INTERNATIONAL PRESS

PR CONTACT
CANNES OFFICE:
All Suites Garden Studio,
All Suites Residence,
12 rue Latour Maubourg
06400 Cannes
festival@theprcontact.com
Effective only from May 12:
Pip Symes 06 16 78 85 17
Ronaldo Mourao 06 16 02 80 85
Virginia Garcia 06 34 27 85 51
Emmanuelle Boutin 06 34 28 85 21
Stella Wilson 06 34 28 84 87

high definition pictures can be downloaded from www.wildbunch.biz in the press section

INTERNATIONAL SALES

WILD BUNCH
VINCENT MARAVAL
cell +33 6 11 91 23 93
vmaraval@wildbunch.eu

GAEL NOUAILE

cell +33 6 21 23 04 72
gnouaile@wildbunch.eu

LAURENT BAUDENS / CAROLE BARATON

cell +33 6 70 79 05 17
cbaraton@wildbunch.eu

SILVIA SIMONUTTI

cell +33 6 20 74 95 08
ssimonutti@wildbunch.eu

FRANCE / JAPAN / KOREA / GERMANY
COLOUR - 1H50 - 35 MM - 1.85
DOLBY SRD / DTS - 2008
For more than 10 years, he's been a hikikomori. He lives shut up in his apartment, strictly limiting all contact with the outside world to an absolute minimum. When a pizza delivery girl faints in his home during an earthquake, the unthinkable happens – he falls in love. Shortly after, he learns that the girl has in her turn become a hikikomori. Will he dare cross the threshold that separates his apartment from the rest of the world?

A young couple tries to set themselves up in Tokyo. The young man’s ambition is clear – to become a film director. His girlfriend, far more indecisive, cannot escape the vague feeling that she’s losing control of her life. Directionless, both are beginning to go under in this vast city until the young woman, utterly alone, becomes the object of a bizarre transformation...

A mysterious creature spreads panic in the streets of Tokyo by means of his provocative and destructive behaviour. This man, dubbed ‘The Creature of the Sewers’ by the media, arouses both passion and repulsion... until the moment he is captured...

A young couple tries to set themselves up in Tokyo. The young man’s ambition is clear – to become a film director. His girlfriend, far more indecisive, cannot escape the vague feeling that she’s losing control of her life. Directionless, both are beginning to go under in this vast city until the young woman, utterly alone, becomes the object of a bizarre transformation...

A mysterious creature spreads panic in the streets of Tokyo by means of his provocative and destructive behaviour. This man, dubbed ‘The Creature of the Sewers’ by the media, arouses both passion and repulsion... until the moment he is captured...
Merde is a creature, a sort of Godzilla who attacks the inhabitants of great cities, but a racist, fundamentalist Godzilla. Or rather, Merde is a Mister Hyde cast into contemporary Tokyo. But then where is his double, his creator? Where is Doctor Jekyll hiding? In you, and in me.

The beginning of the film presents a young couple confronted by the difficulty of moving to an unknown city. The aim of the film however is not to show Tokyo as an inhuman megalopolis, but to reveal the personality of a young woman who doesn’t see the point of disappearing into the professional adult world. This first part is full of life and humour, especially in the intimate moments between the couple. We follow the young girl on her interior journey as, little by little, she cuts herself off from others and turns away from the role she has played up till now.

The surreal twist the film takes, as she slowly begins to transform into a chair, reflects her mental state, horribly yet cinematically, in the fashion of Roman Polanski’s *REPULSION* or *THE TENANT*.
Tokyo is a city endowed with a distinctive atmosphere, a very singular sense of space. To show cinematically this "something" the city possesses is exciting in itself. What then are the images with which one can evoke this city, at once so strange and so familiar, as a director and as a foreigner?

The feeling of vertigo, almost as if everyone suddenly disappeared from the thronging streets of Shibuya...
The movements and expressions of people on the pedestrian footbridges who seem almost imperceptibly “under control”...

An isolated cat standing in the narrow alleyway of a silent neighbourhood...

A strange love story taking place between a man and a woman in the unique atmosphere of Tokyo. This film, short as it is, is a strange love story.

FILMOGRAPHY

2006 THE HOST
- Cannes International Film Festival Directors Fortnight
- Grand Bell Awards South Korea Best Director
- Best Editing

2004 MEMORIES OF MURDER
- Cognac Festival du Film Policier Grand Prix, Audience Award
- Tokyo International Film Festival Best Film (2003)
- San Sébastian International Film Festival Best Director, FIPRESCI Prize
- Grand Bell Awards, South Korea Best Film
- Best Director
- Best Actor

2000 BARKING DOGS NEVER BITE
- Hong Kong International Film Festival FIPRESCI Prize (2001)
The Greek word “rhapsody” designates “a work composed of several pieces presented one after the other”. Our project is a fantasy in three movements, three directors interpreting a single motif: TOKYO. It doesn’t matter whether each piece seems at odds with the others - when they are put together, they form a unique work. A “Tokyo rhapsody”, to be precise.

All cities evolve. But whereas Paris or New York have managed to maintain a balance between tradition and evolution, Tokyo is destined to develop endlessly. Economic growth has seen the city change at an exponential rate. This enormous metropolis is a film set in itself. Neither quiet nor calm, the city overflows with a dizzying energy. Seen from abroad, Tokyo has grown from an exotic city to “TOKYO”, an endlessly complex and fantasized-about assemblage emanating from an imminent future...

Our desire to produce a composite film rather than a single, full-length story was absolutely dictated by the nature of the city and its inhabitants; by the urban landscape that appears and disappears suddenly, in completely unexpected fashion; by the extraordinary behaviour of people no longer really astonished by anything. There is something of the absurd in TOKYO. These three directors, each endowed with a rich and fertile sensibility, each so different from the others, capture the true spirit of TOKYO.

THE PRODUCERS