THE KIDNAPPING
OF
MICHEL
HOUELLEBECQ
A FILM BY GUILLAUME NICLOUX
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

September 16th 2011. The TV news networks, newspapers, blogs, websites and radio stations are all reporting on one story: Allegedly - star author Michel Houellebecq, winner of the prestigious Prix Goncourt in 2010, has been abducted. Some members of the media go so far as to suggest that Al-Qaeda may be involved. For the next few days, the news ripples through literary circles and members of the press, feeding buzz and speculation. A brazen kidnapping? An identity crisis? A plan to escape abroad? A schizophrenic delirium?

Michel will never provide the media with any rational explanation for what happened to him.

His kidnapping is the launching pad for introspection through various strips and ways. An experimentation lab where the actual writer becomes mixed up with the fictional writer, literally peeling off all of his various skins and aspects. An attempt to strip himself bare, using lies as a potential truth.

This ‘angle of attack’ focusing in through the prism of the comedy that is human life allows us to compare and confront ideas and points of view from different worlds that hold opposing beliefs: Michel’s world, the world of his kidnappers and hosts… all as we address much larger issues such as artistic creation, fear, Poland, the Lottery, reincarnation, European integration, Nietzsche, weapons, Viagra, architecture, Mixed Martial Arts…

Beyond this story, I hope to reveal a writer who is funny, sensitive, endowed with a caustic wit, beset by doubt, naive, unkind, anxious, intelligent, and in love. The kind of man we don’t expect to meet.

Along with a final surprise: The Kidnapping of Michel Houellebecq may also be the portrait of a man who never aspired to be a writer, but rather hoped to become a racecar driver.

Guillaume Nicloux

SYNOPSIS

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CAST & CREW

Cast
Michel Houellebecq
Luc Schwarz
Mathieu Nicourt
Maxime Lefrançois
Françoise Lebrun

Director and Script
Guillaume Nicloux

Production
Les Films du Worso et Chic Films

Coproduction
Les Films du Worso, Chic Films and Arte France, with the participation of the CNC

Cinematography
Christophe Offenstein

Artistic Adviser
Olivier Radot

Costumes
Anaïs Romand

1st AD
Jules César Brechet

Editing
Guy Lecorne

Sound
Olivier Dô-Hùu / Fanny Weinzaepfli

Line Producer
Laziz Belkai

Original Title
L’Enlèvement de Michel Houellebecq

France - 2013 - 92 min - 2,35 - SRD 5.1 - French

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