



Rectangle Productions presents



# THE PLOUGH

A film by Philippe Garrel

France – 2022 – 95 min – 1.85 – 5.1

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

Wild Bunch International  
65 rue de Dunkerque 75009 Paris  
Tél : +33 1 43 13 41 35  
Flavien Eripret  
feripret@wbinter.eu  
<http://wildbunch.biz>

## INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Wild Bunch International  
Solène Michel  
smichel@wbinter.eu

# SYNOPSIS

The Plough is a constellation. It is also a puppet theatre.

This is the story of a family of puppeteers: siblings Louis, Martha and Lena; their father, who directs the troupe; and the grandmother, who makes the dolls.

Together, they are a company and put on puppet shows. One day, following a performance, the father dies of a stroke, leaving his children alone.



## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I wanted to make a film with my three children who have, one after another, become actors for other directors these last few years (I certainly wouldn't have wanted to co-opt them by casting them first). I realize that depicting one's family is a pleasure usually reserved for painters.

Since my children are aged 22, 30 and 38, I had to find a reason to bring them together at those ages.

I decided I would depict a family of puppeteers, several of which still exist, even today. When I was born, before he became an actor, my father was a puppeteer in Gaston Baty's troupe. My godfather, Alain Recoing, also performed in the company.

I wrote the screenplay with Jean-Claude Carrière, Arlette Langmann and Caroline Deruas Peano.

We rehearsed scenes from the film and puppet show every Saturday.

Gaston Baty wrote these repertory scenes with Eloi Recoing, one of Alain Recoing's sons. Baty was a member of the "Cartel of Four", alongside Louis Jouvet, Charles Dullin, and Georges Pitoëff, and wrote and performed for his own puppet theater.

When I was a boy, these artists were very poor, but I thought of them as kings. I wanted to make a film that, although born in my imagination, also imitates a documentary on this craft. (Jean-Luc Godard said that a good fiction film must also be a documentary about something). In the disintegration of a company of artist-puppeteers, I see the metaphor of a world where traditions are dying.

- Philippe Garrel

# DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Philippe Garrel was born on April 6th, 1948, and made numerous short films during his youth. In 1967, he directed his first feature film, *Marie pour mémoire*. Three years later, he directed rock icon Nico in the celebrated cult film *La Cicatrice intérieure*. He has directed more than twenty-five feature films, which have screened widely in the most prestigious international festivals. His latest film, *The Plough*, will premiere in competition at the Berlin International Film Festival, 2023.

# DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY

2023	<i>THE PLOUGH</i> - In Competition, Berlin 2023	1988	<i>LES BAISERS DE SECOURS</i>
2020	<i>THE SALT OF TEARS</i> - In Competition, Berlin 2019	1984	<i>ELLE A PASSE TANT D'HEURES SOUS LES SUNLIGHTS</i>
2017	<i>LOVER FOR A DAY</i> - SACD Prize, Directors' Fortnight 2017	1984	<i>RUE FONTAINE</i> (short)
2014	<i>IN THE SHADOW OF WOMEN</i> - Directors' Fortnight 2015	1983	<i>LIBERTE, LA NUIT</i> - Perspective Award, Cannes 1984
2013	<i>JEALOUSY</i> - In Competition, Venice 2013	1979	<i>L'ENFANT SECRET</i> - Jean Vigo Award 1982
2011	<i>THAT SUMMER</i> - In Competition, Venice 2011	1977	<i>LE BLEU DES ORIGINES</i> (short)
2005	<i>FRONTIER OF THE DAWN</i> - Official Selection, Cannes 2008	1976	<i>LE VOYAGE AU JARDIN DES MORTS</i>
2004	<i>REGULAR LOVERS</i> - Silver Lion, Venice 2005, FIPRESCI Prize, European Film Academy Critics' Award 2006, Louis Delluc Award 2005	1975	<i>LE BERCEAU DE CRISTAL</i>
2001	<i>WILD INNOCENCE</i> - International Critics' Award, Venice 2001	1975	<i>UN ANGE PASSE</i>
1998	<i>NIGHT WIND</i>	1974	<i>LES HAUTES SOLITUDES</i>
1995	<i>LE COEUR FANTOME</i>	1972	<i>ATHANOR</i> (short)
1993	<i>LA NAISSANCE DE L'AMOUR</i>	1970	<i>LA CICATRICE INTERIEURE</i>
1990	<i>J'ENTENDS PLUS LA GUITARE</i> - Silver Lion, Venice 1991	1969	<i>LE LIT DE LA VIERGE</i>
		1968	<i>LA CONCENTRATION</i>
		1968	<i>LE REVELATEUR</i>
		1967	<i>MARIE POUR MEMOIRE</i> - Grand Prix, Festival du Jeune Cinéma, Hyères 1968
		1965	<i>DROIT DE VISITE</i> (short)
		1964	<i>LES ENFANTS DESACCORDES</i> (short)

# CAST

Louis Garrel  
Damien Mongin  
Esther Garrel  
Lena Garrel  
Francine Bergé  
Aurélien Recoing  
Mathilde Weil  
Asma Messaoudene

Louis  
Pieter  
Martha  
Lena  
The Grandmother  
The Father  
Hélène  
Laura

# CREW

Directed by  
Screenplay by  
  
Produced by  
Co-produced by  
Director of Photography  
Editor  
Original Music  
Sound Design  
Sound  
Production Designer  
Costume Designer  
First Assistant Director  
Production Manager

Philippe Garrel  
Jean-Claude Carrière, Arlette Langmann,  
Philippe Garrel, Caroline Deruas Peano  
Edouard Weil and Laurine Pelassy  
Joëlle Bertossa and Flavia Zanon  
Renato Berta  
Yann Dedet  
Jean-Louis Aubert  
Thierry Delor  
Guillaume Sciama  
Manu de Chauvigny  
Justine Pearce  
Paolo Trotta  
Serge Catoire

# FINANCIAL PARTNERS

A French/Swiss coproduction

Rectangle Productions – Close Up Films – Arte France Cinéma – RTS Radio Télévision Suisse – Tournon Films

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Ad Vitam

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Ciné+

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