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RIVIÈRE

DRAMA / 104 MIN / SWITZERLAND, FRANCE / 2023
LANGUAGE: FRENCH / SUBTITLES : ENGLISH, GERMAN

NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR

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INFO

With RIVIÈRE, co-written with Joanne Giger, the Franco-Swiss filmmaker Hugues Hariche promises an atmospheric cinematic proposal between the Swiss mountains and the city of Belfort in France. Produced by Beauvoir Films Geneva, benefiting from selective support from the OFC, Cinéforum, and the Bourgogne Franche Comté region, this co-production with Les films d'Argile and Radio Télévision Suisse was filmed in Switzerland and Belfort. It is the director's first feature film. RIVIERE is selected at the Locarno Film Festival 2023 (Filmmakers of the Present).



SYNOPSIS

Seventeen-year-old Manon leaves the Swiss mountains to head out in search of her father, who is nowhere to be found. As she forms new bonds and encounters her first love, she is determined to follow the path she has set herself on the ice: to become a professional hockey player.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Through the story of Manon, I wanted to portray the difficulty faced by today's adolescents in finding their place and establishing their identity in a world where everything seems accessible but nothing is simply given, and one must strive to attain everything. How can this emotionally vulnerable teenager find a path towards normalcy amidst the imbalance?

Manon advances head-on, unconcerned about the obstacles in her way. Excelling in hockey, she has chosen to immerse herself in a predominantly male domain, where she can channel her inner aggression. She refuses to be dictated by societal norms and defies all social constraints, fighting both figuratively and literally to carve her place in a male-dominated world while discovering herself.

The adults in the film, Sophie and Pat, offer Manon an ear she has never had and provide guidance to continue her journey. Although she was searching for her path initially, it is she who asserts her choices at the end of her initiatory voyage.

THE BODIES

The film continues the exploration of adolescence and the human body, a theme present in my previous short films: the discovery of the body in «Les Liens du Sang,» the gestures in «METROPOLIS,» and the transformation in «FLOW.» I am intrigued by the construction of identity through the body, especially during adolescence when it is still evolving and awkward, and its continuous discovery influences behavior and self-affirmation. In their own ways, Manon and Karine (played by Sarah Bramms, an actress and former figure skating champion) are willing to push their bodies, take risks, mistreat and damage them, defying danger with a sense of invincibility and teenage carefreeness that allows them to push boundaries without fear of consequences.

Manon and Karine both carry wounds and loneliness that ultimately unite them, but «RIVIÈRE» is not a film about the discovery of homosexuality. Things naturally unfold in their encounter, in the moment, without them questioning it, letting their bodies and hearts

guide them. It is essential for me to show this newfound independence in today's adolescents, who are more attuned to their emotions and desires, rejecting categorization and erasing gender or sexual orientation boundaries in favor of their freedom. More than a romantic love story, it is a tale of emancipation, and the friendship between the characters and their strong connection to their bodies are crucial to the narrative.

HOCKEY

Hockey serves as a mirror to Manon's story. This team sport, where everyone must integrate and engage in speed, evasion, body collisions, breakaways, and brutal actions, resonates with her personality. While I chose to prioritize action over dialogue, I don't consider the sports scenes as mere tools for drama. The focus is on Manon, closely capturing her movements and emotions on the ice, as well as when she interacts with her teammates and Pat on the sidelines.

FILM AESTHETICS

My stories often originate from places where I wish to film and the characters I envision in those settings. To write this story, I wanted to return to the familiar locations of my childhood.

Regarding the choice of lenses, lighting, and artistic direction, together with my cinematographer Joe Areddy (La Mif), we aimed to evoke the look of a film from the 1990s shot on film in a widescreen format, even though the story takes place today. For instance, the Belfort sports center and especially the ice rink seem frozen in time. Joe gave his imagery an organic texture, departing from the often flat digital appearance. The film has vibrant colors and contrasts, depicting the characters' emotions and the aesthetic of the scenes.

For the film's editing, I had the opportunity to work with Nicolas Desmaison, who had already edited my recent short films. We share a similar cinematic sensitivity, and he assisted me in creating an intimate and poetic film while retaining the strength of the sports scenes and the intensity that characterizes Manon throughout the story.

Hugues Hariche



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Hugues Hariche is a Franco-Swiss author and filmmaker based in the United States. He has directed several short films that have been selected and awarded in international festivals. He was a resident at the «Premiers Plans» workshops in Angers and the Berlinale Talent Campus. His first feature film, «RIVIERE,» is selected at the Locarno Film Festival 2023 (Filmmakers of the Present). Currently, Hugues is working on «All Around Cowboy,» a documentary about rodeo in the American West, and developing his next fiction film, «La Frontière,» a neo-western post-apocalyptic project.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2023 - RIVIERE

Fiction film, 104 minutes, co-written with Joanne Giger, produced by Beauvoir Films and Les Films d'Argile, selected for the Locarno Film Festival 2023.

2018 - PROTECT

Coastlines, Guns, and Women in the Low Country: Documentary film, 17 minutes, produced by Two Lane Films, selected at festivals in Atlanta and the Gullah Geechee Nation Festival in Charleston.

2015 - METROPOLIS

Short film, 25 minutes, co-written with Nicolas Desmaison, produced by Kazak Productions, selected at festivals in Soleure, Kiev, Huesca, Turin, and New Orleans.

2012 - FLOW

Short film, 23 minutes, produced by Kazak Productions, selected at festivals in Brest (Revelation Prize), Aix-en-Provence, Clermont-Ferrand (Carte blanche), and others.

2003 - LES LIENS DU SANG

Short film, 23 minutes, co-written with Erick Malabry, produced by La Vie Est Belle Films Associés, selected at festivals in Pantin, Grenoble, St Benoît de La Réunion, and more.

THE PRODUCTION

www.beauvoirfilms.ch

Beauvoir Films produces author-driven documentaries and fictions intended for cinema, festivals, and television. Priority is given to directors with a distinctive visual and narrative approach. The producers are Aline Schmid and Adrian Blaser. Daniel Zimmermann's «WALDEN» received the Special Jury Prize at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in 2018 and was presented at Sundance. Ramon & Silvan Zürcher's «THE GIRL AND THE SPIDER» has won numerous awards, including two distinctions at the Berlinale 2021. Anna Novion's co-production «LE THEOREME DE MARGUERITE» is presented in the official selection at Cannes 2023, and Hugues Hariche's «RIVIERE» is selected at the Locarno Film Festival. The films «SWISS CITIZEN SOLDIERS» by Luka Popadic and «LES HISTOIRES D'AMOUR DE LIV S.» by Anna Luif will be released in 2023.



ALINE SCHMID

Aline Schmid graduated from the University of Fribourg and pursued a screenwriting course in Stuttgart. After several engagements in festivals, she became the head of distribution for Cineworx in Basel and later the administrator of the Cinéma Tous Ecrans festival in Geneva. With Intermezzo Films, she produced, among others, «Sonita» (winner at Sundance/IDFA). In 2013, she participated in the Emerging Producers program in Jihlava and was selected as Producer on the Move at Cannes in 2015. In 2016, she founded Beauvoir Films in Geneva.



ADRIAN BLASER

Adrian Blaser came to the French-speaking part of Switzerland in 1992 for his studies in Lausanne. He initially worked at the Théâtre de Vidy and became an assistant to Jean-Stéphane Bron for the film «Mais im Bundeshuus.» He then became a production manager and in 2008, worked at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade before joining the filming of «Cleveland VS Wall Street» (Cannes 2010). Since 2011, he has been an executive producer at Bande à part Films in Lausanne (L'expérience Blocher, MOKA, Les pont de Sarajevo, L'opéra de Paris, etc.). In 2017, he joined Beauvoir Films. Both are members of the European Film Academy (EFA).

TECHNICAL INFO

A film by Hugues Hariche

Starring: Flavie Delangle • Sarah Bramms • Camille Rutherford • Till Clémence
Claude Fugère • Faustine Mathieu • Tom Nappiot • Guillaume Henry

Screenplay: Joanne Giger & Hugues Hariche

Cinematography: Joseph Areddy

Sound: Benoît Barraud, Théo Viroton

Lighting: Tangi Zahn, Paulo Miguel Leite da Silva

Set Design: Yannis Borel • Costumes Eléonore Cassaigneau

Makeup: Virginie Pernet

Casting: François Guignard A.r.d.A

Production Manager: Olivier Monnard

1st Assistant Director: Benoît Monney

Script Supervisor: Sonia Pfeuti

Production Coordinator: Marc Burger

Editing: Nicolas Desmaison

Music: Nicolas Rabaeus

Sound Mixing: Maxence Ciekawy

Color Grading: Boris Rabusseau

A Beauvoir Films **production**, Aline Schmid & Adrian Blaser,

in co-production with Les Films d'Argile, Alice Bégon & Clément
Schneider,**and** RTS Radio Télévision Suisse.

