



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023
Official Selection

THE DREAMER

A FILM BY ANAÏS TELLENNE

INTERNATIONAL PRESS AGENT

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KORO FILMS presents



THE DREAMER

(L ' H O M M E D ' A R G I L E)

A film by **Anaïs TELLENNE**

with **Raphaël THIÉRY** and **Emmanuelle DEVOS**

94 min - France



SYNOPSIS

Raphaël, a one-eyed man, is the caretaker of a mansion where no one lives anymore. Soon to turn 60, he lives with his mother in a small house located at the entrance to the grounds of the stately manor. Between mole hunting, bagpipe practice and the occasional ride in the postwoman's Kangoo van, the days resemble one another. But one stormy night Garance, the estate's heiress, comes back to the family's abode and now nothing will ever be the same again.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My encounter with Raphaël Thiéry, with whom I've made three short films, is what inspired me to make this feature. Although in reality Raphaël is more extraverted than the character he plays, I nevertheless drew from certain aspects of his life to write this tale called *The Dreamer*.

A one-eyed man with an unusual physique, he learned to live with rejection, as well as being treated with condescension, and mistrust. For the better part of his life, he divided his time between being a forest ranger, his theater company and playing the bagpipes in his traditional music group, until he was discovered one day by Alain Guiraudie, who cast him in his film *Staying Vertical*. Turning his atypical face into an asset, his being featured in movies has helped change the way people look at him.

I found this fact fascinating as it highlights a problem that we all deal with: How are we influenced by the way others see us? How does this power shape us? And especially, how can a single look suffice to transfigure and free us? This very question is at the heart of *The Dreamer*.

When I film Raphaël Thiéry, I'm mesmerized by the paradox he exudes: immense tenderness in the body of a brute. Out of his discreet search for absolutes, his freedom devoid of toxic virility, his quest for love and his wistful melancholy, I wanted to create a modern-day *Madam Bovary*.

There's something elusive about his encounter with Garance. Her presence brings about a confusion that is bewildering and open to interpretation.





In depicting their relationship through Raphaël's point of view, I am trying to lead the audience to question the reciprocity between creation and love. Garance is going to help him discover himself, and allow him to believe that someone could be open to truly seeing him, maybe even find him fascinating, and perhaps even love him. Hence why we needed an Emmanuelle Devos, whose magnetic presence shrouds in mystery the true intentions of this successful contemporary artist.

I wanted to anchor this romantic tale to ordinary things. Since my first short film, I like working with nonprofessional actors. There is something particularly tangible about their screen presence: they exude a raw poetry. Mireille Pitot, 92, a former seamstress in a sewing factory in Dijon, appears on the screen for the first time. For the character of Raphaël's mother, she brings an unusual substance and funniness

that acts as an unexpected counterpoint to the drama that is playing out.

Although Raphaël is a man of few words, he is able to communicate his emotions through his bagpipe. In this realm where much is left unsaid, music gives words to this man who isn't eloquent, putting him, despite their social differences, on equal footing with Garance: this is also an encounter between two artists.

The Dreamer is a catharsis where pure wonder, laughter, and mystery combine to question the sheer power of love. What interests me isn't the answer to the question, but the emotions it sparks.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Anaïs Tellenne is a writer and director. A trained dancer and actor, she started her career as a movie, TV and stage actress. It's while working on these various stages that she developed a keen interest in writing and directing. In 2016, she wrote and directed her first short film *June 19* (France 2). While assembling the cast for this film, she met Raphaël Thiéry, to whom she gave the leading role in her second short film *Le mal bleu* (Arte), co-directed with Zoran Boukherma. After filming her last short film *Modern Jazz* (France 2), she was chosen for the annual selection of Le Groupe Ouest

in-residence writers' workshop, where she fleshed out the screenplay for her first feature film *The Dreamer*, which she shot a year and a half later in Burgundy with Raphaël Thiéry and Emmanuelle Devos in the leading roles. At the same time, since 2020, Anaïs has worked as Louise Hémon's co-writer for her feature film *L'Engloutie* (2022 Beaumarchais writing grant, 2023 screenplay award winner). In 2024, Anaïs will be in the US shooting her second feature film, *Les Indépendants*, a biopic about impressionist painter Mary Cassatt.

CAST

Raphaël
Garance
Lucienne
Samia

Raphaël THIÉRY
Emmanuelle DEVOS
Mireille PITOT
Marie-Christine ORRY

CREW

Director
Screenplay
Original Idea
Producers
Co-producers
Associate Producers
Original Score
Cinematography
Production Design
Editing
Sound Design
Sound Editing
Sound Mix

Anaïs TELLENNE
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Anaïs TELLENNE - Raphaël THIÉRY
Diane JASSEM - Céline CHAPDANIEL
Mat TROI DAY - Thomas CARILLON
Cloé GARBAY - Bastien SIRODOT
Amaury CHABAUTY
Pierre W. MAZOYER
Catherine JARRIER
Héloïse PELLOQUET
Rémi CHANAUD
Rosalie REVOYRE
Maxime ROY

Color Grading
First Assistant Director
Script
Costumes
Make Up
Coordinator and Creator
of the Sculpture
Post Production Manager
Delegate Production
In coproduction with
In associate production with
In association with

Gadiel BENDELAC
Lola RESCH
Cannelle LE CLAINCHE
Véronique TRÉMOUREUX - Nathalie RAOUL
Mademoiselle Jenny
Rafael MATHÉ

Antonine GOSSELET MEURET
Koro Films
Vagabonds Films - Micro Climat
Umedia
uFund

With the support of
In association with
With the support of
With the support of
In partnership with
French Distributor
International Sales

Tax Shelter du gouvernement fédéral de Belgique et des investisseurs Tax Shelter
Cofinova 19 - Cinéaxe 4 - New Story
Centre National du Cinéma et de l’image animée
Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
CNC, Procirep, Angoa
New Story
Be For Films

Screenplay developed at

GROUPE OUEST with the support of BREIZH FILM FUND

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Sound Format	5.1
Aspect Ratio	1:5
Running time:	94'
Genre	Drama
Original version	French
Year of production	2023



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