



micro_scope

INCENDIES

A film by
Denis Villeneuve

Based on the stage play by
Wajdi Mouawad

Starring
**Lubna Azabal, Mélissa Desormeaux-Poulin,
Maxim Gaudette, Rémy Girard**

Produced by
Luc Déry and Kim McCraw

Running time: **130 minutes**

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A
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production

www.micro-scope.ca

Synopsis

When notary Lebel (Rémy Girard) sits down with Jeanne (Mélicca Désormeaux-Poulin) and Simon Marwan (Maxim Gaudette) to read them the will of their mother 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. But his love for his sister is strong, and he soon joins her in combing their ancestral homeland in search of a Nawal who is so 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 – and 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
Jeanne Marwan
Simon Marwan
Notary Jean Lebel

Lubna AZABAL
Mélissa DÉSORMEAUX-POULIN
Maxim GAUDETTE
Rémy GIRARD

Crew

Writer / Director
Based on a stage play by
Script Coach

Denis VILLENEUVE
Wajdi MOUAWAD
Valérie BEAUGRAND-CHAMPAGNE

Producers
Co-producers
Associate Producers
Line Producers

Luc DÉRY, Kim McCRAW
Miléna POYLO & Gilles SACUTO, Anthony DONCQUE
Phoebe GREENBERG, Penny MANCUSO
Sylvie TRUELLE, Stephan TRAYNOR

Director of Photography
Editor

André TURPIN
Monique DARTONNE

Production Design
Costumes Design

André-Line BEAUPARLANT
Sophie LEFEBVRE

Original Score
Sound Engineer
Sound Design
Mix

Grégoire HETZEL
Jean UMANSKY
Sylvain BELLEMARE
Jean-Pierre LAFORCE

Casting

Lucie ROBITAILLE, Lara ATALLA,
Constance DEMONTOY

Production (Canada)
Co-production (France)
Associate Producer (Canada)

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TS Productions
Phi Group

Distribution (Canada)
International Sales

Les Films Christal, Les Films Séville
E1 Entertainment

Director's biography



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, 9 Jutra Awards and 5 Genie Awards including Best Film and Best Director.

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 and wins about fifty awards.

In 2009, his third feature-length film, ***Polytechnique***, is presented at Cannes' Directors Fortnight. After screening in several festivals including 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.

Denis Villeneuve is putting the last touches to his fourth feature-length film, *Incendies*, an adaptation of Wajdi Mouawad's play. Shot in Quebec and Jordan, the film is a Canada - France co-production and its release is scheduled for 2010.

Director's filmography

Polytechnique

2009 | 77 minutes | 35 mm

- ◆ Directors Fortnight – Cannes [2009]
- ◆ Official selection at Helsinki, Toronto, Londres, 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]

About the production company

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 innovative, 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 City TV Award for Best Canadian First Feature. *Familia* also screened in many other international festivals like Göteborg, Sao Paulo and Hong Kong and sold in France and United States. At the 2006 Canadian Genie Awards, *Familia* was nominated in 7 categories including Best Picture 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, A Piece of Sky*) and Tarantula France (*Fratricide, Organik*). *Congorama* premiered at Cannes in May 2006 as the closing film of the Director's Fortnight. The film was also part of the Special Presentation category at the Toronto International Film Festival and was chosen as the opening feature for Montreal's Festival du Nouveau Cinema. *Congorama* was also screened in many international festivals like Munich, Namur, Pusan, Göteborg and Halifax where it won the Best Canadian Film Award. At the 2007 Quebec Jutra Awards, the film won five prizes including Best Film, Best Director and Best Script. *Congorama* is scheduled to be released in a half-dozen countries including 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 and financed by SODEC, Telefilm Canada, The Harold Greenberg Fund and Télé-Québec, 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 section Venice Days, and was also selected in many other festivals around the world, such as Thessaloniki, Göteborg, Denver, Oslo 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'Écuyer, 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'Écuyer) at the Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax, and Vancouver Film Critics Circle's Best Canadian Film and Best Supporting Actress (Suzanne Clément).

In June 2009, micro_scope finishes shooting ***Incendies*** by director Denis Villeneuve, a feature film adapted from the stage play by Wajdi Mouawad. Financed by Telefilm Canada, SODEC, Cogeco Fund, Radio-Canada, Super Écran and the Harold Greenberg Fund, the film stars Lubna Azabal, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin, Maxim Gaudette and Rémy Girard, and is distributed by Seville Pictures. The film was shot in Quebec and Jordan.

micro_scope is currently working on ***Bachir Lazhar***, Philippe Falardeau's newest feature film adapted from the stage play by Evelyne De La Chenelière and finishing the post production of ***En terrains connus***, Stéphane Lafleur's latest feature film.