

GOUTZ PROD présente



PETITE FLAMME

Visa d'exploitation N° 131582

PRESS KIT

"My first source of inspiration is not a story but a striking observation of a simple, rough image. Behind this moment in time there's a whole story : this image unfolds and developps little by little until it becomes a sequence...when the plot, the goal and the essence of what will be later the soul of the movie materializes. And then comes the time to write and let the still inanimate body of the narrative object of desire feverishly take shape."

Léon Griseri

SYNOPSIS

Cassandra is a troubled young woman. She is thirty two years old and life confronts her to a painful challenge. A few weeks before her wedding, she must mourn the first man of her life. That night, Cassandra will not find sleep. She will be haunted by her demons, deep memories within sublime dreams. Will she give up the best day of her life, driven by the black storm of a unique night ?



INTERVIEW



With the director, Léon GRISERI

How was the project of the short film *Petite flamme* born ?

Petite flamme is my first movie as a director. I really wanted to treat a personal issue without precisely knowing which one.

It's Georges de la Tour's painting 'La Madeleine à la veilleuse' which ended up by telling me a story. The story of a woman torn apart by the impossibility of living the happiness of her future wedding as her father has just passed away. My source of inspiration is not a story but a striking observation of a simple, rough image.

The atmosphere and the photography of the movie are very intimists. Was it important for you ?

Indeed, both the story and the state of mind of the main character, *Cassandre*, needed a highly-charged atmosphere. I wanted an intimist light, a candlelighting in order to immerse the audience in a more intimate grasp of the film and of *Cassandre* and thus highlight the dream scene which is overexposed. I talked about it with Jean-Philippe Wolter, our cinematographer, and we took as an aesthetic reference the painting 'La Madeleine à la veilleuse'. The difficulties were many: create an absolute candlelight atmosphere, without using any other artificial direct or indirect lighting. Also, one sole candle should have lighted *Cassandre* in order to emphasize her autistic withdrawal. Jean-Philippe has further suggested the final composition with ingenuity and his brilliant *savoir-faire*.

Mourning is the central theme of the movie. Does it make any reference to your personal life ?

I think this paradox can perfectly resume *Petite flamme* : how can anyone live one of the most beautiful day in life while experiencing one of the worst nightmare. I wanted to treat a personal theme. My father's death is a wound that took a long time to heal up. His absence was difficult to bear during many long years. So making my first short film inspired by this painful period of my life was important.

What about casting the leading part ? Was it difficult or did it come out naturally?

My choice for the leading part came out naturally, of course ! Julia Christina is my wife, I wrote this part for her. First, it was important for me to be very close to the actress so I can communicate without boundaries the feelings which punctuate Cassandre's line of thoughts: sadness, nostalgia, harrowing, solitude, deliverance and yet hope.

But I didn't chose Julia Christina only because she is my wife! She has all the qualities for this part and especially the talent of transmitting various feelings without words, which is a great challenge and a difficult exercise for an actor. Julia brings to her character the balance I was looking for, the harmony between gentleness and soul pain.

We are surprised to discover Jean-Pierre Foucault on Petite flamme's cast. Why this choice?

In spite of everything one can imagine, it's not 'a promo thing'. It's an affective choice. Jean Pierre and Jean-Marie, my father, were childhood friends. He belongs to my souvenirs. When choosing Cassandre's father voice, I heard that of Jean-Pierre. We then talked about Petite flamme and he immediately said yes ! Having the presence of a narrator was out of the question. I wanted to install an interior father-daughter dialogue. Jean Pierre's listening skills, his legendary kindness and his oratorical talent did the rest. I feel very lucky to have worked with him !

What about your future projects?

I'm now working on my future two short movies. I completely changed the style and the themes. For the first, the action takes place in the near future, where public entertainment hardly exists ...with an approach closed to the western. The second is a comedy about love and U-turns. Then I should go on with my first feature "Divine tip", the script needs some re-writing...



"La Madeleine à la veilleuse"
Georges De La Tour

CAST & CREW

CAST

CASSANDRE
CASSANDRE CHILD
THE BOYFRIEND
THE SPIRIT OF THE
FATHER

FATHER'S VOICE
NATHAN'S VOICE

JULIA CHRISTINA GRISERI
CHIARA LERDA
KLEMENT BERRIN
RAPHAEL PECORELLA

JEAN-PIERRE FOUCAULT
THIERRY RAGUENEAU

CREW

WRITER & DIRECTOR
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
CINEMATOGRAPHER
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CHIEF CAMERAMAN
SOUND

SET PHOTOGRAPHER

HAIR & MAKE-UP ARTIST
EDITOR & COLOR TIMER
SOUNDMIXER & SOUND
EDITOR
SOUND DESIGNER
SOUND RECORDED AT
STUDIOS RTL PARIS

CATERING

ENGLISH SUBTITLES

LEON GRISERI
JULIA CHRISTINA GRISERI
JEAN-PHILIPPE WOLTER
AMBRE LEMOINE
JOHN LECLERCQ
ROMAIN IMBERTECHE
JARIB ZAGOYA
KLEMENT BERRIN

STEPHANE BERRIN
LEON GRISERI
LEON GRISERI
LEON GRISERI
LEON GRISERI

RAYMONDE LEBOUCHER
MIREILLE MEISSIMILLY

JULIA CHRISTINA GRISERI

MUSIC

With the courtesy of :

Across : written & composed by Moby.

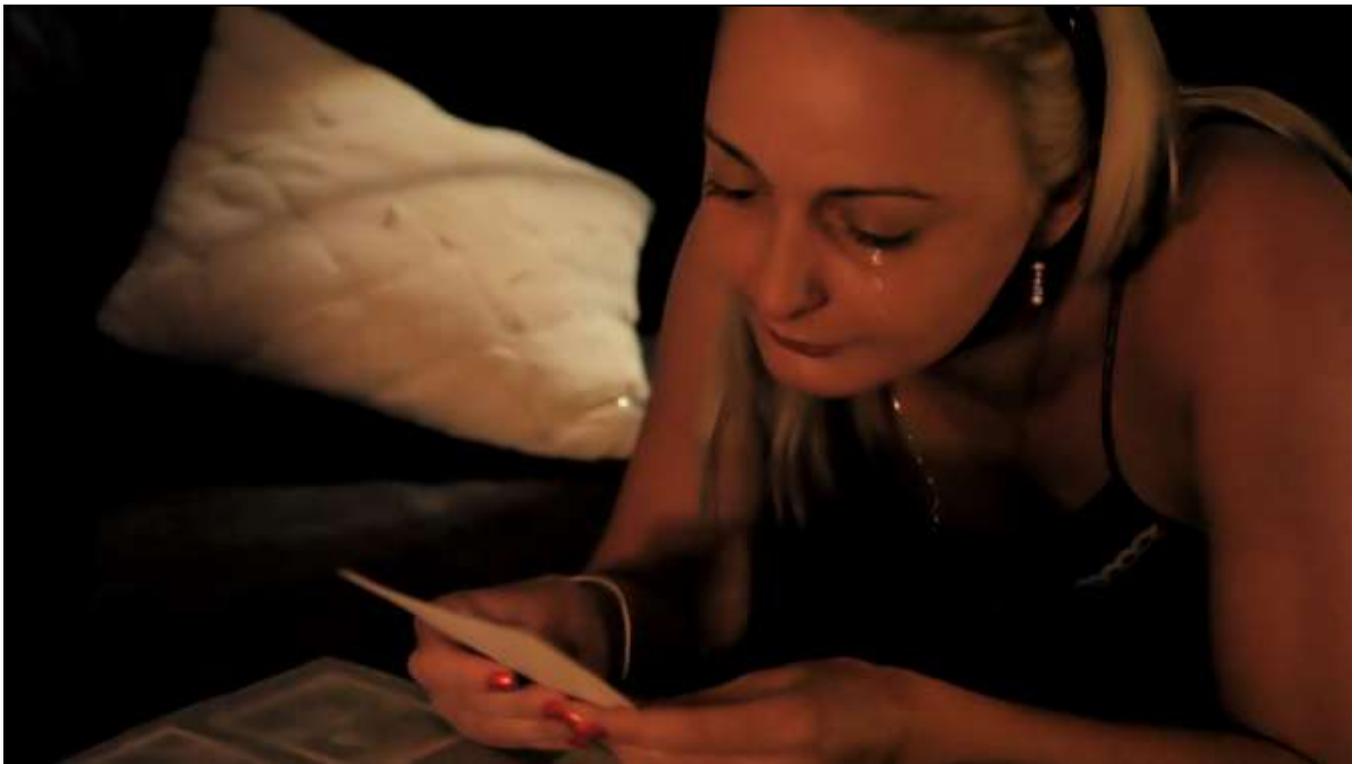
18 : written & composed by Moby.

Slowlight: written & composed by Moby.

Insomniance : from the album Insomniance by Jeff Fermon

One in the blue mood : from the album Insomniance by Jeff Fermon

Tristounette histoire : from the album Soft & Slow by David



AWARDS & OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARD

Mumbai International Short Film Festival, India 2012

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Cannes Festival - Short Film Corner, France 2012

Filmbooth International Short Film Screenings, New Delhi, India
2012

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

MOBY, JEFF FERMON, DAVID, STUDIOS RTL PARIS, JEAN-PIERRE
FOUCAULT, THIERRY RAGUENEAU, ARGENTINA ET VIOREL LACHE, HUIZI
SHEN, CEDRIC COPPOLA ET FREDERIQUE MUNOZ.