

## cast

Jeanne	JULIE DEPARDIEU
Thomas	ERIC CARAVACA
Lucas	VINCENT ROTTIERS
Joseph	MAURICE BENICHO
Suzanne	NATHALIE RICHARD
Gilbert	MAURICE GARREL
Richard	REMI MARTIN

## synopsis

Thomas learns about his brother's death and returns to their hometown, where Richard's body will be sent. But he needs a few days to come to terms with some family secrets before the burial takes place. He needs to find peace. The time has come to forgive his brother for what he did to him as a child. Thomas stays at a hotel run by Jeanne, Richard's girlfriend where she and Lucas, a teenage orphan she has taken in, spent wonderful times with Richard. They still expect his return.

## crew

Director  
Screenplay

ERIC CARAVACA  
ERIC CARAVACA,  
ARNAUD CATHRINE  
LAURENT PERREAU  
MICHEL ST-JEAN  
CELINE BOZON  
VALERIE SARADJIAN  
PATRICK DURAND  
FRANCOIS MAUREL  
SIMON JACQUET  
BENOIT HILLEBRANT  
GERARD LAMPS

with the collaboration of  
Producer  
Director of photography  
Set design

Sound  
Editing  
Sound editing  
Mix

France - 81' - color - 1:85 - dolby sr/srd

Critic's week - Venice 2005

# le passager

a film by Eric Caravaca

## international sales

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## production

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# director's statement

Le Passager is a story of fraternity that never came to pass, fraternity broken one summer night along the seaside. Since then, silence has set in, heavy silence, causing unbearable and unspoken resentments to grow inside each of the two brothers. Then one day, it all blows up; one of the brothers commits suicide. But the one who remains will have to try and understand in order to survive, he will have to confront this silence.

In this film I would like to show that burying the past is a survival reflex that can lead to a dead end. I would like for it to be a contemporary and violent story, cruel and enlightening, a story that once unraveled could lead to new beginnings.

At the start, there is Thomas, the young father. The death of his brother, whom he has not seen in ten years, plunges him into his past, a past now classified as dead. But an old conflict resurfaces, a conflict that is certainly the true "skeleton in the closet". Far from his wife and child, he will attempt to straighten out his life, for he wants (perhaps unconsciously) to stop running. He arrives at the Hotel Marysol, returns to his hometown. The Road Movie is over, the real story can begin.

Jeanne, Lucas and Joseph are at the Hotel Sud. They are waiting for the return of Richard, who left one fine day without leaving an address. But Thomas shows up instead. It is as if Richard were finally giving his brother the love he was incapable of when he was alive: he gives him people to love. It is no longer a question of one person's struggle against another, but rather of illustrating the miracle that takes place when these characters finally come back to life instead of waiting, as if their lives were on hold.

Le Passager is also the story about the discovery of a new brother. The transmission that did not exist between the two brothers will gradually take form between Thomas and the young Lucas. Lucas is the second point of view of the film. Between childhood and adulthood, Lucas represents life's vital energy, he has the naive and irrevocable audacity of adolescence. Thomas will help him enter his adult life. As for Lucas, he bursts the bubble of unspoken resentments. His lightness and stubborn desire to live will help guide Thomas towards a new life.



*"Would it be rash to affirm that the real tragedy of our existences – normal, deep, everyday tragedy - only begins there where external adventures and dangers cease?"*  
*Maeterlinck*

# filmography

## director

2005    Le Passager

## actor

2005    La raison du plus faible - Lucas Belvaux  
2004    Le passager - Eric Caravaca  
         Critics Week Venice  
2003    Inguélézi - François Dupeyron  
2002    His Brother - Patrice Chéreau  
2002    That Woman - Guillaume Nicloux  
2001    Novo - Jean-Pierre Limosin  
         For She's a Jolly Good Fellow - Siegfried Alnoy

2000    Officer's Ward - François Dupeyron  
         (Nomination - Best Actor Cesar Awards 2001)  
         Lovers of the Nile - Eric Heumman  
1999    Unleaded - Murielle Téodori  
         Enchanted Interlude - Michel Spinoza  
         C'est Quoi La Vie - François Dupeyron  
         César Award Most Promising Male Talent 2000  
         Golden Star of the Press - Revelation French  
         Male Lead  
1998    La Voie est Libre - Stéphane Clavier  
         Beaucoup trop loin - Olivier Jahan (short)  
1997    La Vie ne me fait pas peur - Noémie Lvovsky  
         Nicotine - Pablo Lopez Paredes (short)  
         Dedans - Marion Vernoux (short)  
1996    A Saturday on Earth - Diane Bertrand

