

VANESSA PARADIS KEVIN PARENT HÉLÈNE FLORENT EVELYNE BROCHU

CAFÉ DE FLORE

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
C.R.A.Z.Y.



A FILM BY
JEAN-MARC VALLÉE



Item 7, Monkey Pack Films & Crazy Films present

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film festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2011



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CAFÉ DE FLORE

A FILM BY JEAN-MARC VALLÉE

A Canada-France co-production

120 minutes / 2.35 / color / 35 mm / Dolby SRD

SYNOPSIS

HEALING A BROKEN HEART ISN'T EASY.
SOMETIMES IT TAKES A LIFETIME...OR TWO.

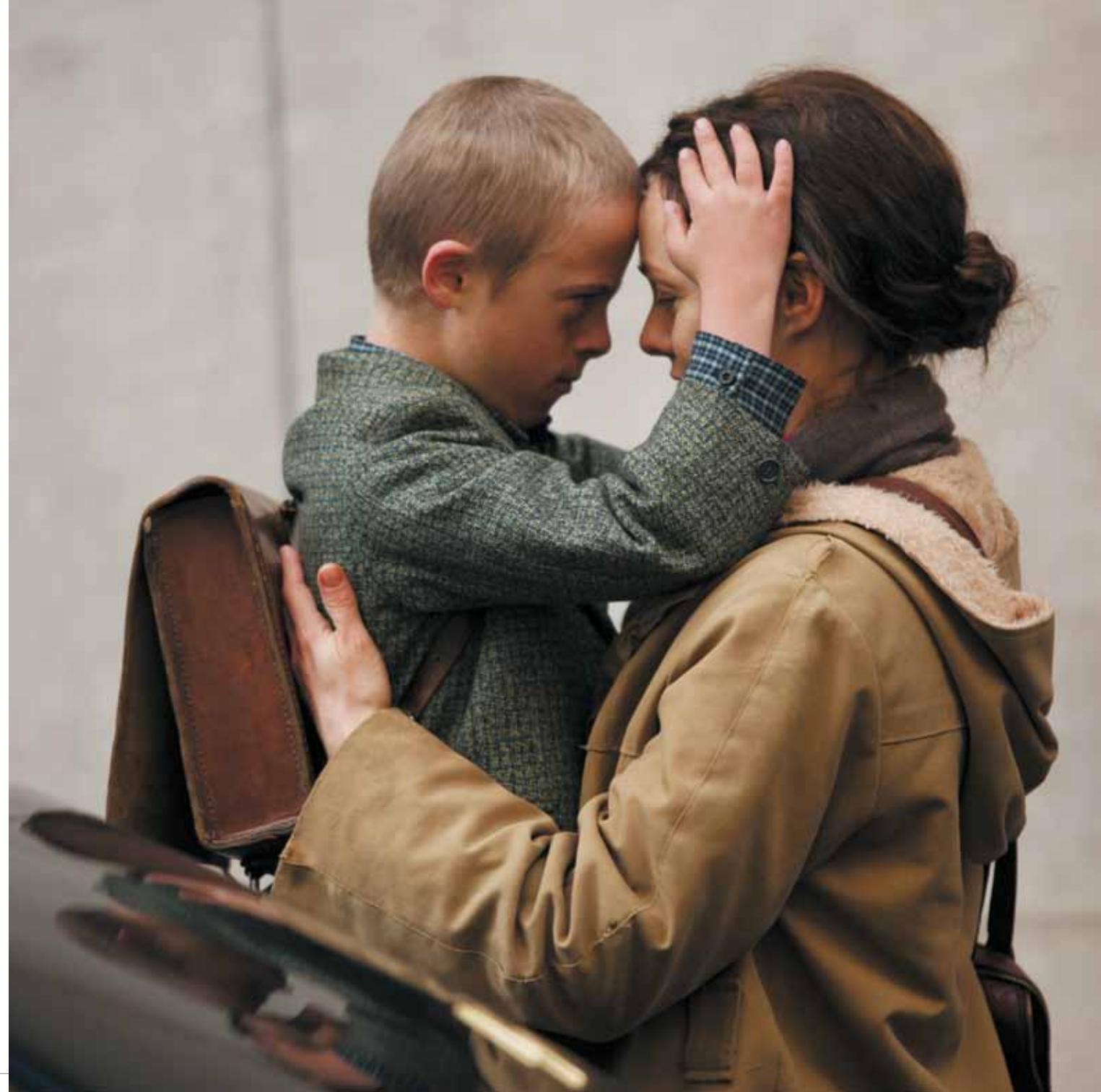
Cafe de Flore is a love story about people separated by time and place but connected in profound and mysterious ways. Atmospheric, fantastical, tragic and hopeful, the film chronicles the parallel fates of Jacqueline, a young mother with a down syndrome son in 1960s Paris, and Antoine, a recently-divorced, successful DJ in present day Montreal. What binds the two stories together is love – euphoric, obsessive, tragic, youthful, timeless love.

1969

1970

1980

1986





THE STORY

CAFÉ DE FLORE is a love story about people separated by time and place but connected in profound and mysterious ways. Atmospheric, fantastical, tragic and hopeful, the film chronicles the parallel fates of Jacqueline, a young mother with a down syndrome son in 1960s Paris, and Antoine, a recently-divorced, successful DJ in present day Montreal. What binds the two stories together is love - euphoric, obsessive, tragic, youthful, timeless love. Antoine, early 40s, seems to have it all: a thriving career, two beautiful daughters, partner Rose, with whom he is passionately in love. However, nothing is perfect and Antoine's ex-wife Carole remains devastated by their recent separation. Heartbroken, her sense of self has been shattered and her hold on reality has been gradually slipping away. Her dreams are haunted by two recurrent figures - Jacqueline, a young woman, and Laurent, her Down Syndrome - afflicted son - but the reason for their visits to her subconscious, and their meaning continue to elude her.

We find Jacqueline and Laurent in 1960s Paris. Abandoned by her husband, Jacqueline sacrifices

everything to care for her son. From the moment Laurent is born she promises herself to give him a «normal» life full of happiness. For years she fulfills that promise, joining herself at the hip to her son and watching over his every waking moment. One day at school Laurent befriends Véronique, another Down Syndrome child, forever changing things between mother and son.

Carole, meanwhile, is still attempting to unravel the mystery of Jacqueline and Laurent. She sees them not only in her dreams but in her waking life too. Tormented by hallucinations, Carole attempts to suppress them with medication and illicit drugs before seeking out the help of a spiritual guide who leads her to believe that Jacqueline and Laurent are previous incarnations of her and Antoine who are attempting to send her a warning.

When she senses Jacqueline and Laurent's story could end tragically, Carole realizes she will have to choose a different path. In that moment, she has to decide whether the agony of heartbreak is too much to bear or if she can let go of her pain and move on with her life.



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1980

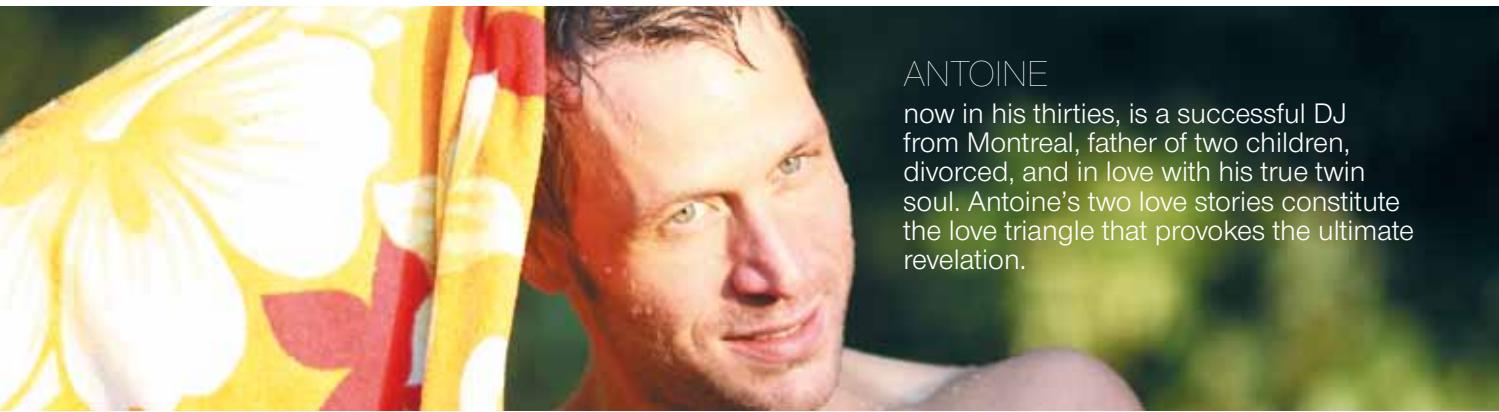
1986

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2011

THE MAIN CHARACTERS TIME PERIOD: 1986 - PRESENT DAY / MONTREAL



ANTOINE

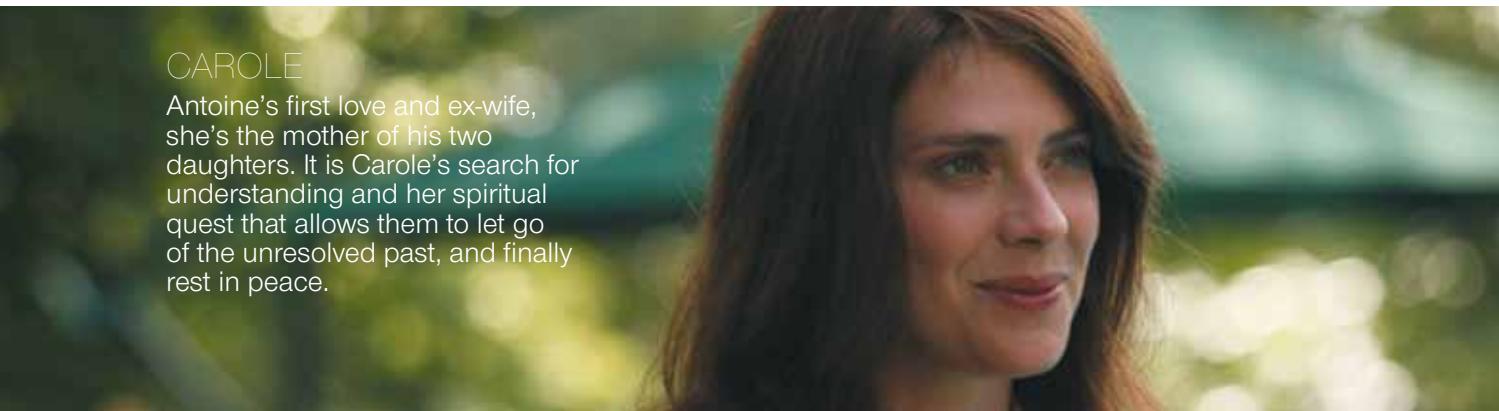
now in his thirties, is a successful DJ from Montreal, father of two children, divorced, and in love with his true twin soul. Antoine's two love stories constitute the love triangle that provokes the ultimate revelation.

TIME PERIOD: 1962 - 1969 / PARIS



LAURENT

Jacqueline's son. A Down syndrome child, he fights with his mother at his side to lead a normal life. He falls in love with another Down syndrome child, Veronique, his twin soul.



CAROLE

Antoine's first love and ex-wife, she's the mother of his two daughters. It is Carole's search for understanding and her spiritual quest that allows them to let go of the unresolved past, and finally rest in peace.



JACQUELINE

is the mother of the child suffering from Down syndrome. It is her unconditional love that cannot die.



ROSE

Antoine's twin soul, he met her while still married to Carole.



VERONIQUE

Laurent's classmate, also suffering from Down syndrome. She is his twin soul.

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THE MUSIC: THE SOUNDTRACKS OF OUR LIVES

CAFÉ DE FLORE is a celebration of life and love, through music.

To the beat of the music, the movie lilts along at a fast, rhythmic pace that is uplifting and celebratory despite the seriousness of the subject matter

Like a Greek chorus, the eclectic soundtrack – ranging from rock and roll to electro, folk, big band, and classic French songs – reflects the character's emotional states, connecting the dots for the spectator through repeating musical themes.

The two love stories share a song: *Café de Flore*. The 1960s accordion version is a song that both the mother and son adore, it represents joy, happiness, and love. *Café de Flore*, the modern version is also the song playing when the husband and his soul mate meet for the first time in the modern day love story. The husband hums this song unconsciously whenever he thinks of his twin soul.

Carole's recurring nightmares and the hallucinatory sequences are expressed through Pink Floyd's *Speak to Me and Breathe*, the first two segueing tracks from *Dark Side of the Moon*. Coming full circle, the album's iconic triangle design becomes a symbol of the film's mystical love triangle.



1990

2000

2011





MUSIC FROM THE FILM

CAFÉ DE FLORE

(Matthew Herbert)
Bucks Music Group
Performed by Matthew Herbert

CORONA RADIATA

(Michael Trent Reznor)
Form and Texture Inc.
Performed by Nine Inch Nails
With the authorization of The Null Corporation

JUST LIKE HEAVEN

*(William Bransby, Simon Gallup, Robert Smith,
Paul Thompson, Laurence Tolhurst,
Roger O'Donnell)*
Performed by Hélène Florent

MEANINGFUL MOMENT THROUGH A MEANING (LESS) PROCESS

(Adam Witzie)
Kranky Limited
Performed by Stars of the Lid

PICTURES OF YOU

*(William Bransby, Simon Gallup, Robert Smith,
Paul Thompson, Laurence Tolhurst,
Roger O'Donnell)*
Universal Music Publishing
Performed by The Cure

SPEAK TO ME

(Nick Mason, Roger Waters)
The Richmond Organization for Hampshire House
Publishing - Pink Floyd Music Publishing
Performed by Pink Floyd

BREATHE

(David Gilmour, Roger Waters, Richard Wright)
The Richmond Organization for Hampshire
House Publishing - Pink Floyd Music Publishing -
Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.
Performed by Pink Floyd

TIME

*(David Gilmour, Roger Waters,
Richard Wright, Nick Mason)*
The Richmond Organization pour Hampshire
House Publishing - Pink Floyd Music Publishing -
Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.
Performed by Pink Floyd

SVEFN-G-ENGLAR

*(Jon Thor Birgisson, August Aear Gunarsson,
Georg Holm, Kjartan Sveinsson)*
Universal Music Publishing
Performed by Sigur Ros
With permission from PIAS

FLJOTAVIK

*(Jon Thor Birgisson, August Aear Gunarsson,
Georg Holm, Kjartan Sveinsson)*
Universal Music Publishing
Performed by Sigur Ros

WALKING ON THE WATER

(Tom Fogerty, John Fogerty)
Jondora Music, a division of Fantasy Inc.
Performed by Creedence Clearwater Revival
(CCR)

NAVVAATARA

(Élisapie Isaac)
Avalanche Sound Publishing
Performed by Élisapie I

BIG FREEZE

*(Serge Pelletier, Mathieu Pontbriand,
Christian Baang, Joseph Perrault,
Sara Belle Humble)*
Éditorial Avenue
Performed by Pawa Up First

JEAN-MARC VALLÉE

DIRECTOR, WRITER

BIOGRAPHY

Montreal filmmaker Jean-Marc Vallée made his ground-breaking feature debut with “Liste Noire” (Black List), in 1995. The strikingly stylish erotic thriller was a first for its genre in Quebec cinema, and was honored with nine Genie Award nominations. Ten years later, he returned to French-language features with the internationally acclaimed hit, “C.R.A.Z.Y.” Blending a beguiling coming-of-age tale with a magical ode to outsiders of all ages, the powerful yet poignant C.R.A.Z.Y.’s intensely personal story embraces universal themes. The picture became a phenomenon; distributed in over fifty countries and winning some twenty international festival awards – including the prestigious “Best Canadian Film” prize at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival, 11 Genie Awards, 15 Jutra Awards, and the Golden Reel Award as Canada’s top-performer at the domestic box office.

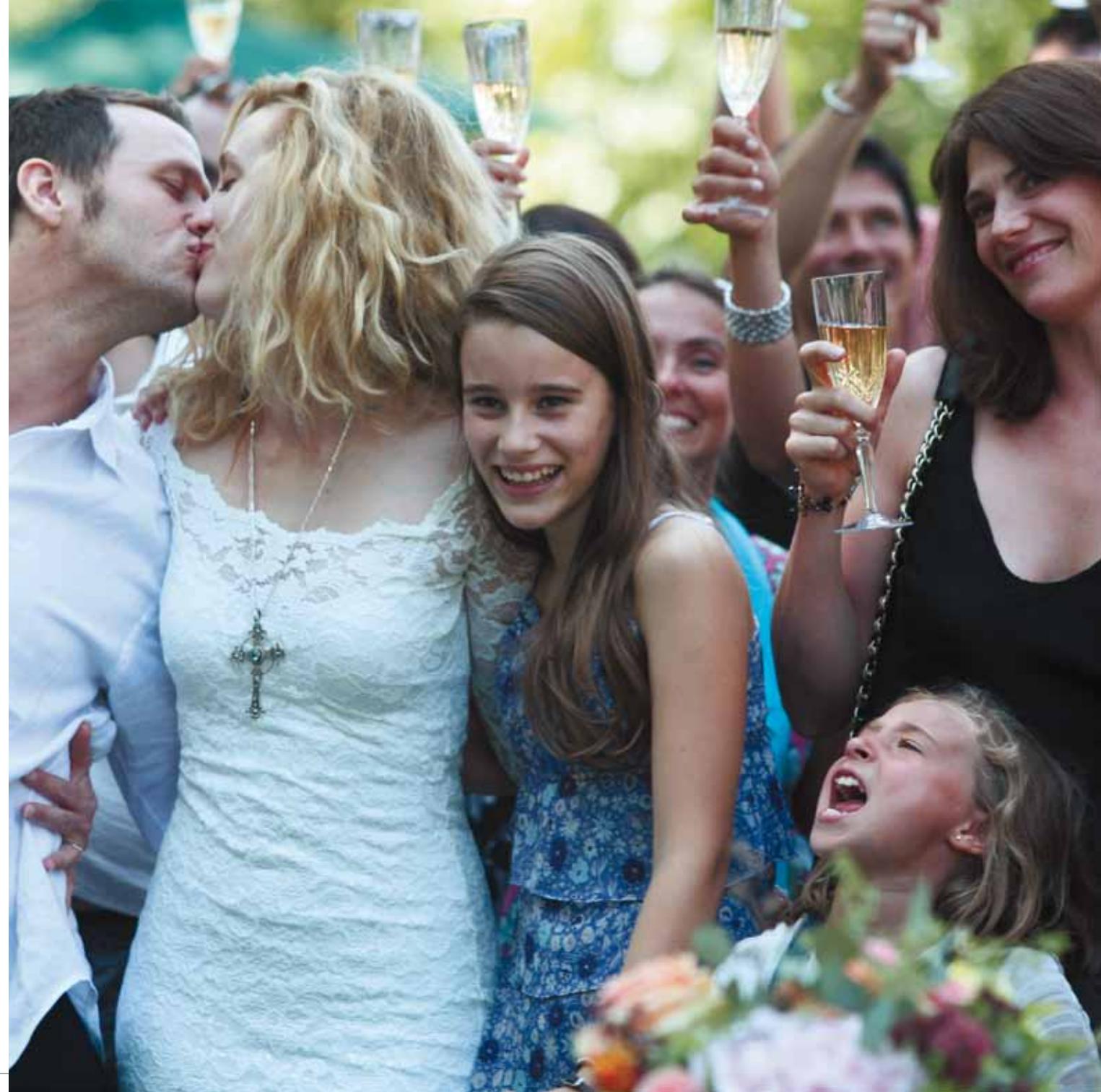
Jean-Marc has also flirted with Hollywood, as well as completing the first two instalments of his short film trilogy devoted to father-son relationships; a theme very close to the filmmaker’s heart. “Les Fleurs magiques” (Magical Flowers, 1995) and “Les Mots magiques” (Magical Words, 1998) are individual pieces unified by a dream-like quality, and an eye for their subjects that is both tender and tortured. Both shorts were awarded numerous festival prizes at home, and abroad. His latest film “The Young Victoria”, produced by Graham King and Martin Scorsese, won an Oscar for Best Costumes in 2010 and received nominations for Best Art Direction and Best Makeup.

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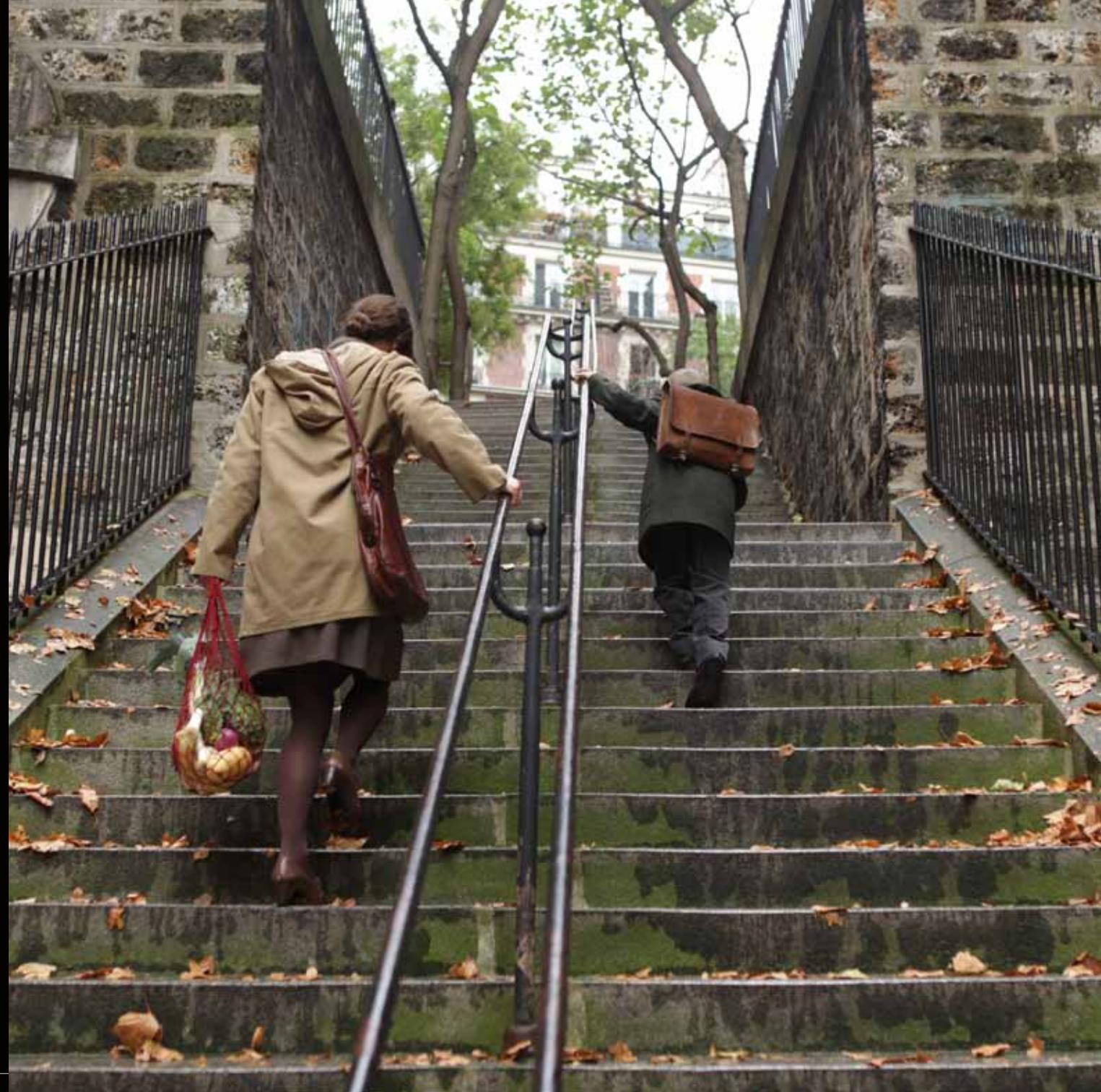


CAST

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jacqueline | Vanessa Paradis |
| Antoine Godin | Kevin Parent |
| Carole | Hélène Florent |
| Rose | Evelyne Brochu |
| Laurent | Marin Gerrier |
| Véronique | Alice Dubois |
| Amélie | Evelyne de la Chenelière |
| Julien Godin | Michel Dumont |
| Louise Godin | Linda Smith |
| Juliette | Joanny Corbeil-Picher |
| Angéline | Rosalie Fortier |
| Psychologist | Michel Laperrière |
| Véronique's mother | Caroline Bal |
| Véronique's father | Nicolas Marié |
| Paul | Pascal Elso |
| Louis | Jérôme Kircher |
| Mrs Labelle | Claire Vernet |
| School teacher | Manon Balthazard |
| Antoine (14 years old) | Émile Vallée |
| Carole (14 years old) | Chanel Fontaine |
| Medium | Emanuelle Beaugrand-Champagne |

CREDITS

| | |
|--|---|
| Director | Jean-Marc Vallée |
| Writer | Jean Marc Vallée |
| Producers (Canada) | Pierre Even, <i>Item 7</i> Marie-Claude Poulin, <i>Item 7</i> |
| Co-producer | Jean-Marc Vallée, <i>Crazy Films</i> |
| Co-producers (France) | Jean-Yves Robin, <i>Monkey Pack Films</i> Nicolas Coppermann, <i>Monkey Pack Films</i> |
| In collaboration with | Vanessa Fourgeaud, <i>Monkey Pack Films</i> |
| Line Producers | Nicole Hilaréguy Marc Stanimirovic |
| Cinematographer | Pierre Cottreau |
| Production Designer | Patrice Vermette |
| Editing | Jean-Marc Vallée |
| Sound | Jean Minondo Martin Pinsonnault |
| Special Effects | Marc Coté Sylvain Théroux |
| Costumes | Ginette Magny Emmanuelle Youchnowski |
| Makeup | Christiane Fattori Frédéric Marin |
| Hair Stylist | Ghyslaine Sant Frédéric Birault |
| Photographer | Sébastien Raymond |
| CASTING | Emanuelle Beaugrand-Champagne Nathalie Boutrie Constance Demontoy |
| Produced with the financial participation of | |
| Canada | Téléfilm Canada / SODEC / Société Radio-Canada / Crédit d'impôt cinéma et télévision – gestion SODEC / Crédit d'impôt – Canada / Fonds Quebecor / Super Écran |
| France | Tf1 DA / UGC / Canal Plus / Ciné Cinéma / Banque postale Image 4 / Cnc Fonds de soutien Sofica Coficup – Back up films |



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