

EX NIHILO & ZIK ZAK FILMWORKS PRESENT



QUINZAINÉ
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
CANNES 2016

A FILM BY

SÓLVEIG ANSPACH

THE TOGETHER PROJECT

WITH

FLORENCE LOIRET CAILLE SAMIR GUESMI

Le Pacte

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A FILM BY **SÓLVEIG ANSPACH**

with
FLORENCE LOIRET CAILLE
SAMIR GUESMI
DIDDA JÓNSDÓTTIR
PHILIPPE REBBOT
ESTÉBAN
OLIVIA CÔTE

83 min - France/Iceland - 2015 - 1.85 - 5.1

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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5, rue Darcet

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www.le-pacte.com

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

ALIBI COMMUNICATIONS

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In Cannes

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THE TOGETHER PROJECT



SYNOPSIS

Samir, a tall, lanky, 40-something crane operator from Montreuil, in the outskirts of Paris, falls head over heels in love with Agathe. He discovers she is a swimming instructor at the local swimming pool, and, for lack of a better plan, he decides to enlist as her student... although he can swim perfectly. But his lie only lasts for 3 lessons, and Agathe hates liars. The truth surfaces. Agathe is furious. The end? Not quite! Agathe goes to Iceland on a business trip, putting an ocean between her and Samir. But it is without reckoning with his feelings and his stubbornness...



In the beginning of the writing, there was the idea that the film was to carry us from a man-made water world (the swimming pool of Montreuil, a suburb of Paris) to a wild water world (the Icelandic hot springs), the passing from the man-made to the wild underlining the passing of our two heroes to the state of being in love. Whilst working with my scriptwriter, Jean Luc Galet, we became completely crazy about **DEEP END**, the film by Jerzy Skolimowski (1970). That film really triggered it all. The film's setting is in a swimming pool and deals with the agitation one might feel in such « water » places. It's that very precise kind of agitation we wanted to explore here, because a swimming pool is a very peculiar place, a timeless place, which brings together the most diverse people with motives that are sometimes enigmatic. Libidinal moistness, penetrating humidity, slippery floors, unspeakable torpor, unchanging rituals – swimming pools have a strange effect on certain people. We come there mainly to swim, a widely spread idea, but we also bump into intentions less easier to admit there. A swimming pool is a highly democratic space because the signs of belonging, whether they are social or religious, have disappeared beneath the skin-tight swimsuits. It's nonetheless a space in which battles for power are led openly, and in which one can hear the echo of the modern world. By following our two characters and their madly in love quest, we also wanted to draw the portrait of a strange, well known and often funny tribe, that of the swimming instructors.

The aim was to blend the burlesque and the romantic comedy, creating a harmony between these two “sources” of inspiration, which are usually contradictory and sometimes dissonant. Of course, as in cooking (and in love), it's all about dosage. Comedy is a long road filled with doubts because of the gap of one or two years between the moment when we write the scene and the moment when the audience in the theatre react, or not, to this scene shot some time back. This experience, without making it an absolute rule, has enabled me to judge more easily a good balance between realism, comedy, burlesque and emotion.

Finally, **THE TOGETHER PROJECT** is the desire deep inside of me to find again the energy which is so typical to Iceland, the country where I come from, and to place all these characters in wide-open spaces, make them confront the elements, by making them live a story which is as funny as it is touching.

The film is part of the same desire as that of my two previous comedies (**BACK SOON** in 2008 and **QUEEN OF MONTREUIL** in 2012), that is to say to lead actors and “non actors”, French and Icelandic, and even Palestinian, into adventures a little bit crazy, starting with a well-built script leaving me room for the real and for the improvised. ”

Sólveig ANSPACH



“ It’s courageous of you to learn how to swim at this age, but I can’t guarantee the result. ”



“ He chases me all the way to Iceland, he’s crazy! All this for me! ”



“ A little guy can do great things... especially if it’s a woman. ”



FLORENCE LOIRET CAILLE

Florence Loiret Caille starred in several theater plays under the guidance of directors such as Nicolas Klotz, Xavier Durringer, Bruno Bayen and Anne Bourgeois. She has also appeared in numerous feature films, as well as television films and series.

SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY:

- 2016 **THE TOGETHER PROJECT** | Sólveig ANSPACH
- 2013 **THE CLEARSTREAM AFFAIR** | Vincent GARENQ
- 2012 **BASTARDS** | Claire DENIS
- 2012 **QUEEN OF MONTREUIL** | Sólveig ANSPACH
- 2009 **THE LITTLE BEDROOM** | Stéphanie CHUAT and Véronique REYMOND
- 2009 **THE QUEEN OF CLUBS** | Jérôme BONNELL
- 2009 **A REAL LIFE** | Sarah LEONOR
- 2008 **SOMEONE I LOVED** | Zabou BREITMAN
- 2007 **LET IT RAIN** | Agnès JAOUÏ
- 2006 **WAITING FOR SOMEONE** | Jérôme BONNELL
- 2004 **THE INTRUDER** | Claire DENIS
- 2004 **ONLY THE NIGHT** | Xavier GIANNOLI
- 2002 **TIME OF THE WOLF** | Michael HANEKE
- 2002 **OLGA'S CHIGNON** | Jérôme BONNELL
- 2000 **TROUBLE EVERY DAY** | Claire DENIS
- 2000 **CODE UNKNOWN** | Michael HANEKE
- 2000 **LA MÉCANIQUE DES FEMMES** | Jérôme DE MISSOLZ



SAMIR GUESMI

Along with his cinematographic career, Samir Guesmi is also a theater actor. He notably interpreted **OTHELLO** at the Odéon Theater in 2008. He also starred in several short films, television films and series. In 2007, he directed **C'EST DIMANCHE!**, a short film selected in many festivals.

SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY:

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|------|--|------|--|
| 2016 | THE TOGETHER PROJECT Sólveig ANSPACH | 2008 | A CHRISTMAS TALE Arnaud DESPLECHIN |
| 2016 | MA RÉVOLUTION Ramzi Ben SLIMAN | 2007 | ANNA M. Michel SPINOSA |
| 2016 | TWO BIRDS, ONE STONE Fejria DELIBA | 2006 | CHARLIE SAYS... Nicole GARCIA |
| 2015 | THE SWEET ESCAPE Bruno PODALYDÈS | 2006 | ANDALUCIA Alain GOMIS |
| 2015 | THE TRANSPORTER LEGACY Camille DELAMARRE | 2005 | ANTHONY ZIMMER Jérôme SALLE |
| 2013 | I AM A STANDARD SUPPORTER Riton LIEBMAN | 2004 | RRRRRR !!! Alain CHABAT |
| 2012 | GARE DU NORD Claire SIMON | 2004 | AKOIBON Edouard BAER |
| 2012 | ADIEU BERTHE L'ENTERREMENT DE MÉMÉ Bruno PODALYDÈS | 2002 | WORK HARD, PLAY HARD Jean-Marc MOUTOUT |
| 2011 | PIRATE TV Michel LECLERC | 2001 | AS A MAN Alain GOMIS |
| 2011 | CAMILLE REWINDS Noémie LVOVSKY | 2000 | I KILLED CLEMENCE ACERA Jean-Luc GAGET |
| 2011 | QUEEN OF MONTREUIL Sólveig ANSPACH | 2000 | ALIAS BETTY Claude MILLER |
| 2010 | THE WOMAN IN THE FIFTH Pawel PAWLIKOWSKI | 1999 | HAIR UNDER THE ROSES Agnès OBADIA |
| 2009 | THE COUNSEL Cédric ANGER | 1994 | MALIK LE MAUDIT Youssef HAMIDI |
| 2009 | PARK BENCHES Bruno PODALYDES | | |





PHILIPPE REBBOT

Actor and screenwriter, Philippe Rebbot starred notably in **WELCOME TO ARGENTINA** by Edouard Deluc, with Nicolas Duvauchelle. He appeared in secondary roles in many films, such as **LULU IN THE NUDE** by Sólveig Anspach, **ONE OF A KIND** by François Dupeyron, **FOOL CIRCLE** by Vincent Mariette or **HIPPOCRATES** by Thomas Lilti. More recently, he appeared in **21 NIGHTS WITH PATTIE** by Arnaud and Jean-Pierre Larrieu, **THE FIRST THE LAST** by Bouli Lanners, and in **THE WHITE KNIGHTS** by Joachim Lafosse. He will soon appear next to Karin Viard in **A BUN IN THE OVEN** by Nadège Loiseau.

“ What I did is unforgivable. Especially since I was trying to impress two poor girls who are not ugly, but not that hot either. ”



“ Speak in the hole, please ! ”



ESTÉBAN

Estéban begins his cinematographic career in 2012. He appears in **THE RENDEZ-VOUS OF DÉJÀ VU** by Antonin Peretjatko. Also known as David Boring, Estéban is the leader of the band *Naïve New Beaters*, with which he released two albums (*Wallace* in 2009 and *La Onda* in 2012), accompanied by international tours. For the release of *La Onda* the band defined its music as “rapped pop with swaying feelings”. In 2015, Estéban directs the medium-length film **YO! PEKIN**, with his colleagues from *Naïve New Beaters*.

OLIVIA CÔTE

After training at the National Theater in Strasbourg, Olivia Côte makes her first appearance in television, notably as the author and actress for the short series **VOUS LES FEMMES**. For the last ten years, she alternates between cinema, theatre and television. We saw her in **BRIGHT DAYS AHEAD** by Marion Vernoux, **ENSEMBLE C'EST TROP** by Léa Fazer, **ELLE L'ADORE** by Jeanne Herry or more recently in **NEWS FROM PLANET MARS** by Dominik Moll. On the TV-screen, she appears in the series **DIX POUR CENT** and **PEPLUM**.



“ You have a very nice swimsuit, those little palm trees are sweet ,”



“ She is a counselor at the Municipality, but only every second day. One day, she’s the boss, and the next day it’s me and she’s under my authority. ”

DIDDA JÓNSDÓTTIR

Didda Jónsdóttir is an Icelandic poet and actress. She is also a singer in the rock band *Minä Rakastan Sinua*. She appeared in four feature films by Sólveig Anspach. She begins with **STORMY WEATHER**, together with her co-star Élodie Bouchez, and reunites with Sólveig Anspach for her trilogy **BACK SOON**, **QUEEN OF MONTREUIL** and **THE TOGETHER PROJECT**.

JEAN-LUC GAGET

Very young, he starts to work as assistant director. Simultaneously, he directs his first short-movies and creates the production company Cinq et cinq films, with Laurent Bénégui. He then becomes an editor, while he continues to shoot his own shorts and starts his screenwriter career. Cinq et cinq films becomes Magouric, and produces dozens of short and feature films between 1993 and 2005. He contributes as chief editor to several films, but also occasionally as actor or even as executive producer (**MILLE BORNES** by Alain Beigel).

In 2000, he directs his first feature film, **I KILLED CLEMENCE ACERA** which is released in April 2001.

From 2004 onwards, he dedicates himself mostly to his work as a writer of scripts and dialogues. He writes for cinema and television, principally for Lucas Belvaux, Pascal Chaumeil, Laurent Bénégui, Agnès Obadia, Edwin Baily, Fabien Onteniente, Olivier Guignard, Alain Beigel, Sophie Laloy, Catherine Klein, Marion Sarraut, Charles Najman, Blandine Lenoir, Eric Woreth, Grégoire Sivan, Marc Angelo, Claude Mourieras, Jean-Teddy Philippe and for Sólveig Anspach, with whom he collaborates on five films.



SÓLVEIG ANSPACH

Sólveig Anspach was born in 1960 in Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, to an American father and an Icelandic mother.

After graduating from LA FEMIS (1989 – first graduating class), she directed many documentaries including: **SANDRINE A PARIS** (1992), **SARAJEVO, PAROLES DE CASQUES BLEUS** (1995), **BARBARA, YOU'RE NOT GUILTY** (1997), **QUE PERSONNE NE BOUGE** (1998), **REYKJAVIK, DES ELFES DANS LA VILLE** (2001), **LA REVUE: DESCHAMPS / MAKEIEFF** (2002), **FAUX TABLEAUX DANS VRAIS PAYSAGES ISLANDAIS** (2004), **LE SECRET** (2005)... covering themes as diverse as female burglars, Iceland or the death penalty in the USA.

In 1998, she directs her first feature film **HAUT LES COEURS!**, selected and awarded in many festivals and for which Karin Viard wins the Cesar Award for Best Actress. Her American-Icelandic origins shine through in all of her films and particularly in her trilogy ending with **THE TOGETHER PROJECT**, in which we are reunited with the characters from **BACK SOON** and **QUEEN OF MONTREUIL**.

Sólveig Anspach shot the French part of **THE TOGETHER PROJECT** in October 2014 and the Icelandic part in May and June 2015. She had managed to edit two-thirds of the film when she passed away, on August 7th 2015.

Her editor Anne Riégel, her screenwriter Jean-Luc Gaget, her composer Martin Wheeler, her sound engineer and mixer Jean Mallet and her producer Patrick Sobelman collectively finished the editing and completed the film in December 2015.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2016 **THE TOGETHER PROJECT** with Florence LOIRET CAILLE, Samir GUESMI, Didda JÓNSDÓTTIR, Philippe REBBOT and ESTÉBAN
- 2012 **LULU IN THE NUDE** with Karin VIARD, Bouli LANNERS, Claude GENSAC, Corinne MASIERO, Philippe REBBOT, Pascal DEMOLON, Nina MEURICE and Solène RIGOT
- 2011 **QUEEN OF MONTREUIL** with Florence LOIRET CAILLE, Didda JÓNSDÓTTIR, Úlfur AEGISSON, Éric CARUSO, Samir GUESMI and Alexandre STEIGER
- 2010 **THE REBEL, LOUISE MICHEL** with Sylvie TESTUD
- 2007 **BACK SOON** with Didda JÓNSDÓTTIR and Julien COTTEREAU
- 2003 **STORMY WEATHER** with Élodie BOUCHEZ and Didda JÓNSDÓTTIR
- 2001 **MADE IN THE USA** (documentary)
- 1999 **HAUT LES COEURS !** with Karin VIARD, Laurent LUCAS and Julien COTTEREAU




| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Agathe | Florence LOIRET CAILLE |
| Samir | Samir GUESMI |
| Anna | Didda JÓNSDÓTTIR |
| Reboute | Philippe REBBOT |
| Daniel | ESTÉBAN |
| Corinne | Olivia CÔTE |
| Frosti | Frosti Jón RÚNÓLFSSON |
| Sofia | Johanna NIZARD |
| Siggi | Ingvar E. SIGURÐSON |
| Auður, the old Icelandic lady | Kristbjörg KJELD |
| Doctor Óttar Proppé | Óttarr PROPPÉ |
| Ibrahim | Samer BISHARATS |
| The director of the swimming pool's management board | Sólveig ANSPACH |
| The swimmer with too much make-up | Solène RIGOT |
| The girl that almost drowned | Nina MEURICE |

With the friendly participation of Bouli LANNERS in the role of **Emile Van Den Broek**



| | |
|---|--|
| Directed by | Sólveig ANSPACH With the collaboration of Jean-Luc GAGET |
| Screenplay | Sólveig ANSPACH and Jean-Luc GAGET |
| Director of photography | Isabelle RAZAVET |
| Sound | Eric BOISTEAU |
| Set and costumes design | Marie LE GARREC |
| Production manager | Marie-Frédérique LAURIOT-DIT-PREVOST |
| Location Manager | Sarah LERES |
| Editing | Anne RIEGEL |
| Sound editing and mixing | Jean MALLET |
| Music | Martin WHEELER |
| Producers | Ex Nihilo (Patrick SOBELMAN) Zik Zak Filmworks (Skúli Fr MALMQUIST) |
| With the participation of | OCS Le Pacte |
| In association with | Indéfilms 3 Icelandic Film Center |
| Distribution and International Sales | Le Pacte |





“ I like spending nights alone here.
I feel like being in a fish tank. ”



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