

Janus Films Presents

Aki Kaurismäki's

LE HAVRE

Competition Selection, Cannes Film Festival
Winner, FIPRESCI Prize, Cannes Film Festival
Official Selection, Locarno Film Festival
Official Selection, Toronto Film Festival
Official Selection, New York Film Festival

France/Finland – 2011
Running Time: 93 minutes
Sound: Dolby SRD
Aspect Ratio: 1.85

<http://www.janusfilms.com/lehavre>

Contact:
Susan Norget
Susan Norget Film Promotion
198 6th Ave., Suite 1
New York NY 10013
PH: 212-431-0090
susan@norget.com



JANUS FILMS

LE HAVRE

SYNOPSIS

In this warmhearted portrait of the French harbor city that gives the film its name, fate throws young African refugee Idrissa (Blondin Miguel) into the path of Marcel Marx (André Wilms), a well-spoken bohemian who works as a shoeshiner. With innate optimism and the unwavering support of his community, Marcel stands up to officials doggedly pursuing the boy for deportation. A political fairy tale that exists somewhere between the reality of contemporary France and the classic cinema of Jean-Pierre Melville and Marcel Carné, *Le Havre* is a charming, deadpan delight.

DIRECTOR'S WORDS

by Aki Kaurismäki

The European cinema has not much addressed the continuously worsening financial, political, and above all, moral crisis that has led to the ever-unsolved question of refugees; refugees trying to find their way into the EU from abroad, and their irregular, often substandard treatment.

I have no answer to this problem, but I still wanted to deal with this matter in this anyhow unrealistic film.

LE HAVRE

AKI KAURISMÄKI BIOGRAPHY

Aki Kaurismäki, born in 1957, grew up in “the age terrorized by television,” and has tried and managed to stick to the inseparable realities of the real world and the "deep screen" that only 35 mm film - light against electronic machinations, the beauty of artisanal tradition against technological overkill - makes possible. He has never used any other material, least of all video, and is very proud for having continued the tradition of “real cinema.”

His minimalist style is all his own (and that of the great cinematographer of all his films, Timo Salminen); he never entered the Finnish Film School (as he was suspected to be "too cynical"). At the same time, his films are full of allusions, but always invisible ones, parts of a constant dialogue wherein particles of film culture reveal realities of human environment, society and psyche: as it is now, and as it was during the tender years of Aki's childhood.

LE HAVRE

CAST BIOS

André Wilms

From his start as a housepainter and stagehand, André Wilms has become a distinguished actor in French film, theater, and television, appearing in six of Kaurismäki's films, as well as titles by Agnieszka Holland and Gerard Depardieu. Wilms was the winner of the Best Supporting European Actor award at the 1992 European Film Awards for his work in Aki Kaurismäki's *La Vie de Bohème*.

Kati Outinen

Frequently described as Aki Kaurismäki's muse, Kati Outinen has appeared in nine of Kaurismäki's films, including *The Man Without a Past*, for which she won the award for Best Actress at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. Outinen is also well known in her home country for her work in theater and television.

Jean-Pierre Darroussin

Jean-Pierre Darroussin is a prolific French actor who has appeared in over 60 films, including *A Very Long Engagement* by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, *Same Old Song* by Alain Resnais, and *L'Eau Froide* by Olivier Assayas. *Le Havre* is his first film with Aki Kaurismäki.

Blondin Miguel

Newcomer Blondin Miguel holds his own against an experienced adult cast in *Le Havre*. He was discovered during auditions in the Parisian suburb where he lives with his family and hopes to act again the future.

Little Bob

Originally from Italy, Roberto Piazza a.k.a. "Little Bob" formed French cult band Little Bob Story in 1974 - a new wave / garage band with rock 'n' roll and blues influences. The band has toured with The Inmates, The Clash, The Sex Pistols, and Motorhead. A legend in France, he continues to tour and record.

Laika

Laika, the Kaurismäki family dog, is a fifth-generation canine actress in a line of dogs that have appeared in many of Aki Kaurismäki's films over the years. Laika's relative Tähti won the coveted Palm Dog in 2002 for her role in *The Man Without a Past*.

LE HAVRE

INTERVIEW WITH AKI KAURISMÄKI By Christine Masson

Where did the idea for LE HAVRE come from? Is it from the increasingly terrible situation of people escaping from their home countries? Or did you simply want to make another film in France?

The idea I had for some years, but I didn't know where to shoot it. Basically the story could happen almost in any European country, except maybe the Vatican, or then especially there. The most logical places would of course have been Greece, Italy and Spain because they carry the heaviest pressure caused by the problem (to say it mildly). Anyhow I drove through the whole seafront from Genoa to Holland and found what I wanted from the City of blues and soul and rock 'n' roll, Le Havre.

In France our motto is “Liberté, égalité, fraternité”. It seems the one you kept is fraternité, brotherhood?

The other two were always too optimistic. But fraternité you can find anywhere, even in France!

This “brotherhood” between the people of the fishermen’s quartier in LE HAVRE saves the young boy, but it does not exist anymore in real life, does it?

I certainly hope it does, otherwise we are already living in the ant society that Ingmar Bergman often mentioned as coming next.

I have the feeling that the more violent the situation becomes in the world, the more you keep faith in mankind. Have you turned desperately optimistic?

I have always preferred the version of the fairytale where Little Red Riding Hood eats the wolf and not the opposite, but in real life I prefer wolves to the pale men of Wall Street.

Did you meet immigrants to write your story?

No, but on other occasions, of course.

To symbolize immigration you have chosen a young boy from Africa. Is youth the icon of hope?

There are no symbols in my films, but in general I trust youngsters

LE HAVRE

more than people like me. Which isn't too much, yet. At least I trust Blondin Miguel, the actor of the boy, without limits.

With this film you widened your family of actors. Jean-Pierre Darroussin, for example. However, we get the feeling that he has always been a part of the family.

Of course he has been around, but I haven't let him act before, just clean the studio in the evenings, etc.

Is it is challenge to direct French actors?

Just a privilege.

As with LA VIE DE BOHÈME you seem to look for an eternal and unchanging post-war France of the 50s. Are you nostalgic for this period?

I'm just a bit slow. Modern architecture hurts my eyes. But the 70s start to look stylish already...here and there. Luckily there is always yesterday.

Same with your cinematographic references: Bresson, Becker, Melville, Tati, René Clair, Marcel Carné? Your film seems to have a bit of each of them.

I certainly hope so, because I didn't bring anything myself...I studied some films of Marcel Carné, but couldn't steal much without jumping from semi-realistic fairy tale to a serious melodrama.

From French culture you have also picked up a singer, Little Bob, who acts in this movie. Is he for you a real musical reference?

Le Havre is the Memphis, Tennessee of France and Little Bob a.k.a. Roberto Piazza is the Elvis of this Kingdom as long as Johnny Hallyday stays in Paris (and even then it would be a nice fight).

Did you make the film you had in mind with LE HAVRE?

More or less, I hope...

LE HAVRE

FILMOGRAPHY OF AKI KAURISMÄKI

Writer, director, editor and producer

Born April 4, 1957

Films as Director:

1981	SAIMAA GESTURE (co-dir. with Mika Kaurismäki)
1983	CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
1985	CALAMARI UNION
1986	SHADOWS IN PARADISE ROCKY VI (short)
1987	HAMLET GOES BUSINESS THRU THE WIRE (short) RICH LITTLE BITCH (short)
1988	ARIEL L.A. WOMAN (short)
1989	LENINGRAD COWBOYS GO AMERICA DIRTY HANDS (TV film) THE MATCH FACTORY GIRL
1990	I HIRED A CONTRACT KILLER
1991	LA VIE DE BOHEME THOSE WERE THE DAYS (short)
1992	THESE BOOTS (short)
1993	TOTAL BALALAIKA SHOW – Helsinki Concert (doc.) TAKE CARE OF YOUR SCARF, TATJANA LENINGRAD COWBOYS MEET MOSES
1996	DRIFTING CLOUDS
1999	JUHA
2002	DOGS HAVE NO HELL (short) THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST
2004	BICO (short)
2006	LIGHTS IN THE DUSK
2007	THE FOUNDRY (short)
2011	LE HAVRE

LE HAVRE

CAST

Marcel Marx

Arletty

Monet

Idrissa

Claire

Yvette

Chang

Laika

Grocer

Little Bob

Doctor Becker

Denouncer

André Wilms

Kati Outinen

Jean-Pierre Darroussin

Blondin Miguel

Elina Salo

Evelyne Didi

Quoc-Dung Nguyen

Laika

François Monnié

Roberto Piazza

Pierre Étaix

Jean-Pierre Léaud

LE HAVRE

CREDITS

Production

Sputnik
Pyramide Productions
Pandora Film
ARTE France Cinéma
ZDF/Arte

With co-production

With participation of

The Finnish Film Foundation
CANAL +
Nordisk Film & TV Fond
The Centre National du Cinéma
et de l'Image animée
YLE Coproductions
CINÉCINÉMA
ARTE France
The Région Haute-Normandie

Written, directed and produced by

Assistant director and Casting

Cinematography

Gaffer

Sound

Set Design

Wardrobe

Make-up

Editing

Location Manager

Production Managers

Aki Kaurismäki

Gilles Charmant

Timo Salminen

Olli Varja

Tero Malmberg

Wouter Zoon

Fred Cambler

Valérie Théry-Hamel

Timo Linnasaio

Claire Langmann

Rémi Pradinas

Mark Lwoff

Stéphane Parthenay

Hanna Hemilä

Fabienne Vonier

Reinhard Brundig

Lucas Loubaresse

Renaud Gast

Malla Hukkanen

Mika Ailasmäki

Anne Vahlsten

Kalle Penttilä

Line producers

Executive producers

2nd Assistant director

3rd Assistant director, casting extras

Continuity, still photography

1st Assistant Camera

2nd Assistant Camera

Grip

LE HAVRE

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Best boy
Electrician

Crane Operator
Boom Operator
Synchronization Sound
Assistant Synchronization Sound
Sound Mixing

1st Assistant Art Director
2nd Assistant Art Director
Props Master
Construction manager
Carpenter

Head Painter
Sculptor
Wardrobe
Wardrobe Assistant
Trainer of Miss Laika
Coach, Blondin Miguel
Casting, children
Casting assistant, children
Location Assistant
2nd Location Assistant

Location Trainee

Additional Location Assistance

Driver
Production Translator
Translator
Catering

Ville Väänänen
Éric Garzena
Cyril Dupont
Lazar Abdelkebir
Benjamin Laurent
Konsta Hormia
Iisakki Hormia
Olli Pärnänen
Meguru Film
Thomas Pitre
Pomme Delépine
Ireneusz (Irek) Spiewak
Gérard Simonet
Jean-Claude Guilleman
Sébastien Gallien
Pascal Courtinel
Laurent Thèvenot
Clara Lyonnet
Diane Wehrly
Paula Oinonen
Élise Pradinas
Elsa Pharaon
Jean Eninger
Augustin Werkoff
Guillaume Moinard
Marine Longuet
Pauline Reichenbach
Yoann Le Guiec
Agnès Fanget
Stéphanie Jossec
Frank Lesniak
Frédéric Sibeud
Thibault Spiral
Mathieu Raab
Lucien Lefèbvre
Irmeli Debarle
Mikko Lyytikäinen
Ève Bruant

LE HAVRE

FINLAND PRODUCTION

Production Coordinator
Production Secretary
Post-production Secretary
Accountant

Haije Tulokas
Eevi Kareinen
Kirsi Hatara
Heikki Keskinen

FRANCE PRODUCTION

Production Coordinator
Legal
Production Assistant
Production Secretary
Production Trainee

Valérie Farthouat
Philippe Leconte
Anne Berjon
Fannette Martinie
Louise Lehec

GERMANY PRODUCTION

Associate Producer
Accountant
Secretaries

Karl Baumgartner
Rainer Teusner
Viola Fügen
Camelia Förster