

BARNEY PRODUCTION PRESENTS



GIORNATE  
degli AUTORI

# THE BOOK OF JOY

A FILM BY CAMILLE LUGAN



BARNEY PRODUCTION PRESENTS



# THE BOOK OF JOY

A FILM BY CAMILLE LUGAN

Sonia **BONNY**  
Volodymyr **ZHDANOV**  
Asia **ARGENTO**  
Raphaël **THIÉRY**

---

FRANCE - 86 MIN - 2024 - 1:85 - 5.1

FRENCH DISTRIBUTION



# SYNOPSIS

In a dull, desolate town, Joy (27) is an orphan who lives her faith with intensity and almost never leaves her church. Until the day she meets Andriy, a young man who gets beaten up in front of her. Soon, she becomes convinced their paths were meant to cross...









# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“

“I’ve been obsessed with the theme of grace for a long time.

In *The Book of Joy*, I wanted to immerse the audience alongside a young woman who lives her faith with intensity, within a world on the verge of collapsing. A solitary heroine, driven by a quest for purity, who ventures beyond the reassuring limits of her church to confront herself to other people for the first time, even if she takes the risk of losing herself.

I wished to reuse the codes of the film noir genre to tell the story of a unique love affair, one both mystical and sensual, that would translate on screen through bodies rather language.

Working with the actors Sonia Bonny and Volodymyr Zhdanov drove me to push the film's physical dimension even further. From the point of view of image and sound, the use of night shots, the industrial landscape and Le Havre’s concrete architecture have enabled me to explore an underworld on the margins, characterized by a powerful, gloomy atmosphere, inhabited by characters struggling to survive.

*The Book of Joy* is a film on the edge of realism, where death and hope coexist side by side. Where religion can’t be separated from eroticism. It’s a gritty version of a female-driven Gospel, torn between darkness and light.”

– CAMILLE LUGAN



# DIRECTOR

## – CAMILLE LUGAN

A former student in Philosophy, Camille Lugan graduated in Screenwriting at La Fémis. She's co-written several feature films (*Ibrahim* by Samir Guesmi, *Amore Mio* by Guillaume Gouix...) as well as TV shows (*Maroni*, season 2, for ARTE) and directed three short films including *La Persistente*, which premiered at Critics' Week in Cannes in 2018. *The Book of Joy* is her first feature.

## – FILMOGRAPHY

2024 *The Book of Joy* - 86 min

2021 *Time's up* - 12 min

2018 *La Persistente* - 22 min 

2014 *Karama, Karama* - 29 min





# CAST & CREW



## – CAST

Joy	Sonia Bonny
Andriy	Volodymyr Zhdanov
Mater	Asia Argento
Father Léonard	Raphaël Thiéry

## – CREW

Script	Camille Lugan, Salvatore Lista
Producer	Saïd Hamich Benlarbi
DOP	Victor Zébo
Editor	Grégoire Pontécaille
Original Score	Rémi Boubal
Production Design	Armelle Rabaté
Sound	Gaël Eléon, Alexandre Hecker, Simon Apostolou





## – BARNEY PRODUCTION

Barney Production was founded by Saïd Hamich Benlarbi in 2009 with the aim of championing sensitive and committed filmmakers. In 2011 the company won the Lagardère Foundation prize. He founded the company Mont Fleuri Production in Morocco in 2013.

Barney Production co-produced *Much Loved* by Nabil Ayouch (Directors' Fortnight, Cannes 2015) and produced *Northern Wind* by Walid Mattar, *Volubilis* by Faouzi Bensaïdi (Venice Days 2017), *Return to Bollene* by Saïd Hamich Benlarbi (Louis Delluc First Film Prize Nominee 2018), *Zanka Contact* by Ismaël El Iraki (Best Actress Orizzonti Award 2020, Special Mention from the Jury - Cinemed 2020), as well as around 50 short films.

TV Series by Sofia Alaoui and Måns Mårland, and Marine Francou, Jean-Philippe Amar, Amina Damerджи and Baptiste Fillon are also in development.

Barney Production recently released features by Faouzi Bensaïdi, *Deserts* (Directors' Fortnight, Cannes 2023), Steve Achiepo and Kamal Lazraq: *Slumlord* and *Hounds* (Jury Prize Un Certain Regard, Cannes 2023). In 2024, *Across the Sea* by Saïd Hamich Benlarbi premiered at Cannes Critics' Week (Special Screening), and Camille Lugan's *The Book of Joy* at Giornate Degli Autori.



# CONTACT



17 rue de Pali Kao  
75020 Paris – France

[www.barneyproduction.com](http://www.barneyproduction.com)  
[contact@barneyproduction.com](mailto:contact@barneyproduction.com)