

Jalil Lespert

Nathalie Baye

Roschdy Zem

 LE PETIT
LIEUTENANT

A FILM BY **XAVIER BEAUVOIS**

SYNOPSIS

Antoine graduates from police academy and moves to the big city, intent on making his contribution to the fight against crime.

Captain Vaudieu immediately takes him under her wing. Antoine fits easily into her team of work-hard, play-hard detectives.

Then tragedy strikes and Vaudieu has to fight the memories that she used to drown in drink. Revenge is small comfort.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I began thinking about ideas for a crime thriller while I was editing my previous film *To Matthieu*. I didn't have any precise framework for a plot in mind but I knew I didn't want to take a book or a film or any other fictional story as a starting point. I wanted my inspiration to come from real life.

I met a police captain working with the Criminal Investigation Division and spent several months following him out in the field and in the office, even passing myself off as a police lieutenant at times. That's how I got access to crime scenes and to every stage of an investigation, even the most confidential parts, such as autopsies. The reality often struck me as far more interesting than the clichés of the genre.

I had an idea for a story about a young lieutenant confronted with the harsh reality of his chosen profession on his first posting. I built on a true story, with the desire to be scrupulously faithful to the reality of a police investigation and to use all I had seen. Many of the characters, such as Skelettor, situations and even dialogue draw on my own experiences, which allowed me to flesh out the story. In writing the character of the *petit lieutenant*, I took my inspiration from the passion and fervour that I felt when I was starting out in the movies as a trainee assistant director. Paradoxically, I also connect to Vaudieu's story and her problems.

To bring the characters to life and add depth to scenes in the script that I deliberately kept as spare and simple as possible, I chose actors I had already worked with: Nathalie Baye (Vaudieu), Roschdy Zem (Solo), Antoine Chappey (Mallet) and a newcomer, Jalil Lespert, to play the *petit lieutenant*.

XAVIER BEAUVOIS

BIOGRAPHY

Born in northern France in 1967, Xavier Beauvois moved to Paris at the first opportunity, determined to become a filmmaker. After encounters with revered critics Jean Douchet and Serge Daney, he found work as an assistant with André Téchiné and Mañóel de Oliveira. Aged 23, Xavier wrote, directed and starred in his acclaimed début picture, *North* (1990), which was nominated for a César for Best First Film. He followed up with *Don't Forget You're Going To Die* (1995), which won the Jury Prize at Cannes and the prestigious Jean Vigo Award. His third and most recent film, *To Matthieu* (2000), starred Benoît Magimel and Nathalie Baye and, like *Le Petit Lieutenant*, premièred at the Venice Mostra.

FILMOGRAPHY

WRITER-DIRECTOR

- 2000 **TO MATTHIEU**
SELON MATTHIEU
In competition at the Venice Film Festival 2000
International Critics' Prize
- 1996 **DON'T FORGET YOU'RE GOING TO DIE**
N'OUBLIE PAS QUE TU VAS MOURIR
Jean Vigo Award 1995
Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival 1995
- 1992 **NORTH**
NORD
In competition at the Berlin Film Festival 1992
PROCIREP prize at the Angers Film Festival
Best First Feature at the Florence Film Festival
1993 César Awards:
nominations for Best First Film and Best Male Newcomer
Special Jury Prize, International Critics' Prize (FIPRESCI)
Best First Film Prize at the Montreal Film Festival 1991
- 1986 **LE MATOU** – short
Jury prize at the Lille Film Festival

ACTOR

- 1999 **NIGHT WIND** Philippe Garrel
- 1998 **DISPARUS** Gilles Bourdos
- 1997 **DAY AND NIGHT** Bernard-Henri Lévy
- 1996 **PONETTE** Jacques Doillon
- 1995 **DON'T FORGET YOU'RE GOING TO DIE**
Xavier Beauvois
- 1994 **LOVERS** Catherine Corsini
- LIFE'S LITTLE TREASURES** Michel Deville
- 1991 **NORTH** Xavier Beauvois
THE SKY ABOVE PARIS Michel Bena

NATHALIE BAYE

BIOGRAPHY

Nathalie Baye personifies elegance and intelligence both on and off the screen. But ironically for someone who is revered as one of the most distinguished and versatile French actresses of any era, as a young girl she never really wanted to act. She wanted to dance. Fortunately, destiny had other plans, and after a short-lived quest for stardom on Broadway, she returned to France and was almost immediately engulfed by the Nouvelle Vague. The rest, as they say, is history.

FILMOGRAPHY

CINEMA

- 2006 **JE T'AIME TANT** Martial Fougeron
- 2005 **LA CALIFORNIE** Jacques Fieschi
TELL TO NO ONE Michael Apted / Guillaume Canet
- 2004 **L'UN RESTE, L'AUTRE PART** Claude Berri
- 2003 **I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG** Thierry Klifa
- 2002 **CATCH ME IF YOU CAN** Steven Spielberg
THE FLOWER OF EVIL Claude Chabrol
FEELINGS Noémie Lvovsky
FRANCE BOUTIQUE Tonie Marshall
- 2000 **BARNIE ET SES PETITES CONTRARIETES** Bruno Chiche
ABSOLUMENT FABULEUX Gabriel Aghion
- 1999 **A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR** Frédéric Fonteyne
Best Actress Award at the Venice Film Festival 1999
Nominated for the 1999 European Film Award for Best Actress
TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY Jeanne Labrune
TO MATTHIEU Xavier Beauvois
- 1998 **VENUS BEAUTY INSTITUTE** Tonie Marshall
Nominated for 2000 César Award for Best Actress
- 1997 **BEWARE OF MY LOVE** Jeanne Labrune
PAPARAZZI Alain Berberian
- 1996 **FOOD OF LOVE** Stephen Poliakoff
Special Jury prize at the 1996 La Baule European Film Festival
- 1995 **BASTARD BROOD** Tonie Marshall
- 1994 **THE MACHINE** François Dupeyron
- 1992 **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON** Roger Spottiswoode
- 1991 **THE VOICE** Pierre Granier-Deferre
- 1989 **EVERY OTHER WEEKEND** Nicole Garcia
Nominated for 1991 César Award for Best Actress
C'EST LA VIE Diane Kurys
- 1988 **LE ROI BLESSE** Damiano Damiani
- 1987 **DE GUERRE LASSE** Robert Enrico
- 1985 **BEETHOVEN'S NEPHEW** Paul Morissey
- 1984 **DETECTIVE** Jean-Luc Godard
- 1983 **OUR STORY** Bertrand Blier
1984 César Award for Best Screenplay
- 1981 **BEAU PERE** Bertrand Blier
- 1981 **UNE ETRANGE AFFAIRE** Pierre Granier-Deferre
Louis Delluc Award 1982
1982 César Award for Best Supporting Actress
THE RETURN OF MARTIN GUERRE Daniel Vigne
1982 César Award for Best Screenplay
THE NARK Bob Swaim
1983 César Award for Best Picture
1983 César Award for Best Actress
I MARRIED A SHADOW Robin Davis
Nominated for 1984 César Award for Best Actress
A WEEK'S VACATION Bertrand Tavernier
- 1980 **EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF** Jean-Louis Godard
1981 César Award for Best Supporting Actress
- 1979 **THE GREEN ROOM** François Truffaut
MY FIRST LOVE Elie Chouraqui
- 1978 **THE MAN WHO LOVED WOMEN** François Truffaut
- 1977 **MADO** Claude Sautet
- 1976 **LE VOYAGE DE NOCES** Nadine Trintignant
- 1975 **LA GUEULE OUVERTE** Maurice Pialat
THE SLAP Claude Pinoteau
Louis Delluc Award 1974
- 1974 **DAY FOR NIGHT** François Truffaut
1973 Academy Award for Best Foreign Picture
- 1973 **TWO PEOPLE** Robert Wise

THEATER

- 1995-96 **LA PARISIENNE** by Henry Becque
Directed by Jean-Louis Benoît Toured in France and Europe
- 1992-93 **LES FAUSSES CONFIDENCES** by Marivaux
Directed by Christian Rist Théâtre National de Chaillot
- 1986 **ADRIANA MONTI** by Natalia Ginzburg Directed by Maurice Bénichou Théâtre de l'Atelier
- 1978 **LES TROIS SOEURS** by Anton Tchekhov
Directed by Lucien Pintillié Théâtre de la Ville
- 1973 **LIOLA** by Luigi Pirandello
Directed by Gabriel Garran Théâtre de la Commune d'Aubervilliers
- 1971 **GALAPAGOS** by Jean Chatenet
Directed by Jean Chatenet Théâtre de la Madeleine

JALIL LESPERT

BIOGRAPHY

Winner of the Best New Actor award at the Cesars and Best actor at the Amiens International Film Festival for Human Resources (1999), 28 year-old Jalil Lespert has already established himself as an accomplished screen actor. Lespert's eye for a good script, and his charismatic screen presence, have prompted comparisons with the young Gerard Depardieu.

FILMOGRAPHY

CINEMA

- 2005 **VIRGIL** Mabrouk El Mechri
2004 **LE PROMENEUR DU CHAMP DE MARS**
Robert Guédiguian
2003 **NOT ON THE LIPS** Alain Resnais
ANIMAL Pierre-Erwan Guillaume
2002 **TA SOEUR** Martin Valente
2001 **OEDIPE (N+1)** (short feature) Eric Rognard
THE IDOL Samantha Lang
LIFE KILLS ME Jean-Pierre Sinapi
Best Newcomer at the Cabourg Romantic FilmFestival 2003
2000 **BELLA CIAO** Stéphane Giusti
INCH'ALLAH SUNDAY Yamina Benguigui
1999 **HUMAN RESOURCES** Laurent Cantet
1999 César Award for Best Newcomer
Best Actor Prize at the Amiens Festival 1999
2001 Lumière Award for Best Newcomer SADE Benoît Jacquot
1998 **BONNE RESISTANCE A LA DOULEUR** – (short)
Pierre Erwan Guillaume
1999 Musidora / Acteurs à L'Ecran Prize for Best Actor
NOS VIES HEUREUSES Jacques Maillot
A MAJOR INCONVENIENCE Bernard Stora
Best Actor Prize at the Mons Romantic FilmFestival 2000
1997 **LE CENTRE DU MONDE** Djibril Glissant
1995 **JEUX DE PLAGES** Laurent Cantet

TÉLÉVISION

- 1999 **HUMAN RESOURCES** Laurent Cantet
Best Actor Prize at the Amiens Festival 1999
2001 Lumière Award for Best Newcomer
COMBAT DE FEMMES "LIBRE A TOUT PRIX"
Marie Vermillard
1997 **LES SANGUINAIRES** Laurent Cantet

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1965 in the treacherous Bobigny suburb of Paris, Roschdy Zem spent much of his early career cast as the archetypal, small-time Arab villain. But after promising performances in André Téchiné's *I Don't Kiss* and *My Favorite Season* his career literally took off when he was allowed to show the full range of his acting skills in Xavier Beauvois's *Don't Forget You're Going to Die*. Since then he has gone from strength to strength appearing in comedies, dramas and action films alike, proving that he is not only one of the most versatile, but also one of the most talented actors of his generation.

FILMOGRAPHY

CINEMA

- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| 2005 | LA CALIFORNIE Jacques Fieschi | ALICE AND MARTIN André Téchiné |
| | INDIGENES Rachid Bouchareb | LOUISE (TAKE 2) Siegfried |
| 2004 | VAS, VIS ET DEVIENS Radu Mihaileanu | 1998 Cannes Film Festival - «Un Certain Regard " |
| | CAMPING A LA FERME Jean-Pierre Sinapi | 1996 LE PLUS BEAU METIER DU MONDE Gérard Lauzier |
| | 36, QUAI DES ORFEVRES Olivier Marchal | FRED Pierre Jolivet |
| | ORDO Laurence Ferreira Barbosa | THE GODS MUST BE DARING Michel Deville |
| 2003 | TENJA Hassan Legzouli | THE OTHER SHORE Dominique Cabrera |
| 2002 | MONSIEUR N. Antoine de Caunes | Cannes FilmFestival 1997 "Cinéma en France" |
| | CHOUCHOU Merzak Allouache | 1995 MEMOIRE D'UN JEUNE CON Patrick Aurignac |
| | ONLY GIRLS Pierre Jolivet | EN AVOIR OU PAS Laetitia Masson |
| 2001 | MY WIFE IS AN ACTRESS Yvan Attal | LE CŒUR FANTOME Philippe Garrel |
| | THE RACE Djamel Bensala | CLUBBED TO DEATH Yolande Zauberman |
| | BLANCHE Bernie Bonvoisin | 1994 DON'T FORGET YOU'RE GOING TO DIE |
| 2000 | LITTLE SENEGAL Rachid Bouchareb | Xavier Beauvois |
| | Youth Prize, Tubingen-Stuttgart International Festival | Jury prize at the Cannes Film Festival 1995 |
| | CHANGE MOI MA VIE Liria Bejeja | 1993 MY FAVORITE SEASON André Téchiné |
| | SANSA Siegfried | 1991 I DON'T KISS André Téchiné |
| | ALIAS BETTY Claude Miller | |
| 1999 | MY LITTLE BUSINESS Pierre Jolivet | THEATER |
| | Best Screenplay Prize at the Montreal Festival 1999 | LYSISTRATA by Aristophanes – Directed by Marie Voisin |
| | Nomination for the César Award for Best Supporting Actor | L'INDIEN CHERCHE LE BRONX Isabelle Tossan |
| | THE ENCHANTED INTERLUDE Michel Spinoza | TRANSFENCH Bernard Beuvelot |
| | SAVE ME Christian Vincent | MOA ET BINBIN F. Celier |
| | L'ORIGINE DU MONDE Jérôme Enrico | LES FOURBERIES DE SCAPIN by Molière |
| 1998 | VIVRE AU PARADIS Bourlem Guerdjou | Directed by Bernard Beuvelot |
| | STAND BY Roch Stephanik | HALL DE NUIT Amahi Desclozeaux (1992) |
| 1997 | VIVE LA REPUBLIQUE Eric Rochant | A WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare - Directed by Pierre |
| | THOSE WHO LOVE ME CAN TAKE THE TRAIN | Pradinas - Touring - Théâtre de la Tempête (2002 / 2003) |
| | Patrice Chéreau | |
| | In competition at the Cannes Film Festival 1998 | |
| | 1999 César Award for Best Director for P. Chéreau | |
| | FOR SALE Laetitia Masson | |
| | 1998 Cannes Film Festival - «Un Certain Regard" | |