

Colibri Films presents

# FRENCH FILM

a film by Claude Chamis

Colibri films présente

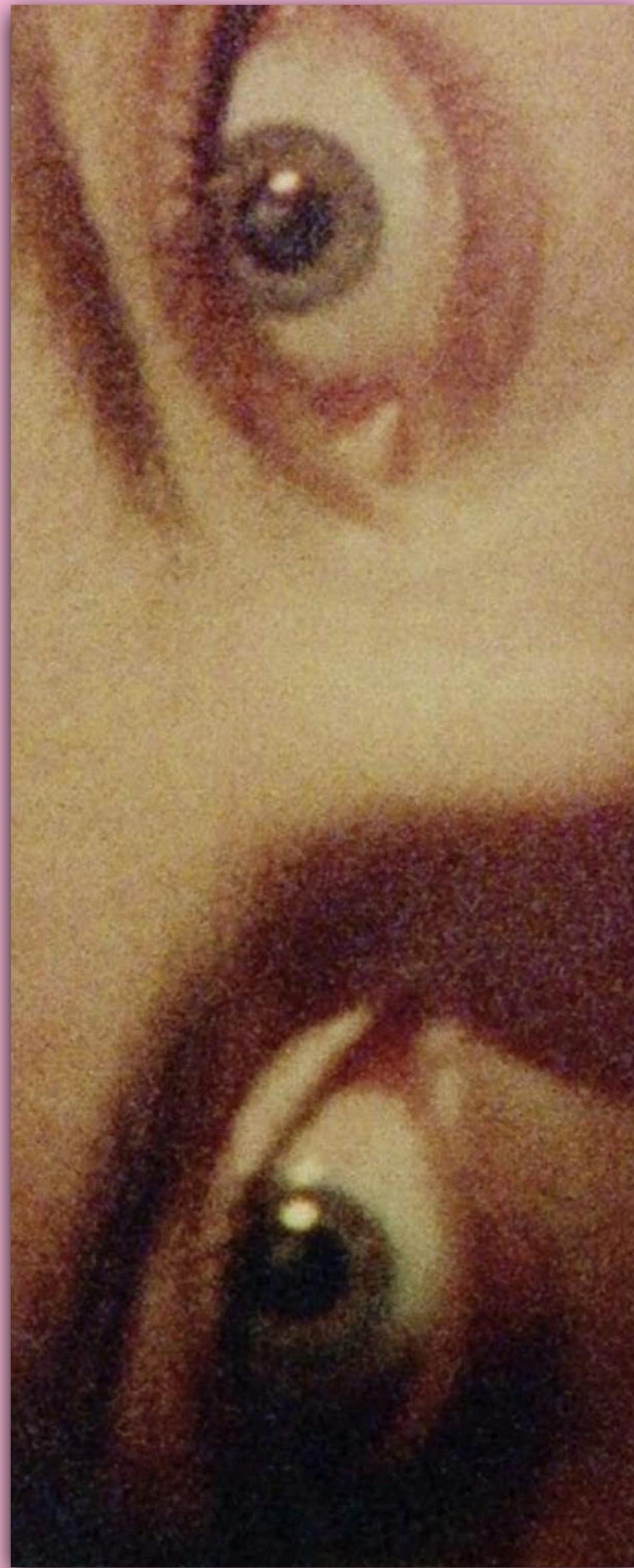
LUCA COLUCCI PAULINE MIOCEKOVITZ  
AUGUSTIN DEWINTER NATHAN MOREIRA



# FRENCH FILM

un film de CLAUDE CHAMIS

CAMILLE FREYCHET AURIANE BUCHET RÉMY ROS ANTOINE GRENIER PIERRE LANCO  
scénario Claude Chamis & Tarek Mini Image Thibaut de Chemellier production Alexis Guiraud



Sam, a young man in his twenties, is in a relationship with Léna, a young actress of the same age. Despite their commitment, they no longer feel the spark they once shared when they first got together. Sam grows increasingly possessive, and Léna begins to question his true intentions.

Lost in a fast-pace society, they meet Arthur, driven by his vision of ideal happiness despite his stagnant observations; a young woman, calm and stoic even as she prepares to get married; and Marco, attuned to his impulses in search of an intense relationship. What answers will Sam and Léna find in a city that never stops?

# SYNOPSIS





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Sam and Léna believe they embody, in their own way, the perfect model: a man, a woman, romantic and sexual passion, and the naïve conviction that it will last forever.

But little by little, they realize they are reenacting a story written long before them. As roles and identities are being redefined, the couple—with its codes, expectations, and promises of stability—loses its former certainty for them. In a society undergoing profound change, both rigid and full of promise, the answers are not always where they expect them to be.

WHERE DOES SINCERITY END ?

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Love has always involved vertigo and risk, and Sam and Léna's breakup is part of that experience. It is not merely the separation of two individuals, but the end of an era in which loving meant obligation. They are witnesses to a shift, and their intimate story takes on a collective resonance: that of a freer generation.



HOW CAN BE AUTHENTIC IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYTHING IS BUT IN DISPLAY ?







# THE DIRECTOR

## Biography

Claude Chamis (1970, Nice) was born into an environment where he never felt he belonged. He ran away at the age of 15 but was forcibly brought back by the police. At 18, after obtaining his literary baccalaureate, he left for Paris for good, escaping a milieu marked by heavy discrimination. It was the early 1990s, and he entered the gay underground scene. These were the Nuits Fauves, the rise of techno, and an unprecedented period of sexual liberation and excessive drug use of all kinds.

Through a series of encounters, he became a script reader at ADR Productions, working alongside Alain Rozanès. Behind the scenes, he closely observed for several years the entire production process of dozens of films, from screenplay to theatrical release. He wrote scripts for others without being credited. A true underdog, he secretly wrote his first short films, which were initially dismissed as insignificant. Over time, he built an extensive cinematic culture, becoming—within the independent scene—an underground Tarantino.

But the AIDS crisis struck, and everything slowed down. After ADR Productions, in the early 2000s, he took a job as an usher at the Théâtre du Châtelet. His first short films were self-produced with Cobalt Films, the independent company of Sylvain Maugens, an usher on the same team. In 2007, alongside his theater job, he directed *Saint-Ouen San Francisco*, which was broadcast on Ciné+ and Canal+ in 2009. This was followed in 2010 and 2011 by *La mort blanche* and *Les amertumes*, the latter winning the Best Directing Award at the Honfleur Festival in 2012.

Years of sexual and drug excess eventually caught up with him, and he developed a chronic heart condition. Open-heart surgery became necessary, involving the implantation of a pacemaker and a daily medical treatment that is now part of his life.

This heart condition did not diminish his determination. In 2016, while balancing his treatment and his job, he directed his first feature film with Cobalt Films, released in 2018: *La balade d'Ivan*, a sensual drama starring Armenian actor Aram Akarelyan. The film follows the arrival in France of a young Eastern European immigrant entering gay prostitution in the Bois de Vincennes. His vision attracted Amazon Prime distributors, and the film was released on the platform as a VOD title.

For his next film, Claude once again turned to an underrepresented subject. In 2021, he portrayed the lives of two brothers in the aftermath of the Hyper Cacher attacks of January 2015 in Paris with *Portes de Vincennes*. Once again, his determination paid off, and the film was released on the UniversCiné VOD platform. He later directed a short promotional film for Printemps du Cinéma in 2023 at the Saint André des Arts cinema in Paris, featuring a young actress he met while working as an usher at the Châtelet, Pauline Miocekovitz.

# THE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, his health deteriorated. Severely limited physically, his treatment was no longer sufficient, and he had to undergo another major heart surgery to replace his pacemaker. After this operation, still working as an usher, Claude met Alexis Guiraud within the new usher team, who had just founded his production company, Colibri Films. Claude proposed *Journal d'un jeune homme perdu*, which became the company's first project. Working with Tarek Nini on a rewrite, the script evolved into *French Film*, scheduled for release in 2026: a stylized romantic drama offering a critical view of contemporary Paris through the young couple Sam and Léna, played by Luca Colucci and Pauline Miocekovitz.

Inspired by Varda and Pasolini, Claude's cinema embraces a deconstructed narrative. He listens to inner, overlooked voices and draws aesthetic inspiration from Andy Warhol, Kenneth Anger, and Michelangelo Antonioni. An usher for 25 years, he is a kind of Vivian Maier of cinema, creating raw, untamed films on the margins of the system.

These last two films have established him as an underground craftsman attracting recognized distributors. A survivor of years of rejection and excess, he remains faithful to his vision: a cinema that gives voice to those in search of independence. Claude is still an usher at the theater and is currently writing his next film on the rise of right-wing radicalization within the gay community.

# THE DIRECTOR

## Select filmography

***The Bridge's Edge*** - Director / 2023 / 13 min / Fiction / Cobalt Films

***Porte de Vincennes*** - Director / 2022 / 1h30 / Fiction / Cobalt Films

***The Wanderings of Ivan*** - Director / 2018 / 1h15 / Fiction / Cobalt Films

***Sorrows*** - Director / 2011 / 11 min / Fiction / Cobalt Films

***The White Death*** - Director / 2010 / 18 min / Fiction / Cobalt Films

***Saint-Ouen San Francisco*** - Director / 2009 / 25min / Fiction / Cobalt Films











CAST



**Luca Colucci** is Sam  
**Pauline Miocekovitz** is Lena  
**Camille Freychet** is The girl in the black dress  
**Nathan Moreira** is Marco  
**Augustin De Winter** is Arthur

# TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Director of Photography:** Thibaut De Chemellier  
**Editor:** Paikan Lacote  
**Original Music:** David Delpech  
**Sound:** Tristan Soreau  
**Costume Designer:** François Desdevises  
**Producer:** Alexis Guiraud  
**Production and Internationales Sales:** Colibri Films

**Title:** French Film  
**Duration:** 1h10  
**Aspect ratio:** 1.85:1  
**Language:** French (Original Version)  
**Release date (France):** To Be Announced  
**Director:** Claude Chamis  
**Screenplay:** Claude Chamis, Tarek Nini





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