

FOR THE
LOVE OF
GOD

POUR L'AMOUR DE DIEU

a film by Micheline Lanctôt



Filmoption
International

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SYNOPSIS

Between human love and love of God, which will win out?

In 1959 in Sister Cécile's class, 12-year-old Léonie meets Father Malachy, a recently ordained priest visiting her school. It's love at first sight for the dreamy and solitary child who retreats into religious piety to escape her oppressive home life. But there's also a spark between Sister Cécile and Father Malachy who are forced to hide their strong attraction for one another, an attraction forbidden by their vows. Both are young and passionate, making it difficult to hide their emotions...

Fifty years later, Léonie must come to terms with her betrayal so many years before...



MICHELINE LANCTÔT

Loving for the first time – completely, totally and *absolutely* loving, without limits, without sharing, without logic (sharing and logic are sure to return later, after that inevitable let-down). Such is the domain of first love.

There's no age for the phenomenon. Except that when you love for the first time and you're all of eleven years old – you don't quite know what it is. You can't put a name on an emotion that, more often than not, is little short of terrifying. It hits you like a tidal wave, and you hope not to die from this feeling that's so powerful and pervasive, it almost suffocates you. The impact of first love is never lost. We often think back on it, for above all else, first love is pure – unaffected by compromise, undefiled by misunderstanding or daily routine. It quite simply... *is*.

My three main characters all experience first love. Such is the importance of their meeting up. But, to their great chagrin, one of them is a nun, the other a Dominican father, and the third a nervous young girl. Each, in his or her own way, falls hard. Their stories initially unfold in absolute, uncompromising terms – until life steps in with its inevitable need for middle ground.

To write this human melodrama, I plunged into my own sea of memories, drifting back through the decades to seventh grade, when a Portuguese Dominican priest came to teach our class. It was 'love at first sight' for the young girl I then was – so, in writing this story some fifty years later, I had to reclaim the memory. My first step was to wander back in time, in search of that oh-so-elusive special feeling, last seen and felt in a unique time and place – Quebec in the 1950s – which the politically-inclined labeled the 'The Great Darkness', but for an eleven year-old girl, it was far more the time of 'Love's Amazing Bright Light'...

HONORS

- Special Achievement Award, for her talents in both the French and English languages, as an actress, a writer, an animator and a director. Canadian Film Awards, 1981
- The Prix Lumières, awarded by the Quebec Directors' Guild for her achievements in the profession, 1996
- The SACD *Prix de la Francophonie*; France, 1995
- Quebec Women's TV and Film Workers – Homage for her body of work, 2000
- Albert Tessier Award, *Québec Grand Prix*, 2000
- Governor General's Award, for theatre and film, 2003



BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1947, Micheline Lanctôt studied in music and the fine arts. She concentrated on animated film for almost seven years, while simultaneously pursuing a career in acting. In 1980, she wrote and directed her first feature film, *L'HOMME A TOUT FAIRE* (The Handyman), which was selected to the prestigious Cannes 'Quinzaine des Réalisateurs'. Her second feature, *SONATINE*, won the 1984 Venice Festival's Silver Lion. She has since written many screenplays, directed seven feature films, written two novels and three translations, while continuing to work as an actress in film and television.

In 1993, the feature film she wrote, directed and produced, *DEUX ACTRICES* (Two Can Play) won Best Film at the *Rendez-vous du Cinéma Québécois*. In 1999, she won the Best Actress *Géméau* for her role as Aurore in the television series, *LE POLLOCK*. After 2002's *LE PIEGE D'ISSOUDUN* (Juniper Tree), 2004's *LES GUERRIERS*, and 2008's *SUZIE*, she has just completed *POUR L'AMOUR DE DIEU* (For the Love of God).

Micheline has also won the Albert Tessier Prize in 2000, and the 2003 Governor General's Award for Theatre Arts.

AS DIRECTOR

-L'HOMME A TOUT FAIRE (*The Handyman*)

Corporation Image Productions; 1980

.Quinzaine des Réalisateurs, Cannes Film Festival; 1980

.New York Film Festival; 1980

.Festival of Festivals; Toronto; 1980

.Silver Medal; Festival of San Sebastian; 1980

.Nomination for Best Director; Canadian Film Awards; 1980

.Nomination for Best Film; Canadian Film Awards; 1980

-SONATINE Corporation Image Productions / Cinéll; 1984

Journées Cinématographiques d'Orléans; 1984

.Festival of Festivals; Toronto; 1984

.Filmex; Los Angeles; 1984

.Santa Barbara Festival; 1984

.Canadian Selection; American Academy Awards; 1984

.Genie; Best Director; Canadian Film Awards; 1985

Prix de la Contribution Artistique; Laval Festival, France; 1985

.Silver Prize. *Figueira da Foz*; 1985

.Silver Lion; Venice Film Festival; 1984

-LA POURSUITE DU BONHEUR (*The Pursuit of Happiness*)

Produced by Eric Michel, National Film Board. Feature-length documentary; 1987

-ONZIEME SPECIALE -- Produced by Cinema Plus; screenplay by Louise Roy, Marie Perrault; 1989

.Nominated for Best Director; Prix Gémeaux; 1989

-DEUX ACTRICES (*Two Can Play*) feature film produced by

Stopfilm Productions, Inc; 1993

.Perspective Canada; Festival of Festivals; Toronto; 1993

.Festival du Nouveau Cinéma; Montreal, 1993

.Official Competition; Goteborg Festival, Sweden, 1994

.Official Competition; Créteil Festival; France 1994

.Official Competition; Sydney Festival; Australia 1994

.Women in Films; Berkley, USA, 1994

.Nominated for Best Director; Canadian Film Awards, 1994

.Ouimet-Molson Prize for Best Film; *Rendez-vous du Cinéma Québécois*; 1994

-LA VIE D'UN HEROS (*A Hero's Life*) 1994

.Official Competition; Montreal World Film Festival; 1994

.Perspective Canada; Festival of Festivals; Toronto; 1994

.Vancouver Film Festival; 1994

.Festival de Blois; France 1994

.Festival of San Sebastian; 1995

.Mill Valley Festival, USA; 1995

-THE EDGE; *The Sin of Jesus*; 30 mins. Tele-Action;

from the Isaac Babel novel; 1997

-TALK RADIO (Tele-theatre; Adapted from Eric Bogosian's play;

Produced by SRC, 1999)

.Nominated for Best Director; Prix Gémeaux; 2000

.Nominated for Best Drama; Prix Gémeaux; 2000

-LA PIEGE D'ISSOUDUN (*Juniper Tree*) feature film produced by

Stopfilm Productions, Inc; 2003

.Festival du Nouveau Cinéma; Montreal, 2003

.Festival de Rouyn-Noranda, 2003

-LES GUERRIERS (Television adaptation of the play by Michel Garneau),

produced by LYCAON PICTUS; 2004

-LE MYTHE DE LA BONNE MERE – Documentary essay produced by Chrystal Films

-SUZIE – Feature film produced by LYCAON PICTUS; 2008

-POUR L'AMOUR DE DIEU (For the Love of God), produced by

LYCAON PICTUS and SHERPAS FILM.; 2011

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

MICHEL LA VEAUX

For the past twenty-five years, Michel La Veaux has worked in both fiction and documentary films. His keen eye and ability to create significant images have made him a highly sought-after Director of Photography on both the national and international scenes.

Michel La Veaux defines his Director of Photography craft as being both an emotional and technical challenge. With each successive film, he pushes his finely-honed images further towards tapping directly into the very soul of the story he's telling.

Throughout his career, Michel La Veaux has worked closely with several directors, developing a close creative working relationship. These include Benoit Pilon, Sylvie Groulx, Michel Langlois and, more recently, Simon Lavoie, Catherine Martin and Sebastian Pilote – who have all come to depend on Michel's keen eye and sensitive lighting approaches.

Michel La Veaux was a Finalist for the Best Director of Photography Jutra Award, for his visual work on *Trois temps après la mort d'Anna* (Mourning for Anna).

Michel La Veaux has also given several master classes in his field, in Vancouver, Toronto, Moncton and Montreal on many occasions.

SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

ROGER TOUPIN, EPICIER VARIETES

(Roger Toupin, Corner Store)

Feature documentary by Benoît Pilon

Jutra Award, Best Documentary 2004

The *Bayard d'or* for the best documentary in Namur (Belgium); 2004

LA CLASSE DE MADAME LISE

(Madame Lise's Class)

Feature documentary by Sylvie Groulx

Jutra Award, Best Documentary 2006

CE QU'IL FAUT POUR VIVRE

(The Necessities of Life)

Fiction feature film by Benoit Pilon

Semi-Finalist; Academy Awards, Best Foreign Language Film, 2009

Jutra Award, Best Film 2009

Jury's Special *Grand Prix*, World Film Festival, 2009

Best Actor Award; Palm Springs Festival, 2009

FIPRESCI Prize, Vancouver International Film Festival, 2009

"Michel La Veaux's lensing of both urban and spectacular Far North locations is a particularly key contribution..."

- Dennis Harvey, **Variety**

"Michel La Veaux, Benoit Pilon's usual Director of Photography, captures the northern locations with warm imagery, while lending a certain 'coldness' to the urban ones..."

- Luc Chaput, **Séquences** (film magazine)

LE DESERTEUR

(The Deserter)

Fiction feature film by Simon Lavoie

"Magnificent cinematography from Michel La Veaux."

- Helene Faradju **24 Images** (film magazine)

"Michel La Veaux's extraordinary images are, in themselves, well-worth seeing the film for..."

- **La Presse** newspaper

TROIS TEMPS APRES LA MORT D'ANNA

(Mourning for Anna)

Fiction feature film by Catherine Martin

"Paced gently with splendid images from cinematographer Michel La Veaux, Mourning for Anna has the rhythm of winter..."

- Ray Bennett, **The Hollywood Reporter**

"Michel La Veaux's magnificent images are one of the film's greatest strengths..."

- Odile Tremblay, **Le Devoir** newspaper

MADELEINE PELOQUIN : SISTER CECILE BIOGRAPHY

This young and talented actress, Madeleine Péloquin, began her career in theatre, in such independent productions as *Honey Pie* (directed by Claude Poissant) and *Les Zurbains* (for Theatre le Clou), Christian Fournier's *Darkroom*, and Christina Iovita's *Romania III*. She then moved up to the Centaur Theatre to take on the role of Bibi Diane in *Condoville*, under Gordon McCall's direction. In 2010, she was featured in *Hotel Pacific* at the Theatre d'aujourd'hui, and in *Les Jumeaux venitiens* at the Gésu, directed by Jacques Rossi, which was then followed by a province-wide tour in 2011. On the television and film fronts, she has been gaining increasing prominence. On TV, Madeleine can be seen on Sylvain Archambault's *Les Lavigneur, la vraie histoire* on Pierre Lord's *Grande Fille*, as well as *Stan et ses stars*, a series directed by Simon Barette, *Rock & Roland*, directed by Sylvain Roy, and two seasons on the Francois Bouvier-directed series *Trauma*. On the big screen, she has appeared in Alain Desrochers' *Gerry*, as well as Micheline Lanctôt's *For the Love of God*, in which she plays the role of Sister Cecile.

ARIANE LEGAULT : LEONIE BIOGRAPHY

A young actress who's as passionate as she is talented, Ariane Legault began working in her chosen craft at an early age. At four years old, she appeared in a *Desjardins* commercial, while also landing a role in *Elles étaient cinq* (There Were Five), from which her love of her craft first developed. She drew raves for her handling of the difficult role of young Gloria, who kills her mother in *Les soeurs Elliott* (the Elliott Sisters). She holds a central role in *For the Love of God*, Micheline Lanctôt's feature film on religion in the 1950s, as well as in television's *Apparences*, to be broadcast as of Fall 2011, and a poignant short film *Dans la neige* (In the Snow). Throughout all this, she's continuing her studies at St-Louis School, Quebec's only dramatic arts school affiliated to the National Theatre School.

VICTOR ANDRES TRELLES TURGEON : FATHER MALACHY BIOGRAPHY

A graduate in 2008 from Canada's prestigious National Theatre School, Victor Andres Trelles Turgeon left Montreal a few months after finishing his studies to be part of the Franco-Ontarian tour of Michel Rimpl's *Rage* (Catapult Theatre, directed by Joel Beddows). He then helped create *Le portier de la Gare de Windsor/Windsor Station Porter* (Singularier Pluriel, directed by Julie Vincent). In 2010, at the theater du Quat'Sous, he took on the role of the young poet in *Amuleto*, directed by Catherine Vidal. On television, he has appeared in *Virginie, Les Hauts et les Bas de Sophie Paquin, Mirador* and *The Phantom*. The year 2011 proved a particularly busy one for Victor: In the fall, he took the stage at Espace Libre in *Requiem pour un Trompetiste/Requiem for a Trumpet Player* (directed by Louise Nolan). He also starred in both Micheline Lanctôt's *For the Love of God* and *Mesnak* (directed by Yves Sioui-Durand), as well as *Le Torrent* (The Torrent), Simon Lavoie's third feature film.

KEY CAST

ROSSIF RACETTE SUTHERLAND : JESUS BIOGRAPHY

This young actor, Rossif Sutherland, divides his time between Canada and the United States, where his film career has taken flight. He can be seen in featured television roles on *Timeline*, *Red Doors*, *Monk*, *Poor Boy's Game*, *High Life* and most recently in *The Con Artist*, in which he plays the role of Vince, acting for the first time with his father, Donald Sutherland. In Canada, he has filmed Micheline Lanctôt's latest feature, *For the Love of God*, in which he plays the role of Jesus. A graduate of both Princeton and the Lycée international de St-Germain en Laye, Rossif is a fluently-bilingual actor whom is as comfortable in both languages.

LYNDA JOHNSON : PAULINE, LEONIE'S MOTHER / BIOGRAPHY

A 1994 graduate of the National Theatre School, Lynda Johnson landed the role of Maryse Lemieux in the popular TV series *4 et demi* (Four and a Half) that same year. She subsequently played many other roles on the small screen, including Jeanne Sauvé in *Chartrand et Simone* (Chartrand and Simone), Christine in *La vie, la vie* (Life, Life), and Esther in *Rumeurs* (Rumours), a role that garnered her several Gémeaux nominations. Since 2008, her Maryse Lemieux character is back, now on Radio-Canada's *L'auberge du chien noir* (The Black Dog Inn).

In the theatre, Lynda has acted in many plays, among which are Louise Forrester's *Avec le temps, cent ans de chansons* (As Time Passes, a Hundred Years of Song), Yvon Bilodeau's *Cyrano, Juliette et les autres* (Cyrano, Juliette and the Others), and from 2005 through 2009, she has been part of Théâtre Hector-Charland's *Rendez-vous amoureux* (Lovers' Rendez-Vous), directed by Martin Lavigne. In 2009, she collaborated with Denise Filiatrault on the celebrated *Un Violon sur toit* (Fiddler on the Roof), in which she played Tzeitel. Other theatre projects include Stéphane Brulotte's *Une partie avec L'empereur*, for the Théâtre Jean-Duceppe.

Upcoming work includes the role of Sister Sainte-Catherine in *Therese et Pierrette a l'Ecole des Saint-Anges*. She also appears on the big screen in Micheline Lanctôt's latest feature, *For the Love of God*.

GENEVIEVE BUJOLD CECILE, AT 72 YEARS OLD.



TECHNICAL CREDITS

Title: FOR THE LOVE OF GOD
Length: 93 minutes
Production year: 2011
Country of production: Canada
Original Version: French
Written and Directed by: Micheline Lanctôt
Shooting Format: 35 mm
Category: Fiction
Style: Drama

This film was produced with
the financial participation of:

Telefilm Canada
SODEC
Film and Television Producers'
Tax Credits - Gestion SODEC
Canadian Film Production Tax Credit
RADIO-CANADA

Director of Photography
MICHEL LA VEAUX

Art Director
NORMAND SARRAZIN

Costume Design
FRANÇOIS BARBEAU

Editing
AUBE FOGLIA

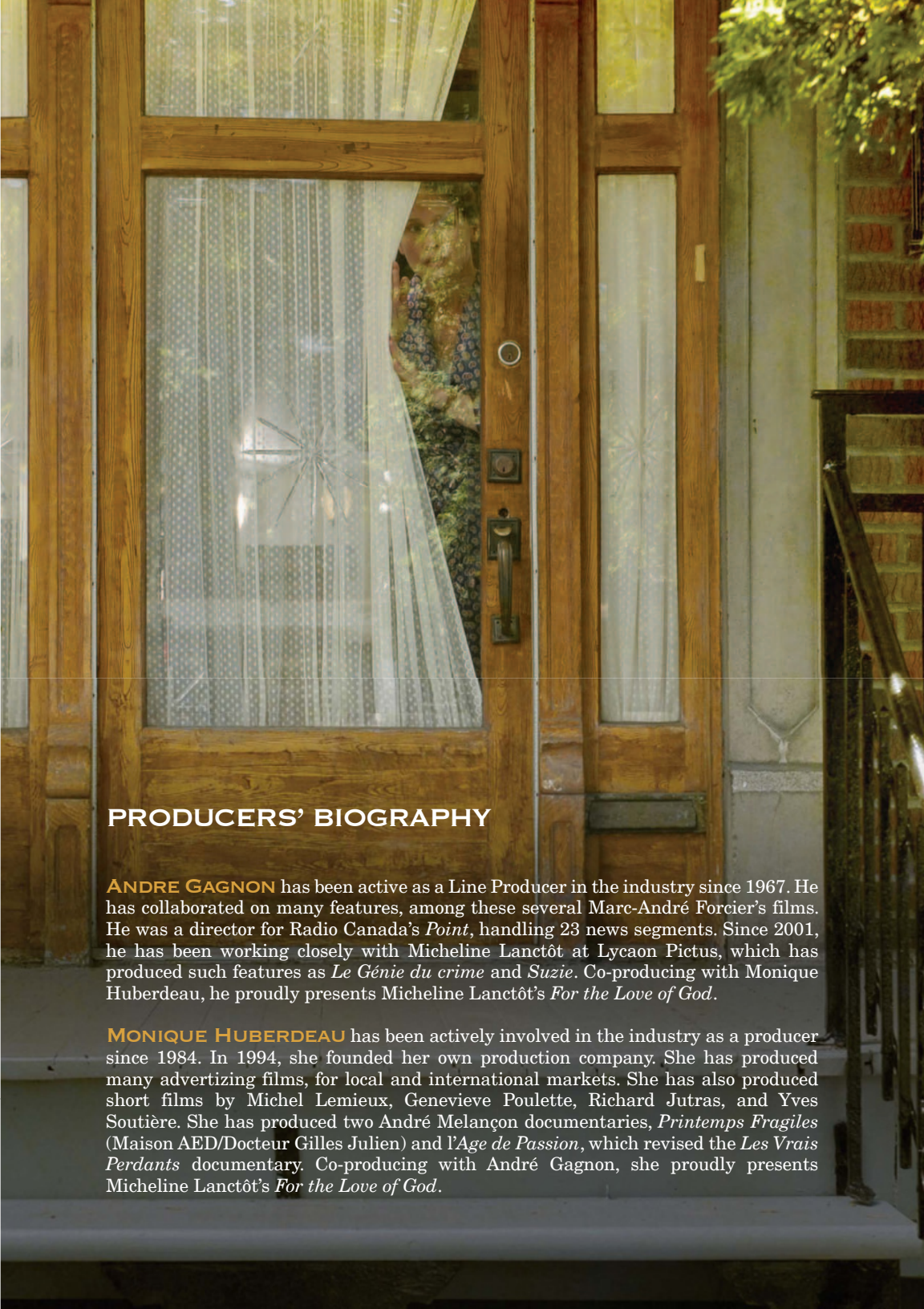
First Assistant Director
PASCAL ELISSALDE

Sound Design
MODULATIONS

Original Music
CATHERINE MAJOR

Casting
LUCIE ROBITAILLE

Laboratory
**TECHNICOLOR CREATIVE SERVICES,
MONTREAL**



PRODUCERS' BIOGRAPHY

ANDRE GAGNON has been active as a Line Producer in the industry since 1967. He has collaborated on many features, among these several Marc-André Forcier's films. He was a director for Radio Canada's *Point*, handling 23 news segments. Since 2001, he has been working closely with Micheline Lanctôt at Lycaon Pictus, which has produced such features as *Le Génie du crime* and *Suzie*. Co-producing with Monique Huberdeau, he proudly presents Micheline Lanctôt's *For the Love of God*.

MONIQUE HUBERDEAU has been actively involved in the industry as a producer since 1984. In 1994, she founded her own production company. She has produced many advertizing films, for local and international markets. She has also produced short films by Michel Lemieux, Genevieve Poulette, Richard Jutras, and Yves Soutière. She has produced two André Melançon documentaries, *Printemps Fragiles* (Maison AED/Docteur Gilles Julien) and *l'Age de Passion*, which revised the *Les Vrais Perdants* documentary. Co-producing with André Gagnon, she proudly presents Micheline Lanctôt's *For the Love of God*.



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARLÈNE GÉLINEAU PAYETTE / COVER DESIGN: KINOS / GRAPHIC DESIGN: STUDIOPASTIS.COM



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