INCENDIES

A film by
Denis Villeneuve

Based on the stage play by
Wajdi Mouawad

Starring
Lubna Azabal, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin,
Maxim Gaudette, Rémy Girard

Produced by
Luc Déry and Kim McCraw

Running time: 130 minutes

A
micro_scope
production

www.micro-scope.ca
SYNOPSIS

When notary Lebel (Rémy Girard) sits down with Jeanne and Simon Marwan (Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin, Maxim Gaudette) to read them their mother’s will Nawal (Lubna Azabal), the twins are stunned to receive a pair of envelopes – one for the father they thought was dead and another for a brother they didn’t know existed.

In this enigmatic inheritance, Jeanne sees the key to Nawal’s retreat into unexplained silence during the final weeks of her life. She immediately decides to go to the Middle East to dig into a family history of which she knows next to nothing.

Simon is unmoved by the posthumous mind games of a mother who was always distant and cold. However, the love he has for his sister is strong, and he soon joins her in combing their ancestral homeland in search of a Nawal who is very different from the mother they knew.

With Lebel’s help, the twins piece together the story of the woman who brought them into the world, discovering a tragic fate forever marked by war and hatred as well as the courage of an exceptional woman.

An adaptation of Wajdi Mouawad’s hit play, *Incendies*, is a deeply moving coming-of-age story that brings the horror of war to a starkly personal level, delivering a powerful and poetic testament to the indelible scars of the cycle of violence, and the uncanny power of the will to survive.
CAST

Nawal Marwan Lubna AZABAL
Jeanne Marwan Méliissa DÉSORMEAUX-POULIN
Simon Marwan Maxim GAUDETTE
Notary Jean Lebel Rémy GIRARD
Abou Tarek Abdelghafour ELAAZIZ
Notary Madded Allen ALTMAN
Chamseddine Mohamed MAJD
Fahim Nabil SAWALHA
Maïka Baya BELAL

CREW

Director and screenwriter Denis VILLENEUVE
Based on a stage play by Wajdi MOUAWAD
Script Coach Valérie BEAUGRAND-CHAMPAGNE

Producers Luc DÉRY, Kim McCRAW
Co-producers Miléna POYLO & Gilles SACUTO, Anthony DONCQUE
Associate Producers Phoebe GREENBERG, Penny MANCUSO, Ziad TOUMA
Line Producers Sylvie TRUDELLE, Stephen TRAYNOR

Director of Photography André TURPIN
Editor Monique DARTONNE
Production Design André-Line BEAUPARLANT
Costumes Design Sophie LEFEBVRE

Original Score Grégoire HETZEL
Sound Engineer Jean UMANSKY
Sound Design Sylvain BELLEMARE
Mix Jean-Pierre LAFORCE

Casting Lucie ROBITAILLE, Lara ATALLA, Constance DEMONTOY

Production (Canada) micro_scope
Co-production (France) TS Productions
Associate Producer (Canada) Phi Group

Distribution (Canada) Les Films Christal, Les Films Séville
International Sales Entertainment one
ABOUT THE PLAY ...

Directed by Wajdi Mouawad, *Incendies* premiered in France on March 14, 2003 at the Hexagone Scène Nationale in Meylan, and in Quebec on May 23, 2003 at Théâtre de Quat'sous as part of the 10th Festival de théâtre des Amériques. Part of the original cast included Andrée Lachapelle (Nawal), Isabelle Leblanc (Jeanne), Reda Guerenik (Simon), Richard Thériault (Hermile Lebel) and Éric Bernier (Nihad).

Since its original production, the play has been staged in Canada (under the English title *Scorched*), France, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, Holland, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Spain, the United States, Australia, Estonia, and Italy.

The play received many awards including the SACD's "Prix de la Francophonie" in 2004 and the French "Syndicat de la critique" Prize for Best Play in 2004.

BIOGRAPHIES

DENIS VILLENEUVE
Director and screenwriter

Often pegged as one of the most talented filmmakers of his generation, Denis Villeneuve has managed to compel both critics and audiences with his unique visual style and fresh approach to storytelling.

His debut feature, *Un 32 août sur Terre (August 32nd on Earth)*, was selected by over thirty-five international film festivals in 1998, and was part of Cannes' Un Certain Regard, Telluride and Toronto's official selections.

In 2000, his follow-up *Maëlstrom* is selected by Sundance, Toronto and over thirty other film festivals around the world. The film received over twenty-five international awards, including the prestigious FIPRESCI and SACD awards at the 2001 Berlin Film Festival. At home, the film won 9 Jutra and 5 Genie Awards and once again, represented Canada at the Academy Awards.

In 2008, his short film *Next Floor* wins the Canal+ Award for Best Short Film at the Cannes' Critics Week. The film is also shown in more than 150 festivals around the world where it received more than 50 awards.

In 2009, *Polytechnique*, his third feature, was released. After a premiere at Cannes’ Director’s Fortnight, the film was presented in many international festivals including ones in Helsinki, Stockholm, London, Taipei and Gijon. In Canada, *Polytechnique* was honoured with the Best Canadian Film of 2009 Award by the Toronto Film Critics Association, as well as 9 Genie and 5 Jutra Awards, notably for Best Director.

His fourth feature-length film, *Incendies*, an adaptation of Wajdi Mouawad’s play, is a Canada-France co-production that was shot in Quebec and Jordan.
DENIS VILLENEUVE’S FILMOGRAPHY

Incendies
2010 | 130 minutes | 35mm
(List of Festivals and Awards in Appendix)

Polytechnique
2009 | 77 minutes | 35 mm
◆ Directors Fortnight – Cannes [2009]
◆ Official selection at Helsinki, Toronto, Stockholm, London, Taipei, Gijon, etc.
◆ Best Canadian film – Toronto Film Critics Association awards [2009]
◆ Bayard d’Or– Festival du film francophone de Namur [2009]

Next Floor
2008 | 12 minutes | 35 mm
◆ Canal+ Award for Best Short Film – Official selection, Critic’s Week, Cannes [2008]
◆ Director’s Choice Award – Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA [2008]
◆ Grand Prize, 14th International Short Film Festival, Drama, Greece [2008]
◆ Best International Fiction, Izmir International Short Film Festival, Turkey [2008]
◆ Best Live Action Short Film, St. Louis International Film Festival, USA [2008]
◆ Best Short Film, Whistler Film Festival, Canada [2008]
Screened in more than 60 festivals around the world. Winner of a dozen of awards.

Maelström
2000 | 87 minutes | 35 mm
◆ International Critics Award (FIPRESCI) – Official selection, Berlin [2001]
◆ 5 Genie Awards (Best Film, Director, Screenplay, Actress, Cinematography) – Toronto [2001]
◆ 9 Jutra Awards (Best Film, Director, Screenplay, Actress, Cinematography, etc.) – Montreal [2001]
◆ 2 Awards (Best Film and Best Director) – Bratislava Festival, Czech republic [2001]
◆ Special Mention for Best Canadian Film – Toronto International Film Festival [2000]
◆ Award for Best Canadian Film – FFM, Montreal [2000]
◆ Special Award for Cinematography – FFM, Montreal [2000]
◆ Official selection Sundance, Berlin, Toronto, etc. (more than 40 international film festivals)
◆ Represented Canada at the 2000 Academy Awards

Un 32 août sur Terre (August 32nd on Earth)
1998 | 88 minutes | super 35 mm
◆ Official selection at Un Certain Regard – Cannes [1998]
◆ Award for Best Film – Festival de Namur [1998]
◆ Jutra Award for Best Actor – Montreal [1999]
◆ 2 Awards (Best Film and Best Director) – Festival Saint-Jean-de-Luz, France [1998]
◆ Represented Canada at the 1999 Academy Awards
◆ Official selection Cannes, Toronto, Telluride, etc. (more than 35 international film festivals)
◆ International distribution

Cosmos
1996 | 99 minutes | 35 mm | collective film (6 short films)
◆ Prix Art et Essai – Director’s Fortnight, Cannes [1997]
◆ Represented Canada at the 1997 Academy Awards

REW FFWD
1994 | 31 minutes | 16-35 mm
◆ New York Film Academy Award – Locarno Festival [1994]
INCENDIES

WAJDI MOUAWAD
Author of the play Incendies
Playwright, director, actor

The theatre’s most impressive new voice of the last decade, Wajdi Mouawad, is an equally accomplished playwright, director and actor.

Born in Lebanon in 1968, Mouawad was forced by civil war to flee his homeland at the age of eight. His family’s exile began with a stay in France, where he lived until he permanently immigrated to Montreal in 1983. There he studied theatre and earned a diploma in acting from the National Theatre School. After graduating he acted in, wrote and directed a number of productions for the company he founded with Isabelle Leblanc, Théâtre Ô Parleur. In 1990 and 1991 alone he wrote three plays and it was during this time that his career as a theatre director truly began. His work as a director led him to explore an eclectic series of complex worlds. In 1997, he made a significant transition with his play Littoral (based on his original idea, written in collaboration with Isabelle Leblanc), an experience he repeated with Rêves, and later Incendies and Forêts. From 2000 to 2004, he was artistic director at Théâtre de Quat’Sous in Montreal. Then, in 2005, he founded a pair of creative sister companies on both side of the Atlantic: Montreal’s Abé carré cé carré (co-director Emmanuel Schwartz) and Paris-based Au carré de l’hypoténuse. In 2007 he took the reins as artistic director for the French theatre section at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. He also works closely with Théâtre d’aujourd’hui in Montreal.

In 2009, his association with the Avignon Festival signalled the arrival of an artist who for twenty years had been quietly creating a universally recognized body of work of dramatic power.

That same year, already an Officer of the Order of Canada and a Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Mouawad was awarded the Grand Prix du théâtre by the Académie française, a tribute to his entire body of dramatic works.

LUBNA AZABAL
Actress

A native of Belgium, Lubna Azabal studied in Brussels at the Kleine Academie and the Conservatoire Royal before launching her acting career.

She is best known for her performance in Habbu Assad’s political thriller Paradise Now, which won the 2006 Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film. Her many other film credits include Loin by André Techine, Aram by Robert Kechichan, Un monde presque paisible by Michel Deville, Exils by Tony Gatlif (Cannes 2004 – award for Best Director), Strangers by Tadmor & Nattiv (for which she won the Jerusalem Film Festival’s award for most promising new actress), 24 Mesures by Jalil Lespert, Body of Lies by Ridley Scott and Here by Braden King. She will appear in Alexandre Arcady’s next film, Comme les 5 doigts de la main, Gabriel Range’s I am Slave and Ralph Fiennes’ Coriolanus.

On television, she has appeared in Bajo el mismo cielo (Under the Same Sky), On achève bien les DJ and in the recent BBC drama Occupation.
MÉLISSA DÉSORMEAUX-POULIN  
Actress

At six years old, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin already had the notion to approach a casting agency. The bold and truly talented little girl made her acting debut in a Post Magic Crunch cereal commercial. Soon after she was cast in Jamais deux sans toi (1989-1993), followed by the series Une faim de loup, in which she played the pretty young Marie.

Mélissa literally grew up on television. She was cast in Les Héritiers Duval (1994-1996) and a diverse series of roles such as that of Madeleine, the handicapped girl in Asbestos, a FRAP activist in Simone et Chartrand, la suite, Colombe, a drug dealer in Grande Ourse and the disorganized rebel Sarah Bernard in Emma (2000-2004). Since 2004 she has played the hysterical Julia in Il était une fois dans le trouble.

After taking a break in early 2006 to give birth to her daughter Léa, Mélissa made a noticeable return to acting. She appears in La Promesse as Florence Daveluy and is part of the cast of a new Radio-Canada series, Les Rescapés. Mélissa also starred in À vos marques...Party ! and its sequel, both Quebec box-office hits in 2007 and 2009. She also played Sophie Lajoie, a close friend of Dédé Fortin, in the energetic film Dédé, à travers les brumes.

MAXIME GAUDETTE  
Actor

Maxim Gaudette is on track to a superb acting career. Since graduating from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal in 1997, he has played numerous roles in the theatre, film and television.

In the theatre, he gave a memorable performance as Dartagnan in Fernand Rainville’s Les trois mousquetaires, earning a nomination for the Masque for best actor in 2002. He has performed at a number of Montreal theatres, working with top directors such as Claude Poissant, Denise Filiatreault, Yves Desgagnés, Martin Faucher, Serge Denoncourt, Alice Ronfart, Normand Chouinard and René Richard Cyr.

On television, he landed a part in L’Ombre de l’épervier, and he appeared in Fortier, Grande Ourse and Virginie. He is also part of the cast of the mini-series Lance et compte : la reconquête, la revanche, et le grand duel. Since 2008, he has appeared in Radio-Canada’s L’Auberge du chien noir. He will soon play Charles Boivin in Claude Desrosiers’ series Les Rescapés.

His film credits include L’Espérance by Stéphane Pleszynski and Sans elle by Jean Beaudin. He also appeared in Patrice Sauvé’s Cheech and Patrick Huard’s Les Trois P’tits Cochons. More recently, he played the killer in Denis Villeneuve’s Polytechnique, a performance that earned him Jutra and Genie awards for best supporting actor. His latest role is in Incendies, his second collaboration with Denis Villeneuve.
RéMY GIRARD
Actor

Rémy Girard is not only one of Quebec’s greatest actors, but one of the world’s finest, as attested by the 2004 New York Times selection of the twenty best actors. The exceptional quality of his performances has earned him countless awards and nominations, and his work has been praised by his peers and by audiences, whose appreciation for him never wanes. In the theatre, Girard has twice won the Gascon-Roux people’s choice award for best actor, for his performance as Falstaff in a French-language production of The Merry Wives of Windsor (TNM, 2002) and for his turn as Galileo in Galilée (TNM, 1990). His television work has been rewarded with several Gémeaux, including the award for best actor for his character Papa Bougon in Les Bougons, c’est aussi ça la vie. He has also received Genies for his performances in the feature films Amoureux fou, Jésus de Montréal, Les portes tournantes and Les invasions barbares.

While it is impossible to give a detailed account of a career as tremendously rich and active as Girard’s, the highlights alone are impressive. On the big screen, apart from his compelling portrayal of Rémy in Denys Arcand’s Les invasions barbares, he has appeared in such films as Aurore (Luc Dionne), Un homme et son pêché (Charles Binamé), Les Boys (Louis Saia), La Florida (Georges Mihalka), Dans le ventre du dragon (Yves Simoneau), Le déclin de l’empire américain (Denys Arcand) and Jésus de Montréal (Denys Arcand).

On television he has been in several series and mini-series, but it is his character, Papa Bougon, of the cult hit Les Bougons, c’est aussi ça la vie, that has left an indelible mark on Quebecers’ collective imagination. His many theatrical roles, in both classic and new plays, are a testament to the tremendous talent of this resourceful, uncannily believable actor. His theatre highlights include Sancho Panza (Don Quixote), Argan (Le malade imaginaire) and Estragon (Waiting for Godot).

micro_scope
Producer

micro_scope is an independent production company. Founded by producer Luc Déry in 2002, the company’s main objective is the development and production of innovating, inventive and accessible feature films.

In its first year of existence, micro_scope participated in two co-production projects: A problem with fear from Gary Burns, director of Waydowntown, and Bertrand Bonello’s Tiresia, a collaboration with French company Haut et court. A problem with fear opened the Perspective Canada section at the 2003 Toronto Film Festival and was selected for the Berlin Film Festival, while Tiresia was part of the official competition in Cannes 2003.

In January 2004, producer Kim McCraw joined micro_scope for its first solo production, Familia. This first feature film by director Louise Archambault which stars Sylvie Moreau and Macha Grenon was released in September 2005. The film participated at the Locarno Film Festival’s International Competition and opened the Canada First section at the Toronto Film Festival where it won the Citytv Award for Best Canadian First Feature. Familia also screened in many other international festivals like Göteborg, Sao Paulo and Hong Kong and was released in France and in the United States. At the 2006 Canadian Genie Awards, Familia was nominated in 7 categories including Best Film and Best Director and won the Claude Jutra Award for the Best First Feature Film.
**Congorama** was released theatrically in Canada in October 2006. Philippe Falardeau’s second feature stars Olivier Gourmet (winner of the 2002 Cannes Festival Best Actor prize for its role in *The Son*, by the Dardenne brothers) and Paul Ahmarani (*The Left-Hand Side of the Fridge*). The film is a co-production with Tarantula Belgium (*Batalla en el cielo, Nue propriété*) and Tarantula France (*Fratricide, Carré Blanc*). *Congorama* premiered at Cannes in May 2006 as the closing film for the Director’s Fortnight. The film was a Special Presentation at the Toronto International Film Festival and was chosen as the opening feature for the Montreal Festival du Nouveau Cinema. *Congorama* also screened in many international festivals like San Francisco, New Directors / New Films at MoMA, Pusan, Göteborg and Halifax where it won the Best Canadian Film award. At the 2007 Quebec Jutra Awards, the film won five prices including Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay. *Congorama* is distributed in a halfdozen of countries such as France (UGC-PH), Belgium (Lumière) and Portugal.

In November 2007 micro_scope released its latest project, *Continental, un film sans fusil* (*Continental, A Film Without Guns*), a first feature film by Stéphane Lafleur. Distributed by Christal Films, the film stars Gilbert Sicotte, Réal Bossé, Fanny Mallette and Marie-Ginette Guay. It premiered at the end of August 2007 at the prestigious Venice International Film Festival, in the Venice Days section, and was also selected in many other festivals around the world, such as Thessaloniki, Göteborg, Rotterdam and the AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles. *Continental* also made its mark at the Toronto International Film Festival where it won the Citytv Award for Best First Canadian Feature. It was also awarded the Bayard d’Or for the Best Film at the Namur International Francophone Film Festival and the Borsos Award for Best New Canadian Feature Film at the Whistler Film Festival. In March 2008, the film gathered four Jutra Awards for Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor (Réal Bossé).

In September 2008, Philippe Falardeau’s third feature, *C'est pas moi, je le jure!* (*It's Not Me, I Swear!*), is released in Canada. Based on a novel by Bruno Hébert, the film stars Antoine L’Ecuyer, Suzanne Clément, Daniel Brière. Following its premiere at the Toronto Film Festival (Special Presentations), it was shown at the Berlinale in the Generation section where it won the Crystal Bear and the Deutsche Kinderhilfswerk Grand Prix for Best Feature Film. The film also won many awards among which Best Canadian Film and Best Actor (Antoine L’Ecuyer) at the Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax, and Vancouver Film Critics Circle’s Best Canadian Film and Best Supporting Actress (Suzanne Clément).

In 2010, micro_scope released *Incendies* by director Denis Villeneuve. Adapted from Wajdi Mouawad’s stage play, the film stars Lubna Azabal, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin, Maxim Gaudette and Rémy Girard. After premiering at the Venice Film Festival where it won the Venice Days Best Film award, *Incendies* was invited in dozens of festivals around the world including Telluride, Namur (Audience Award), Warsaw (Grand Prix Award), Abu Dhabi (Best Actress for Lubna Azabal), Valladolid (Best Script, Audience Award and Young Jury Award), Pusan, Taipei, Thessaloniki, Rotterdam (Audience Award) and Sundance. The film is also a four times winner Best Canadian film in Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax and Calgary. Distributed by Sony Pictures in United States, *Incendies* was sold in more than 50 countries and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 83rd Oscar ceremony.

The world premiere of *En terrains connus*, Stéphane Lafleur’s latest feature film, took place at the Berlin Film Festival in 2011, in the *Forum* section where it won the Ecumenical Jury Award. Still in February 2011, the film opened the Montreal Rendez-vous du Cinema Québécois. *En terrains connus* is also invited in many festivals such as Jeonju, Shangai, Durban, Melbourne, Motovun (Croatia) and Monterrey in Mexico. The film gathered the Best Film Award at the Los Angeles Film Festival, the Grand Jury Prize in the New Talent section at the Taipei Film Festival and the Best Actrees Award at the Vladivostok Film Festival. *En terrains connus* is still traveling around the world on the film festival circuit.

*Monsieur Lazhar*, the fourth feature film of Philippe Falardeau, was presented at the Locarno International Film Festival on the Piazza Grande were it won the Audience Award and the Variety Piazza Grande Award. The film, well received by the public and the critics, was rewarded in many festivals: Best Canadian film at the Toronto Film Festival, Special Award and Audience Award at the Namur International French Film Festival, Art Cinema Award at the Hambourg Filmfest, Best Script and FIPRESCI International critic Award at the Valladolid Film Festival, the Grand Prize and Audience Award at the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Cinema Festival.
INCENDIES

and the Grand Prize Can/AM Grand Prix of Cinema at Windsor Film Festival. *Monsieur Lazhar*, internationally distributed by the parisian company Film Distributions, is representing Canada at the 84th edition of the Oscar in the category Best Foreign Language Film.

micro_scope is finally setting the shooting of the project *Whitewash* by Emanuel Hoss-Desmarais and Marc Tulin. The shooting of the Canada-France coproduction *Inch’Allah* of Anais Barbeau-Lavalette as started in October 2011 in Jordan.

**TS PRODUCTIONS**  
Co-Producer (France)

Miléna Poylo and Gilles Sacuto work in the film industry since 1986. Since 1996, it is with their company, TS Productions that they develop and produce French and international projects.

Graduate of The Femis, Anthony Doncque joined the team as producer, and Céline Loiseau as head of documentaries, in 2005. In 2009, Delphine Morel, independent documentary producer, screenwriter and director also joined the company.

TS Productions has produced 15 feature films, 21 documentaries and 29 short films. In 2009, TS Productions received 7 Caesar Awards including one for Best Film for *Séraphine* by Martin Provost.

**PHI GROUP**  
Associate Producer

PHI is a business dedicated to developing in cultural property that reflects our evolving understanding of the impact of art.

PHI hires the best creative minds to find modern solutions to produce, promote, and distribute artist driven projects in the fields of music, film, architecture, design and new media.

PHI has created a diverse portfolio of innovative and audacious projects, which have garnered international acclaim.

PHI has built international partnerships in London, New York, and L.A. offering support to artists on a worldwide stage.

PHI will soon occupy two amalgamated historic buildings in Old Montreal, equipped with two multipurpose performance venues and multidisciplinary production facilities. The team will curate these public venues to showcase PHI projects, as well as projects in collaboration with other like-minded art institutions.

The PHI centre will house the largest short film archives for the purpose of research.
APPENDIX
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Festival participations and awards

- Venice Film Festival, Venice Days selection, Italia - September 2010
  *Best film of the Venice Days/27 Times Cinema Campus*
- Telluride Film Festival, United States - September 2010
- Toronto International Film Festival, Canada - September 2010 *Best canadian film*
- Atlantic Film Festival, Halifax, Canada, September 2010 * Best canadian film*
- Cinefest Sudbury International Film Festival, Special presentation, Canada – September 2010
- Calgary International Film Festival, Canada – September 2010 * Best canadian film*
- Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada – October 2010 * Best canadian film*
- Namur International French-Language Film Festival, Official competition, Belgium – October 2010 *Audience award*
- Pusan International Film Festival, Korea – October 2010
- Warsaw International Film Festival, International competition, Poland – October 2010 *Warsaw Grand Price*
- Abu Dhabi International Film Festival, United Arabes Emirats – October 2010 *Best actress Lubna Azabal*
- Valladolid Film Festival, Official compétition, Espagne – October 2010
  *Best Script *Audience award *Young jury award*
- Doha Tribeca Film Festival, Qatar, United Arabs Emirates - October 2010
- Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, Taiwan, China - November 2010
- Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia, November 2010
- Jakarta International Film Festival, Indonesia - November 2010
- Cinéma du Québec à Paris, Paris, Nimes, Cannes, Liège - November 2010
- Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece, December 2010
- Variety magazine, Directors to Watch 2011 selection – *Denis Villeneuve*
- Canada's Top Ten, Toronto, Canada - December 2010 *Canada's Top ten screening*
- Belgrade International Film Festival, Serbia – February 2011
- Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands – January 2011 *Audience award*
- Vancouver Film Critics Circle, Canada – January 2011 *Best canadian film, best director of a canadian film*
  *Best actress in a canadian film - Lubna Azabal*
- Toronto Film Critics, Canada – January 2011 *Best canadian film of 2011*
- Sundance Film Festival, « Spotlight », Salt Lake City/ParkCity, United States – January 2011
- Baie-Comeau International Film Festival, Canada – Februaryary 2011 *Best film *Best script*
- Sept-Îles International Film Festival, Canada – January 2011 * Audience award *Best Actress Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin * Best Script*
- Oscars, Best Foreign Language Film Nomination, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, USA – February 2011
- BigPond Adelaide Film Festival, Australia – March 2011 * Ten Evening News International Award for Best Feature Film*
- Genies Awards, Toronto, Canada – March 2011 *Best Motion Picture *Achievement in Direction *Best Adapted Screenplay *Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role (Lubna Azabal) *Achievement in
Cinematography (André Turpin) *Achievement in Editing (Monique Dartonne) *Achievement in Overall Sound (Jean Umansky, Jocelyn Caron, Jean-Pierre Laforce, Benoit Leduc) *Achievement in Sound Editing (Sylvain Bellemare, Simon Meilleur, Claire Pochon)

- Jutra Awards, Montreal, Canada – March 2011 *Best film *Best director * Best Actress in a Leading Role (Lubna Azabal) *Best Screenplay (Denis Villeneuve with the collaboration of Valérie Beaugrand-Champagne) *Best Cinematography (André Turpin) *Achievement in Editing (Monique Dartonne) *Achievement in Art Direction (André-Line Beauparlant) *Achievement in Costume Design (Sophie Lefebvre) *Best Sound (Sylvain Bellemare, Jean Umansky, Jean-Pierre Laforce)

- Vilnius International Film Festival, Lithuania – March 2011 *Audience Choice Award

- Shangai International Film Festival, China – June 2011


- Art Film Festival, Slovakia – June 2011

- Karlovy Vary film festival, Czech Republic – July 2011

- Durban International Film Festival, Afrique du Sud – July 2011

- International Festival ”A Film for Peace”, Italy – July 2011 *Audience Award “best story Film”

- The history meeting film festival of Blois, France – October 2011 *Best film

- Manaki Bros. International Cinematographer’s Film Festival, Macedonia – October 2011

- International Film Festival ”2-in-1”, Russia – October 2011

- Cuenca Film Festival, Équateur – Novembre 2011

- La Havana Film Festival, Cuba – Décembre 2011