



WHY NOT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION

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EMMANUELLE DEVOS
CHIARA MASTROIANNI
A CHRISTMAS TALE

A FILM BY
ARNAUD DESPLECHIN

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A CHRISTMAS TALE

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a Why Not Productions - France 2 Cinéma - Wild Bunch - Bac Films coproduction

with the participation of
Canal+ - CinéCinéma - Centre National de la Cinématographie

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Photos can be downloaded from <http://www.bacfilms.com/presse/contedenoe/>

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SYNOPSIS

In the beginning, Abel and Junon had two children, Joseph and Elizabeth. Victim of a rare genetic condition, Joseph's only hope was a bone marrow transplant. As they and Elizabeth were incompatible, his parents conceived a third child in the hope of saving their son. But little Henri too was unable to help his brother, and Joseph died, aged 7.

After the birth of a fourth child, Ivan, the Vuillard family gradually began to recover from the death of the firstborn.

Years later, Elizabeth is now a playwright living in Paris. Henri goes from successful business deal to fraudulent bankruptcy and Ivan, the adolescent on the edge of the abyss, has become the almost sane father of two strange boys.

One fateful day, worn down by his excesses, Elizabeth solemnly 'banished' her feckless brother. No one else knows exactly what happened, nor why Henri disappeared, and today the family seems to have come apart. Only Junon's nephew Simon, taken in by his aunt after the death of his parents, struggles to maintain the semblance of a link between the provincial parents, the virtuous sister and the two brothers, one uncertain, the other disgraced...

A CHRISTMAS TALE begins with the reappearance of the disease that took Joseph: Junon learns that she has leukaemia, and that chemotherapy will not work. Her only hope is to find a bone marrow donor amongst the members of her family. Her children and grandchildren are all tested. And Paul, Elizabeth's son, the oldest of the grandchildren and a tortured adolescent, allows himself to become overwhelmed by anguish.

Christmas approaches. The whole family gathers at the splendid parental home at Roubaix. Even Henri accepts Paul's invitation and turns up with his latest conquest, Faunia. Elizabeth's husband Claude will join them later...

It's time for the settling of scores. But little by little, the storm calms.

Ivan's wife Silvia discovers the feelings Simon has had for her for years. Has she truly lived her life, or just its pale shadow?

Will Junon accept a dangerous transplant to cure an illness that may never develop further?

Will Paul's father Claude allow his son to become his grandmother's donor, and thus risk the responsibility for her death?

As for Elizabeth and Henri, what can be done when a dispute moves beyond all reason?

CAST

Junon

Abel, Junon's husband

Elizabeth, their oldest child

Henri, their middle child

Ivan, their youngest child

Claude, Elizabeth's husband

Faunia, Henri's lover

Sylvia, Ivan's wife

Simon, Junon's nephew, the painter cousin

Paul, Elizabeth and Claude's son

Basile and Baptiste, Ivan and Sylvia's sons

Rosaimée, Abel's mother's girlfriend

Spatafora, the family friend at Roubaix

Doctor Zraïdi, the oncologist

Catherine Deneuve

Jean-Paul Roussillon

Anne Consigny

Mathieu Amalric

Melvil Poupaud

Hippolyte Girardot

Emmanuelle Devos

Chiara Mastroianni

Laurent Capelluto

Emile Berling

Thomas and Clément Obled

Françoise Bertin

Samir Guesmi

Azize Kabouche

CREW

Directed by

Screenplay

DP

Editor

Music

Casting

Sound

Production designer

Costume designer

Assistant director

Make-up

Hair

Script

Location manager

Production manager

Line producer

Arnaud Desplechin

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Emmanuel Bourdieu

Eric Gautier a.f.c.

Laurence Briaud

Grégoire Hetzel

Stéphane Toutou

Nicolas Cantin

Sylvain Malbrant

Jean-Pierre Laforce (mix)

Dan Bevan

Nathalie Raoul

Gabrièle Roux

Sylvie Aïd

Mina Matsumura

Eric Monteil

Frédéric Souquet

Agnès Feuvre

Cristobal Mathéron

Benoît Pilot

Martine Cassinelli