

A POLAR YEAR

Length: 94 min.

Languages: Danish, Tunumiisut (with English subtitles)

Image Format: 2.39

Sound Format: 5.1

Nationality: 100% French (no coproduction)

Synopsis

Anders leaves his native Denmark for a teaching position in rural Greenland. As soon as he arrives, he finds himself at odds with tightly-knit locals. Only through a clumsy and playful trial of errors can Anders shake his Euro-centric assumptions and embrace their snow-covered way of life.

Director's biography

Samuel Collardey is an award-winning French director and cinematographer, known for his work in the docufiction genre. His previous films include *Du soleil en hiver*, winner of the SACD Prize at Cannes Film Festival, *The Apprentice*, winner of the Critics' Fortnight' Prize at the Venice Film Festival and *Land Legs*, winner of Best Actor Prize at the Venice Festival. Collardey also directed several episodes of the critically acclaimed political thriller television series *The Bureau*.

[Director's Filmography at the end]

Director's note

My experience as a cinematographer began while I was studying at La fémis in Paris. The first documentary fragments I started shooting depicted my family's farm in the snowy Jura Mountains, in the East of France. These images first became short films and then my first feature films. The desire to film Greenland comes from this time, from the same desire to film this rural, snow-covered and remote world.

In 2015, I travelled for the first time to the Eastern coast of Greenland, in the region of Tasiilaq (the biggest city of this region, of 2000 inhabitants). During this first trip, I met Julius, a villager who learnt English during a professional electrician training he did in Denmark. He showed me around the five tiny villages that surround Tasiilaq and I quickly decided to focus on his native village, Tiniteqilaaq. The year before the shooting I did three more trips and stayed there for several months (from my home it takes nearly one week to arrive in Tinit). I lived in the rhythm of the village and its inhabitants. I went hunting and fishing with the men, participated in family dinners and ate seal and narwhale, attended various social life events (baptisms, funerals...) Step by step, Julius' friends and family accepted me. I live in a tiny village in the mountains of Jura of 250 inhabitants. Nothing is less exotic than a village of 100 – even if it's in Greenland.

During these trips, I also met Betina, the Danish primary school teacher of the village, who had a key role in the villagers' lives. Indeed, only the teacher interacts with nearly every family over there.

In spring of 2016, Betina told me that she would retire and a new teacher would come to the village and to replace her at the beginning of the new academic year. At this moment I was still searching for the central character of my film. I thought about Tobias, the hunter, or Julius... But when I learnt about the upcoming arrival of this Dane, it became clear that it was the best way to tell about the daily life of this community. He would have to learn everything, to find his place and make new friends, to fight loneliness and isolation.

A few months later I was finally told who would come to Tinit. I had a name and an address. I got in touch with Anders Hvidegaard and I went to the North of Denmark, where he was finishing his teaching studies. I discovered a 28 year old man, built as a Viking, blond and with a three-day beard, cheerful although shy and reserved.

During the evening we spent together I learned that his father is a farmer who has been running the family's farm not far away in the 8th generation. Little by little I discovered Anders' delicate situation: his father is 75 and is expecting his son to take over the farm. On the one hand Anders doesn't want to be the one who bursts the tradition of the Hvidegaard's family, on the other hand he doesn't think that his life's calling is to become a farmer.

Then, I understood Anders' real motivation for this job in Greenland. Hence I saw him as a character, with a dilemma and a promising story.

The shooting period was divided into six filming sessions. Each of them lasted between three and six weeks. We had a team of five people and the shooting extended over a year. Between the sessions, with the scriptwriter and the editor we were preparing the next trip during new writing sessions. Some shots are entirely documentary: family meals, school and moments of daily life. Others needed to be more or less staged, with the complicity of the inhabitants, such as the expedition at the end of the film. However, the editing mostly combines shots of different natures.

The movie came out from this year we spent all together and of the constant back and forth between writing and life.

Samuel Collardey

Artistic List

Lead Cast: Anders Hvidegaard, Asser Boassen, Thomasine Jonathansen, Gert Jonathansen, Julius B. Nielsen, Tobias Ignatiussen, and the people from Tiniteqilaaq, Eastern Greenland

The kids: Borletta Boassen, Juliatha Boassen, Kamilla Korneliussen, Miki Korneliussen, Ajaatoq Kristiansen, Kayla Kristiansen, Sivert Kristiansen, Paula Larsen, Ulrikka Larsen, Vivian Massanti, Karen Nakinge, Lars Taqqisimat

Technical List

Director:	Samuel Collardey
Written by:	Catherine Paillé and Samuel Collardey
Lead Producer:	Grégoire Debailly, Geko Films
Director of Photography:	Samuel Collardey
Camera Assistant:	Charles Wilhelem
Key Light:	Benoit Jolivet
Drone pilot:	Charles Wilhelem
Sound Engineer:	Vincent Verdoux
Sound Designer:	Valérie Deloof
Mixing:	Julien Roig
Editor:	Julien Lacheray
Assistant editors:	Juliette Kempf, Emma Augier, Julie Duclaux
Music Composer:	Erwann Chandon
Line Producer:	Leonie Schmidtmer
Location Manager:	Lucie Bouilleret

Distributor France:	Ad Vitam Distribution
International Sales:	Kinology
Co-Producer France:	France 3 Cinéma

Production company

Geko Films
336 rue Saint Honoré
75001 Paris
France

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Filmography Samuel Collardey (writer/director)

DIRECTOR - CINEMA

UNE ANNEE POLAIRE

Long-métrage, 1h34, numérique, distribué par Ad Vitam, sortie 2018
Sélectionné à Sundance 2018, World Cinema Documentary Competition

TEMPÊTE

Long-métrage, 90 min, 35mm, distribué par Ad Vitam. Sortie le 24 février 2016.
72^e Mostra de Venise, Sélection Orizzonti, Prix d'Interprétation pour Dominique Leborne
Festival de Namur 2016, Grand Prix et Prix d'Interprétation pour Dominique Leborne
Festival de la Roche sur Yon, Prix du Public

COMME UN LION

Long-métrage, 100 min, numérique, distribué par Pyramide Distribution. Sortie le 9/01/2013
Festival de Marrakech 2012, Festival de Rome 2012

L'APPRENTI

Long-métrage 85min, 35mm, distribué par TFM sortie le 3/12/2008
65^e Mostra de Venise, Prix de la semaine de la critique
Festival de Namur 2008 – Prix Spécial du Jury -Prix de la meilleure première œuvre
Prix Louis Delluc du meilleur premier film
Etoile du cinéma de la presse française
Duo révélations du Film Français

DU SOLEIL EN HIVER (CM)

Documentaire 17 min, 35 mm LA FEMIS
La quinzaine des réalisateurs – Cannes 2005 – Grand Prix SACD
Festival International du Court Métrage – Clermont Ferrand 2006- Prix Spécial du Jury
Festival International du Film Francophone – Namur 2005 – Bayard d'Or
Festival du Film Britannique – Dinard 2005 – Prix Cinécinécourt de CinéCinéma
Festival Indie Lisboa 2006 – Grand Prix Court Métrage

DIRECTOR – TELEVISION

2018 Le bureau des Légendes, season 4 – in production
2016 Le bureau des Légendes, season 3, partie Maroc, Canal+
2015 Le bureau des Légendes, season 2, épisodes 3 et 4, Canal+

CINEMATOGRAPHER

2015 **STAN** (long-métrage) de Magaly Richard-Serrano
2010 **J'AIME REGARDER LES FILLES** (long-métrage) de Fred Louf
2009 **ADIEU GARRY** (long-métrage) de Nassim Amaouche

FORMATION

2001 – 2005 La Fémis – Ecole Nationale Supérieure des métiers de l'image et du son
Département Image. Diplômé avec les félicitations du jury.
1994-1996 BTS Audiovisuel option exploitation des équipements audiovisuels.
Lycée Viette - Montbéliard (25)
1994 BAC F2 Lycée St Paul - Besançon (25)