore music has always been a key element of his cinematic projects.

“For this film, I have always had in mind a soundtrack made with a strong industrial stench. So it seemed natural to me to entrust the task (encouraged by the artist TANXXX with whom I worked on the storyboard) to Chris Spencer (Unsane) and Ari Benjamin Meyers (Einstürzende Neubauten).

Chris and I share the same passion for the simplicity and effectiveness of John Carpenter’s film music. I needed this kind of music to make some sequences of my film successful.” Franck Richard

The soundtrack is made and recorded by Ari Benjamin MEYERS and Chris SPENCER, founder of this rock and “noisy” group UNSANE , created in 1988, and composed by Chris SPENCER (guitar, voice), Peter SHORE (bass, voice) et Vinny Signorelli (drums).

This famous New Yorker group places its influence into rock groups such as The Melvins, AC/DC, The Stooges, Flipper ou Car Alarms.

Their discography contains 7 albums :

- 2007 Visqueen
- 2005 Blood Run
- 1998 Occupational Hazard
- 1997 Amrep Christmas
- 1996 Scattered, Smothered & Covered
- 1994 Total Destruction
- 1992 Unsane

The soundtrack is completed by some additional songs, notably taken from the rock and independent French scene, such as the Marvin group, Café Flesh and Wharehouse project. The director Franck Richard explains his choices :

“Because I am fed up with hearing people saying there’s no rock music in France, I wanted the soundtrack to be completed by some titles from the French gifted independent rock scene.”

THE CAST

Yolande MOREAU - La Spack

César 2005 for the Best Actress and the best First film - WHEN THE SEA RISES

César 2008 for the Best Actress - SÉRAPHINE

Yolande Moreau took acting courses at the Jacques Lecoq school, and started her career by doing shows for children.

In 1982, she wrote a one-woman-show (« *Sale affaire, du sexe et du crime* ») and she was quickly noticed by Agnès Varda, who then invited her in the world of cinema. First in 1984 in the short movie « 7 p., cuis., s. de b., ... à saisir », and a year later, with « Vagabond ».

Thanks to her sweet madness and her poetry, in 1989 she became one of the main figures of the TV comedy show *Les Deschiens*. Later on, many French directors solicited her for uncommon roles, especially in the 1995 film HAPPINESS IS IN THE FIELD and THE THREE BROTHERS, and of course in 2000 with AMÉLIE FROM MONTMARTRE.

In 2004, the actress, Yolande Moreau started a new career as a director. With the collaboration of Gilles Porte, she directed QUAND LA MER MONTE, which seduced the public and the press, winning the César for Best First Film , the Prix Delluc and the Best Actress César for Yolande as well.

Three years later, her talent as an actress was once again rewarded for SÉRAPHINE (2008), in which film she brought an incontestable emotion.

Selective Filmography :

| | |
|------|---|
| 2010 | MAMMUTH, <i>Gustave Kervern & Benoît Delépine</i> GAINSBOURG, <i>Joann Sfar</i> |
| 2009 | MICMACS, <i>Jean-Pierre Jeunet</i> |
| 2008 | LOUISE-MICHEL, <i>Gustave Kervern & Benoît Delépine</i> SÉRAPHINE, <i>Martin Provost</i> |
| 2007 | THE LAST MISTRESS, <i>Catherine Breillat</i> |
| 2006 | PARIS, I LOVE YOU, <i>in the short film directed by Sylvain Chomet</i> |
| 2005 | THE AX, <i>Costa-Gavras</i> |
| 2004 | WHEN THE SEA RISES, <i>Yolande Moreau & Gilles Porte</i> |
| 2001 | AMÉLIE FROM MONTMARTRE, <i>Jean-Pierre Jeunet</i> |
| 1995 | HAPPINESS IS IN THE FIELD, <i>Etienne Chatiliez</i> THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF, <i>Jean-Paul Rappeneau</i> |
| 1993 | GERMINAL, <i>Claude Berri</i> |
| 1985 | VAGABOND, <i>Agnès Varda</i> |

Émilie DEQUENNE - Charlotte

Best Actress - Cannes Films Festival 1999 - ROSETTA

At a very young age, Emilie Dequenne was already on stage.

At 16 years old, right after her A levels, she went on studying political sciences, without letting down her love for theater.

Two years later, she replied to a newspaper ad from a production that was looking for a young actress for a feature film. It was for ROSETTA, the film directed by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne for which she became the leading character on screen, facing off 2000 other aspiring young girls.

For her remarkable performance, she was awarded the Best Actress Award in the 1999 Cannes Film Festival.

Her career began there... and since then, she played in :

| | |
|------|---|
| 2010 | I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, <i>Laurent Vinas-Raymond</i> |
| 2009 | THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN, <i>André Téchiné</i> |
| 2006 | LE GRAND MEAULNES, <i>Jean-Daniel Verhaeghe</i> LA VIE D'ARTISTE, <i>Marc Fitoussi</i> |
| 2005 | FISSURES, <i>Alante Kavaïté</i> |
| 2004 | THE LIGHT, <i>Philippe Lioret</i> |
| 2001 | BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF, <i>Christophe Gans</i> A HOUSEKEEPER, <i>Claude Berri</i> |

Benjamin BIOLAY - Max

Nominated for the Best Actor in a Supporting Role César 2009 - STELLA

Talented musician, composer and singer, Benjamin Biolay first put a foot in cinema in 2004, with the Arnaud Viard film CLARA AND ME, for which he composed the soundtrack. Two years later, he made his first steps as an actor in the feature film DIDINE and for Arte TV in SANG FROID, a film directed by Sylvie Verheyde.

His work with director Sylvie Verheyde didn't stop there. He joined her again in 2007 for the film STELLA and thanks to that, was nominated for the best actor in a supporting role César.

A year later, Biolay came back to TV for Canal +, with the short movie C'EST POUR QUAND .

In 2009, Benjamin appeared in the TV film PETITE FILLE by Laëtitia Masson.

In 2010, he composed the soundtrack of the film THE QUEEN OF HEARTS.

| | |
|------|---|
| 2008 | STELLA, <i>Sylvie Verheyde</i> |
| 2007 | C'EST POUR QUAND?, <i>Katia Lewkowicz</i> |
| 2006 | DIDINE, <i>Vincent Dietschy</i> |

Philippe NAHON - Chinaski

Philippe began acting in 1961 in Jean-Pierre Melville DOULOS.

Thanks to his physical appearance and talent, Philippe Nahon has been portraying on screen uncommon characters since his early career.

Philippe is frequently offered roles by the new generation of French filmmakers. He played in THE HATE by Mathieu Kassovitz, CARNE and I STAND ALONE by Gaspar Noé, SWITCHBLADE ROMANCE by Alexandre Aja or THE ORDEAL by Fabrice du Welz.

Selective Filmography :

| | |
|------|---|
| 2010 | MAMMUTH, <i>Gustave Kervern & Benoît Delépine</i> THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF ADÈLE BLANC-SEC, <i>Luc Besson</i> |
| 2008 | HUMANS, <i>Pierre-Olivier Thévenin & Jacques-Olivier Molon</i> ELDORADO, <i>Bouli Lanners</i> THE LAST DEADLY MISSION, <i>Olivier Marchal</i> |
| 2005 | MICHOU D'AUBER, <i>Thomas Gilou</i> |
| 1998 | THE OCTOPUS, <i>Guillaume Nicloux</i> |
| 1996 | A SELF-MADE HERO, <i>Jacques Audiard</i> |

Georges LINI - Biker

Stage director and theatre actor above all, George Lini received many awards over the years, mixing different styles in his numerous productions. This is why cinema and television have also been interested in him.

Théâtre

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 2010-2011 | ROMEO & JULIET, Shakespeare, staging, Théâtre des Galeries. LE PROJET HLH, Nicolas Fretel, staging, Théâtre de Poche. |
| 2008-2009 | MARCIA HESSE, Fabrice Melquiot, staging, L'Atelier 210. <i>Nominated for the "Prix du Théâtre pour la mise en scène"</i> |
| 2006-2007 | INCENDIES, Wajdi Mouawad, staging, Zone Urbaine Théâtre. <i>Prix du Meilleur Spectacle aux Prix de la Critique</i> |
| 2005-2006 | LA CUISINE D'ELVIS, Lee Hall, staging, Zone Urbaine Théâtre. <i>Prix de la Mise en Scène aux Prix de la Critique</i> L'OUEST SOLITAIRE, Martin Mc Donagh, staging, Zone Urbaine Théâtre. <i>Prix de la Mise en Scène aux Prix de la Critique</i> |

Cinéma

| | |
|------|--|
| 2005 | LE POULAIN, <i>Olivier & Yves Ringer</i> |
|------|--|

BEHIND THE CAMERA

Franck RICHARD - *director and script-writer*

Born in Nancy in the North eastern part of France, Franck Richard started writing for cinema, after several experiences in the world of music and on film sets as a technician.

THE PACK is his first feature film.

2008-2009 JVN.com
Editor, cameraman on many video games programs

2004-2005 VELVET Magazine (rock magazine, live from the Comédie !
channel)
*Cameraman, director: filming more than a hundred of concerts and interviews for the
DVD that comes with the magazine.*

July 2003 INSTINCT (SWC's video clip, by Emmanuel Fleury)
Cameraman, assistant director

April 2002 ARTE (different programs), *Cameraman, director*

October 2001 LA GROSSE ÉMISSION, *Cameraman*

Laurent BARÈS - *director of photography*

2008 FRONTIERS, *Xavier Gens*
2007 HITMAN, *Xavier Gens*
 INSIDE, *Julien Maury & Alexandre Bustillo*
2002 WE NEED A VACATION, *Didier Bivel*
1997 JUST FOR LAUGHS, *Lucas Belvaux*

Florence VERCHEVAL & Eugénie COLLET - *set designers*

2009 RAPT, *Lucas Belvaux*
2007 FACE CACHÉE, *Bernard Campan*
2006 DIKKENEK, *Olivier Van Hoofstadt*
1995 THE BLUE VILLA, *Alain Robbe-Grillet & Dimitri de Clercq*

CAST

LA SPACK
CHARLOTTE HUTTER
MAX
CHINASKI
COMPLET-VESTON
TOFU
BIKER 1
BIKER 2
BIKER 3
PECKER
MONSTER 2
MONSTER 3
MONSTER 4
JEAN JEAN

Yolande MOREAU
Emilie DEQUENNE
Benjamin BIOLAY
Philippe NAHON
Matthias SCHOENAERTS
Jan FONTEYN
Georges LINI
Philippe RESIMONT
Brice FOURNIER
Nicolas LEROY
Mathieu BOUTELIGIER
François DOMS
Benoît VIVIEN
Eric GODON

CREW

Production
Co-Production
In association with
Producers
Director
Scriptwriter
Director of photography
Director Assistant
Line Producer
Production Manager
Continuity girl
Set designers
Costume designer
Makeup
Special Effects Makeup
Hair Stylist
Casting in Belgium
Editing
Sound designer
Music
B rolls

LA FABRIQUE 2
Be-FILMS
TOUSCOPROD
Vérane FRÉDIANI & Franck RIBIÈRE
Franck RICHARD
Franck RICHARD
Laurent BARÈS
Delphine DAULL
Hélène LAMBOTTE
Frédéric WINDELS
Elisabeth ALEXANDRIS
Eugénie COLLET & Florence VERCHEVAL
Catherine MARCHAND
Rachel BEECKMANS
Olivier AFONSO
Nathalie VAN HEN
Patrick HELLA & Gerda DIDDENS
Olivier GAJAN
Marc ENGELS
Chris SPENCER & Ari Benjamin MEYERS
Brice Coustillet

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