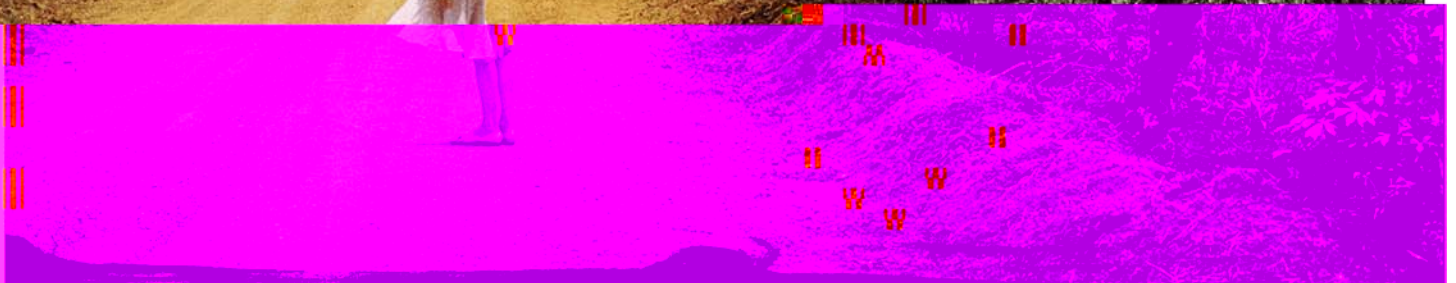


A FILM BY
CLAIRE DENIS

WHITE MATERIAL



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2009

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international
film festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2009

 **66**
VENEZIA 2009
Competition

WHY NOT PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

WHITE MATERIAL

A FILM BY **CLAIRE DENIS**

CO- PRODUCED BY

FRANCE 3 CINEMA WILD BUNCH LES FILMS TERRE AFRICAINE

FRANCE • 102' • 35MM • SCOPE • DOLBY SRD • COLOUR • 2009

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PLEASE NOTE: High definition images can be downloaded from the 'press' section of <http://www.wildbunch.biz>

SYNOPSIS

"No more smirking. We're stopping the bullshit right now and staying put."

The regular army is preparing to reestablish order in the country. To clean up. To eliminate the rebel officer also known as The Boxer and rid the countryside of roving child soldiers.

All the expatriates have gone home, getting out before things turn nasty.

Of the Vials - coffee planters who have lived here for two generations - Maria stands firm. She's not about to give in to rumors or abandon her harvest at the first sound of gunfire.

Just like her father-in-law and her ex-husband who is also the father of her son (a little too much of a slacker in her opinion) she is convinced that Cherif, mayor of the neighboring town, will protect them. If she asks him, he will save the plantation. He has a personal guard, a private militia of tough guys, heavily armed and well trained.

CAST

<i>Maria Vial</i>	Isabelle Huppert
<i>The Boxer</i>	Isaach De Bankole
<i>André Vial</i>	Christophe Lambert
<i>Manuel Vial</i>	Nicolas Duvauchelle
<i>The Mayor</i>	William Nadylam
<i>Lucie Vial</i>	Adèle Ado
<i>Jeep</i>	Ali Barkai
<i>José</i>	Daniel Tchangang
<i>Henri Vial</i>	Michel Subor

CREW

DIRECTOR	Claire Denis
SCREENPLAY	Claire Denis Marie NDiaye
DP	Yves Cape
EDITOR	Guy Lecomte
MUSIC	Stuart S. Staples (TINDERSTICKS)
SET DESIGNERS	Saint Père Abiassi Alain Veissier
SOUND	Jean Paul Mugel Christophe Winding Christophe Vingtrinier
COSTUME DESIGNER	Judy Shrewsbury
PRODUCER	Pascal Caucheteux

PRODUCTION	WHY NOT PRODUCTIONS
CO-PRODUCTION	FRANCE 3 CINEMA WILD BUNCH LES FILMS TERRE AFRICAINE

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Had I burdened it with all the intentions I wanted, this film would have sunk like an overladen container ship. Luckily, at every stage - from the writing with Marie, to the location scouting, to the shoot - at every stage we jettisoned them.

It remains, nonetheless, the conduit of a primitive, visceral obsession - fortitude struggling against lassitude, against slackness.

I'd like to dedicate this film to Sony Labou Tansi for his novels, his plays, for the Rocado Zulu Theatre Company, for his struggle against rotten luck.

He said, "*We didn't invent the wheel. We handled that which is found only in the great works of poetry - the sap of the world.*" (Les Yeux du Volcan)

- Claire Denis

DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY

- 2008 35 RHUMS (35 SHOTS OF RUM)
- 2007 EXHIBITION AT MUSÉE DES ARTS
PREMIERS - PARIS: AFRICAN DIASPORA
- 2005 VERS MATHILDE
- 2004 L'INTRUS (THE INTRUDER)
- 2002 VERS NANCY (from TEN MINUTES OLDER)
VENDREDI SOIR (FRIDAY NIGHT)
- 2001 TROUBLE EVERY DAY
- 1999 BEAU TRAVAIL
- 1996 NÉNETTE ET BONI
- 1994 U.S. GO HOME
(from TOUS LES GARÇONS ET LES FILLES - ARTE)
- 1993 J'AI PAS SOMMEIL (I CAN'T SLEEP)
- 1991 KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF
LA ROBE A CERCEAU (ARTE)
- 1990 JACQUES RIVETTE, LE VEILLEUR
(from CINÉMA DE NOTRE TEMPS - ARTE)
- 1989 S'EN FOUT LA MORT
- 1988 MAN NO RUN
- 1987 CHOCOLAT

MARIE NDIAYE BIOGRAPHY

Marie NDiaye is a French novelist and playwright. She published her first novel, QUANT AU RICHE AVENIR, when she was only 17 and won the Prix Femina in 2001 for her novel ROSIE CARPE.

NDiaye began writing at the age of 12. After her first novel she wrote a further six, all published by Minuit, and a collection of short stories. She also wrote her COMÉDIE CLASSIQUE - a two-hundred page novel made up of a single sentence published by P.O.L. - when she was 21.

Her play PAPA DOIT MANGER has been taken into the repertoire of the Comédie Française.

NOVELS & SHORT STORIES

- 2009 TROIS FEMMES PUISSANTES - Gallimard
- 2007 MON COEUR A L'ETROIT - Gallimard
- 2005 AUTO PORTRAIT EN VERT
- Mercure de France
- 2004 TOUS MES AMIS, NOUVELLES - Minuit
- 2001 ROSIE CARPE - Minuit
- 1996 LA SORCIÈRE - Minuit
- 1994 UN TEMPS DE SAISON - Minuit
- 1991 EN FAMILLE - Minuit
- 1989 LA FEMME CHANGÉE EN BÛCHE - Minuit
- 1988 COMÉDIE CLASSIQUE - P.O.L.
- 1985 QUANT AU RICHE AVENIR - Minuit

PLAYS

- 2004 LES SERPENTS - Minuit
RIEN D'HUMAIN - Les Solitaires Intempestifs
- 2003 PAPA DOIT MANGER - Minuit
- 1999 HILDA - Minuit

CHILDREN'S NOVELS

- 2005 LE SOUHAIT - École des loisirs
- 2003 LES PARADIS DE PRUNELLE
- Albin Michel Jeunesse
- 2000 LA DIABLESSE ET SON ENFANT
- École des loisirs

ISABELLE HUPPERT FILMOGRAPHY

- 2009 VILLA AMALIA - *Benoît Jacquot*
- 2008 UN BARRAGE CONTRE LE PACIFIQUE
(THE SEA WALL) - *Rithy Panh*
HOME - *Ursula Meier*
- 2006 NUE PROPRIÉTÉ (PRIVATE PROPERTY)
- *Joachim Lafosse*
L'IVRESSE DU POUVOIR
(A COMEDY OF POWER) - *Claude Chabrol*
- 2005 GABRIELLE - *Patrice Chéreau*
- 2004 LES SOEURS FÂCHÉES
- *Alexandra Leclère*
I HEART HUCKABEES - *David O. Russell*
MA MÈRE (MY MOTHER) - *Christophe Honoré*
- 2003 LE TEMPS DU LOUP (THE TIME OF THE WOLF)
- *Michael Haneke*
- 2002 LA VIE PROMISE (GHOST RIVER)
- *Olivier Dahan*
8 FEMMES (8 WOMEN) - *François Ozon*
- 2001 LA PIANISTE (THE PIANO TEACHER)
- *Michael Haneke*
- 2000 COMÉDIE DE L'INNOCENCE - *Raoul Ruiz*
MERCİ POUR LE CHOCOLAT
- *Claude Chabrol*
LES DESTINÉES SENTIMENTALES
- *Olivier Assayas*
SAINT-CYR (THE KING'S DAUGHTER)
- *Patricia Mazuy*
LA FAUSSE SUIVANTE (FALSE SERVANT)
- *Benoît Jacquot*
LA VIE MODERNE (MODERN LIFE)
- *Laurence Ferreira Barbosa*
- 1999 PAS DE SCANDALE (KEEP IT QUIET)
- *Benoît Jacquot*
L'ÉCOLE DE LA CHAIR
(THE SCHOOL OF FLESH) - *Benoît Jacquot*
RIEN NE VA PLUS - *Claude Chabrol*
LES PALMES DE M. SCHUTZ
- *Claude Pinoteau*
- 1996 LE AFFINITÀ ELETIVE
(THE ELECTIVE AFFINITIES)
- *Paolo Taviani & Vittorio Taviani*
- 1995 LA CÉRÉMONIE - *Claude Chabrol*
- 1994 LA SÉPARATION - *Christian Vincent*
AMATEUR - *Hal Hartley*
- 1992 APRÈS L'AMOUR - *Diane Kurys*
- 1991 MADAME BOVARY - *Claude Chabrol*
- 1990 LA VENGEANCE D'UNE FEMME
(A WOMAN'S REVENGE) - *Jacques Doillon*
- 1988 UNE AFFAIRE DE FEMMES
(STORY OF WOMEN) - *Claude Chabrol*
LES POSSÉDÉS (THE POSSESSED)
- *Andrzej Wajda*
- 1987 THE BEDROOM WINDOW - *Curtis Hanson*
- 1985 SAC DE NOEUDS (ALL MIXED UP)
- *Josiane Balasko*
- 1984 LA GARCE - *Christine Pascal*
- 1983 LA FEMME DE MON POTE
(MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL) - *Bertrand Blier*
COUP DE FOUDRE - *Diane Kurys*
STORIA DI PIERA - *Marco Ferreri*
- 1982 LA TRUITE (THE TROUT) - *Joseph Losey*
PASSION (GODARD'S PASSION)
- *Jean-Luc Godard*
- 1981 EAUX PROFONDES - *Michel Deville*
COUP DE TORCHON (CLEAN SLATE)
- *Bertrand Tavernier*
LES AILES DE LA COLOMBE
(THE WINGS OF THE DOVE) - *Benoît Jacquot*
LA STORIA VERA DELLA SIGNORA
DALLE CAMELIE (LADY OF THE CAMELIAS)
- *Mauro Bolognini*
- 1980 HEAVEN'S GATE - *Michael Cimino*
SAUVE QUI PEUT (LA VIE) - *Jean-Luc Godard*
LOULOU - *Maurice Pialat*
- 1979 LES SOEURS BRONTË - *André Téchiné*
QUI PEUT LA VIE - *Jean-Luc Godard*
- 1978 VIOLETTE NOZIÈRE - *Claude Chabrol*
- 1977 LA DENTELLIÈRE (THE LACEMAKER)
- *Claude Goretta*
- 1976 LE JUGE ET L'ASSASSIN (THE JUDGE AND
THE ASSASSIN) - *Bertrand Tavernier*
DOCTEUR FRANÇOISE GAILLAND
- *Jean-Louis Bertucelli*
- 1975 ROSEBUD - *Otto Preminger*
DUPONT LAJOIE (RAPE OF INNOCENCE)
- *Yves Boisset*
- 1974 LES VALSEUSES - *Bertrand Blier*
- 1972 CÉSAR ET ROSALIE - *Claude Sautet*

ISAACH DE BANKOLE FILMOGRAPHY

- 2009 THE LIMITS OF CONTROL - *Jim Jarmusch*
- 2007 THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY
- *Julian Schnabel*
- 2006 CASINO ROYALE - *Martin Campbell*
MIAMI VICE - *Michael Mann*
- 2005 STAY - *Marc Forster*
THE SKELETON KEY - *Ian Softley*
MANDERLAY - *Lars von Trier*
- 2003 COFFEE & CIGARETTES - *Jim Jarmusch*
- 1999 GHOST DOG: THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI
- *Jim Jarmusch*
- 1998 A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES
- *James Ivory*
- 1991 NIGHT ON EARTH - *Jim Jarmusch*
- 1990 S'EN FOUT LA MORT - *Claire Denis*
- 1989 VANILLE FRAISE - *G rard Oury*
- 1988 ADA DANS LA JUNGLE - *G rard Zingg*
CHOCOLAT - *Claire Denis*
- 1987 LES KEUFS - *Josiane Balasko*
- 1986 BLACK MIC MAC - *Thomas Gilou*

CHRISTOPHE LAMBERT FILMOGRAPHY

- 2007 LA DISPARUE DE DEAUVILLE (TRIVIAL)
- *Sophie Marceau*
- 2006 LE LI VRE DE VATANEN (VATANEN'S HARE)
- *Marc Riv re*
SOUTHLAND TALES - *Richard Kelly*
- 2004   TON IMAGE - *Aruna Villiers*
- 2003 JANIS ET JOHN - *Samuel Benchetrit*
- 2001 VERCING TORIX - *Jacques Dorfmann*
- 2000 HIGHLANDER: Endgame
- *Douglas Aarniokoski*
- 1999 RESURRECTION - *Russell Mulcahy*
BEOWULF - *Graham Baker*
FORTRESS 2 - *Geoff Murphy*
- 1997 ARLETTE - *Claude Zidi*
NIRVANA - *Gabriele Salvatores*
- 1996 HERCULE ET SHERLOCK (MUTTS)
- *Jeannot Szwarc*
NORTH STAR - *Nils Gaup*
- 1995 MORTAL KOMBAT - *Paul W.S. Anderson*
THE HUNTED - *J.F. Lawton*
- 1994 HIGHLANDER III: The Sorcerer
- *Andrew Morahan*
GUNMEN - *Deran Serafian*
- 1993 LOADED WEAPON 1 - *Gene Quintano*
FORTRESS - *Stuart Gordon*
- 1992 MAX & JEREMIE - *Claire Devers*
KNIGHT MOVES - *Carl Schenkel*
- 1991 HIGHLANDER II: The Quickening
- *Russell Mulcahy*
- 1988 TO KILL A PRIEST - *Agnieszka Holland*
- 1987 THE SICILIAN - *Michael Cimino*
- 1986 I LOVE YOU - *Marco Ferreri*
HIGHLANDER - *Russell Mulcahy*
- 1985 SUBWAY - *Luc Besson*
- 1984 PAROLES ET MUSIQUE (LOVE SONGS)
- *Elie Chouraqui*
GREYSTOKE: The Legend of Tarzan,
Lord of the Apes - *Hugh Hudson*

NICOLAS DUVAUCHELLE FILMOGRAPHY

- 2009 THE BLONDE WITH BARE BREASTS
- *Manuel Pradal*
LES HERBES FOLLES (WILD GRASS)
- *Alain Resnais*
LA FILLE DU RER (THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN)
- *André Téchiné*
- 2008 SECRET DÉFENSE (SECRETS OF STATE)
- *Philippe Haïm*
- 2007 LE DEUXIÈME SOUFFLE (THE SECOND WIND)
- *Alain Corneau*
À L'INTÉRIEUR (INSIDE)
- *Alexandre Bustillo & Julien Maury*
- 2006 LE GRAND MEAULNES
- *Jean-Daniel Verhaeghe*
AVRIL (APRIL IN LOVE)
- *Gérald Hustache-Mathieu*
- 2005 UNE AVENTURE - *Xavier Gianolli*
- 2004 POIDS LÉGER (LIGHTWEIGHT)
- *Jean-Pierre Améris*
À TOUT DE SUITE (RIGHT NOW)
- *Benoît Jacquot*
- 2003 LES CORPS IMPATIENTS (EAGER BODIES)
- *Xavier Gianolli*
SNOWBOARDER - *Olias Barco*
- 2001 TROUBLE EVERY DAY - *Claire Denis*
- 2000 DU POIL SOUS LES ROSES
(HAIR UNDER THE ROSES)
- *Jean-Julien Chervier & Agnès Obadia*
- 1999 BEAU TRAVAIL - *Claire Denis*
LE PETIT VOLEUR (THE LITTLE THIEF)
- *Erick Zonca*

WILLIAM NADYLAM

THEATRE

- 2005/06 VIOL (RAPE) - *Botho Strauss*
Directed by Luc Bondy
Théâtre National de l'Odéon
- 2002/03 THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET
- *Peter Brook*
- 1998/99 LE CID - *Declan Donnellan*
Festival IN d'Avignon,
Bouffes du Nord (Paris),
Riverside Studios (London),
Toured: New York, France, Russia
- 1995 LA PANOPLIE DU SQUELETTE
- *Olivier Py*
Créteil and Festival d'Avignon
- 1991 QUARTETT - *Heiner Muller*
Directed by William Nadylam
EDMOND - *David Mamet*
Directed by William Nadylam

CINEMA

- 2005 LES ENFANTS DU PAYS - *Pierre Javaux*
- 2001 TRANSFIXIONS - *Francis Girod*
MILLE MILLIÈMES - *Rémi Waterhouse*
- 1987 BLACK MIC MAC 2 - *Marco Pauly*

MICHEL SUBOR BIOGRAPHY

Michel Subor came to fame playing Brigitte Bardot's lover in LA BRIDE SUR LE COU (1961). In Hollywood, he starred in Clive Donner's WHAT'S NEW, PUSSYCAT? (1965) and Alfred Hitchcock's TOPAZ (1969). Perhaps his most notable role was as Bruno Forestier opposite Anna Karina in Jean-Luc Godard's LE PETIT SOLDAT (1963). Subor made a remarkable comeback in Claire Denis' BEAU TRAVAIL (1999). His most recent film credits include Philippe Garrel's SAUVAGE INNOCENCE (2001) and Claire Denis' L'INTRUS (2004).