### cast

Jeanne **Thomas** Lucas Joseph Suzanne Gilbert Richard

JULIE DEPARDIEU **ERIC CARAVACA VINCENT ROTTIERS** MAURICE BENICHOU NATHALIE RICHARD MAURICE GARREL **REMI MARTIN** 

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

Critic's week - Venice 2005

## 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

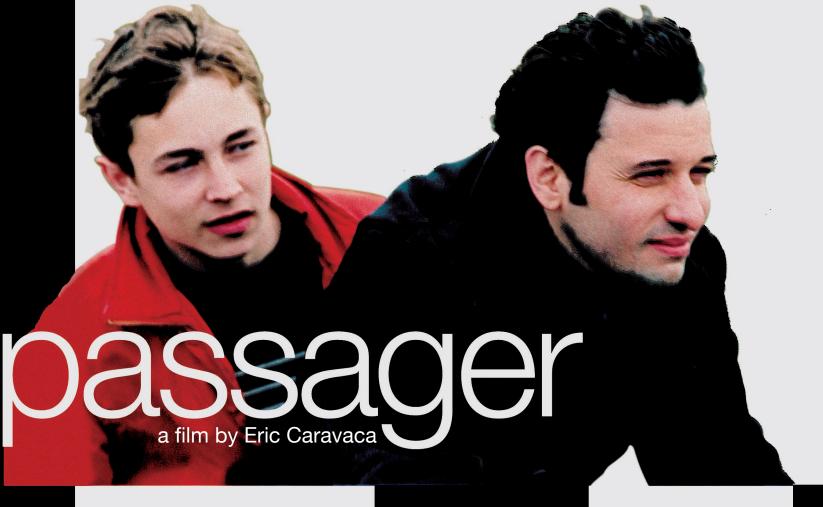
with the collaboration of Producer

Director of photography

Set design

Sound Editing Sound editing Mix

**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



### international sales

Celluloid Dreams The Directors Label 2 Rue Turgot, 75009 Paris, France T: +33 1 4970 0370 F: + 33 1 4970 0371 info@celluloid-dreams.com www.celluloid-dreams.com

# international

Magali Montet / Gordon Spragg T: +33 1 49 70 85 25 - F: +33 1 49 70 03 71

Magali Montet M: +33 6 71 63 36 16 E: magali@celluloid-dreams.com

Gordon Spragg M: +33 6 75 25 97 91 E: gordon@celluloid-dreams.com



### production

Diaphana Films 155, rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine 75011, Paris, France T: 33 1 53 46 66 66 F: 33 1 53 46 62 29

🥱 diaphana

## 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.

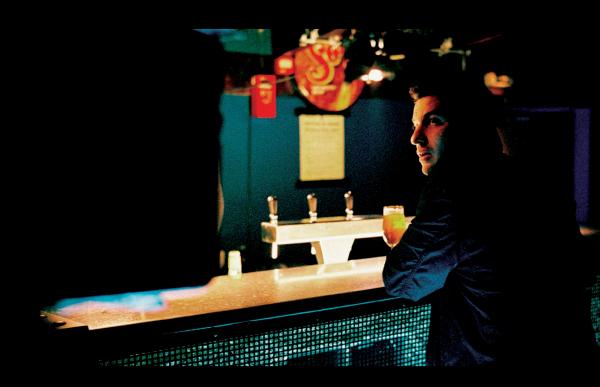
In this film I would like to show that burying the past is a survival reflex that can lead to a dead end. I would like for it to be a contemporary and violent story, cruel and enlightening, a story that once unraveled could lead to new beginnings.

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

2000

## filmography

#### director

2005 Le Passager

#### actor

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 - Siegried Alnoy

La raison du plus faible - Lucas Belvaux

(Nomination - Best Actor Cesar Awards 2001) Lovers of the Nile - Eric Heumman 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 La Voie est Libre - Stéphane Clavier 1998 Beaucoup trop loin - Olivier Jahan (short) La Vie ne me fait pas peur - Noémie Lvovsky 1997 Nicotine - Pablo Lopez Paredes (short) Dedans - Marion Vernoux (short) A Saturday on Earth - Diane Bertrand 1996

Officer's Ward - François Dupeyron