

WideHouse

PRESENTS

LE CONCOURS

A documentary by Claire Simon

WideHouse
presents



BEING GOOD IS NEVER ENOUGH

THE GRADUATION

LE CONCOURS



A FILM BY **CLAIRE SIMON**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CLAUDE SIMON PRODUCED BY BERNARD DOMMERC / ANTOULE CO-PRODUCED BY MICHÈLE CASALTA / MOUVEMENT PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLAUDE SIMON IN COLLABORATION WITH BURELLEN PY
SOUND BY OLIVIER HESPEL EDITED BY LUC FORVILLE WITH THE COLLABORATION OF LÉA MASSON SONDMIX NATALIE VIDAL GRADING PIERRE SOUBE POST PRODUCTION ANTOINE MORIN & JULES JANSKO / STUDIO DALIANO
WITH SUPPORT OF COLLECTIVITÉ TERRITORIALE DE CORSE IN ASSOCIATION WITH CNC WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CINE+

andolfi

MOUVEMENT

CINE +

CORSE
CORSIKA

CNC

Wide House
9 rue Bleue – 75009 Paris
+33 1 53 95 04 64
infos@widehouse.org

DCP – HD – 2016 – France – 115'

Produced by Andolfi (Arnaud Dommerc)



© andolfi - 2015 - DR

*Claire Simon follows the competition in one of the most prestigious art school in the world.
Universal and powerful, the film shows how being good is never enough.*

Claire Simon has been selected three times in Cannes (including twice at Directors' Fortnight in 2006 and 2008 with *On Fire* and *God's Offices*) and was recently competing in Locarno with *Gare du Nord*.

With *THE GRADUATION*, the director delves into the daily life of the Parisian cinema school, la Fémis, where a specific Republican ideal applies and entry into which can be summed up as follows: "everyone's equal, but only the best gets in..."

Through the admission process, the hard work all year and the graduation exams, *THE GRADUATION* establishes a portrait of our relationship to excellency in Art, showing how a profession chooses its inheritors. But every jury doubts and question itself...

In a place of culture where generations intermingle, how do professionals determine who gets in and who doesn't?

Wide House
9 rue Bleue – 75009 Paris
+33 1 53 95 04 64
infos@widehouse.org

CLAIRE SIMON



Born in London in 1955, Claire Simon is a French scriptwriter, actress, cinematographer, editor and director. As a filmmaker she first directs independent shorts. Her best remembered films of the period are "La police" (1988) and "Scènes de ménage" in 1991, starring Miou-Miou.

She then discovers the practice of 'direct cinema' with the Ateliers Varan and makes several documentaries such as "Les patients" (1989), Coûte que coûte (1995) and Récréations (1998), which garner multiple awards. Her first fiction feature length movie, *Sinon, oui* (1997), the story of a woman who pretends to be pregnant and

kidnaps a child, is presented at the Cannes Film Festival Directors'Fortnight in 1997.

Her next film, made for TV, *Ça, c'est vraiment toi* (2000), an original work, half-documentary, half-fiction, filmed within the walls of the European Parliament, is awarded the great prize at the Belfort Film Festival. After an experience in the theater, Claire Simon returns to documentary with *800 km de différence - Romance* (2002) and *Mimi* (2003), presented at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2003.

Her second fiction film, *Ça brûle* (2006) was also selected for the Directors' Fortnight in 2006. In 2008, *Les bureaux de Dieu* (2008) is another half-fiction half-documentary work, with famous actors and actresses as the Family Planning counselors and amateur actresses impersonating real-life women who had come for help or guidance.

An atypical talent in the French movie world, Claire Simon has been trying for more than two decades to this day - ceaselessly and successfully - to capture the essence of reality.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For students, the contest is a road to excellency, the door to a bright future. The only kind of future they are wishing for with success and accomplishment. The Femis' admission contest is reaching to the stars of cinema and art.

Shooting a film about it is like remaking the Lumiere brothers short « L'Arroseur arrosé »... I filmed filmmakers and cinema professionals usually unknown, choosing the next generation who will access this prestigious school.

Along the years when I managed the film's direction department at the Femis, I didn't expect what was surrounding me as a film's subject. Sometimes, being bored in a long meeting for instance, I would imagine those students right there being the contemporary version of Balzac or Proust characters or the documentary version of Woody Allen or Arnaud Depleschin's movies.

I hope the film describes truthfully this fundamental moment where society, here represented by cinema professionals and corporations, choose its inheritors. And also how youth represents itself and gets accepted along the way, how they look to the future. In the old days, future depended upon a good marriage, today, failing a contest for some of them means failing in life.



© andolfi - 2015 - DR

andolfi

andolfi is an independent production company lead by Arnaud Dommerc.

andolfi produces authors from every nationality, willing to explore new narrative and cinematographic aspects.

andolfi intends on claiming a production eclecticism that allows the different projects to communicate and embrace the complete field of the cinema: Live action, experimental, documentary...

Under The Starry Sky, first feature film of Dyana Gaye (France Culture Radio Prize - "Révélation" Cinema 2014, Jury and audience award at the Film Festival Premiers Plans, at Angers in 2014), *Kommunisten*, by Jean-Marie Straub (Locarno Film Festival, La Viennale), *Felicity* by Alain Gomis and also the documentary feature *The Graduation* by Claire Simon are a few of the company's latest examples.

Wide House
9 rue Bleue – 75009 Paris
+33 1 53 95 04 64
infos@widehouse.org

CREDITS

Written and directed by Claire Simon
Produced by Arnaud Dommerc / Andolfi
Co-Produced by Michèle Casalta / Mouvement
Photography by Claire Simon
in collaboration with Aurélien Py
Sound by Olivier Hespel
Edited by Luc Forveille with the collaboration of Léa Masson
Sound-mix Nathalie Vidal - Grading Pierre Sudre
Post Production Antoine Morin & Jules Jasko / Studio Orlando
With the support of Collectivité Territoriale de Corse
In association with Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image animée
With the participation of Ciné+
French Distribution Sophie Dulac Distribution

INTERNATIONAL SALES

Anaïs Clanet

General Manager

ac@widehouse.org

+33 6 83 22 18 06

Elise Cochin

Attending Venice IFF

International Sales

ec@widehouse.org

+33 6 70 00 56 46

Patrizia Mancini

Sales and Servicing Manager

pm@widehouse.org

+33 6 79 06 07 38

Dounia Georgeon

Festivals Manager

festivals@widehouse.org

+33 6 09 67 43 46