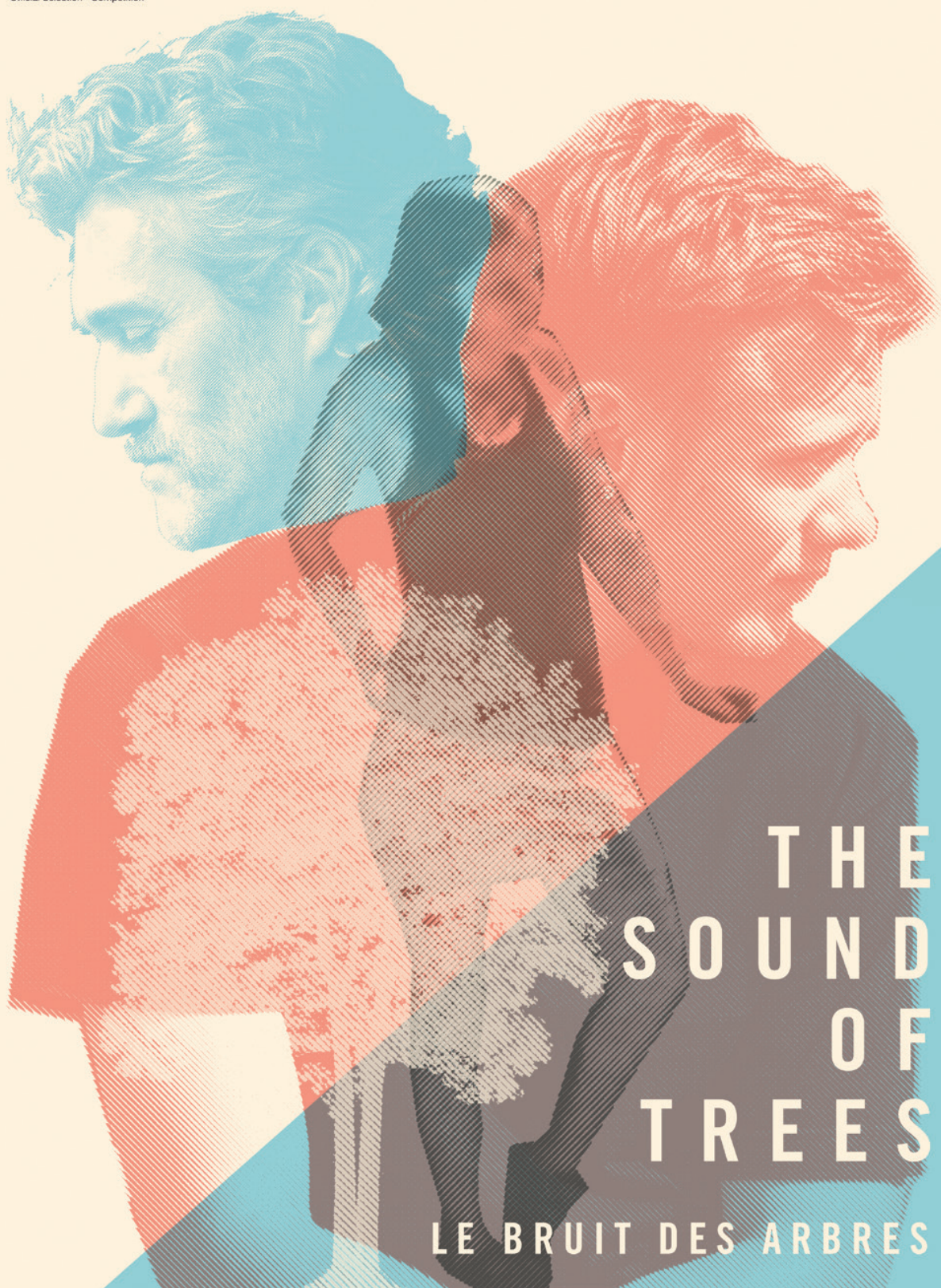


  
Karlovy Vary  
International Film Festival  
Official Selection - Competition

ALPHA VIOLET AND K-FILMS AMÉRIQUE PRESENT  
A COUZIN FILMS PRODUCTION  
A FILM BY FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN  
WITH ANTOINE L'ÉCUYER AND ROY DUPUIS



# THE SOUND OF TREES

LE BRUIT DES ARBRES

  /LEBRUITDESARBRES

WRITTEN BY SARAH LÉVESQUE AND FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN PRODUCED BY ZIAD TOUMA

ANTOINE L'ÉCUYER / ROY DUPUIS / THE SOUND OF TREES / RÉMI GOULET / CHARLES-ÉMILE LAFLEUR / WILLIA FERLAND-TANGUY / BOBBY BESHRO /  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY / FRANÇOIS MESSIER RHEAULT / ART DIRECTOR / SIMON GUILBAULT / COSTUMES / JULIE CHARLAND / HAIR / MAKE-UP / TAMMY-LOU PATE /  
EDITING / MARTIN BOURGALT / AUBE FOGLIA / SIMON SAUVÉ / SOUND / FRANÇOIS GRENON / SYLVAIN BELLEMARE / LUC BOUDRIAS / ORIGINAL MUSIC / MIMI ALLARD / CASTING /  
NATHALIE BOUTRIE / PRODUCTION MANAGER / VIRGINIE LÉGER / WRITTEN BY SARAH LÉVESQUE FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN / PRODUCED BY ZIAD TOUMA / DIRECTED BY FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN



COUZIN FILMS

WITH THE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF



AND THE PARTICIPATION OF



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PHOTO: FABRICE GILLET

## SYNOPSIS

*The Sound of Trees* chronicles the summer of a teenager caught between the river and the forest. Seventeen year-old Jérémie (talented newcomer Antoine L'Écuyer) dreams of a better life, away from the family sawmill and his native village of Gaspésie, Québec. Instead of the forestry work, Jérémie prefers pimping his car, hip hop and slacking off with his friends. The situation drives his father Régis (played by one of Canada's leading actors, Roy Dupuis) to despair as he blames his son's attitude on a local drug dealer. When Jérémie's elder brother leaves town, tensions rise quickly in the summer heat.



PHOTO: FABRICE GILLET





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For me personally, *The Sound of Trees* was the perfect debut film for several reasons. This project is set in the forest, where my heart is, in a region where significant elements are part of every day life. The presence of the river, an important part of the Québec landscape, brings us to the end of the world, while the windmills, although pretty, nourish a sense of pillaging of the regional resources for metropolitan interests. This “Bas-du-fleuve” region is also the land of Léonard Otis, whom I admire greatly. A promoter of the concept of forest farms, he defended the exploitation of forests by workers living in the area rather than big corporations. *The Sound of Trees* speaks of anchorage, the sometimes deafening memory of where we come from.

From a broader perspective, the film signals the decline of Québec's regional culture, which is firmly rooted in traditions, in gestures of survival, in a way of living together. Today, many people in Québec are rediscovering these roots and beginning to appreciate the province's beauty and uniqueness.

Unfortunately, a teenager like Jérémie living in faraway St-Ulric in Gaspésie, he feels that he's got nothing that makes him proud of where he comes from. He may have to leave his hometown to truly come to appreciate it one day.

*The Sound of Trees* also offers a reflection on wealth, our wealth, and progress. “If we don't advance, we go backwards!” says farmer and forester André Veilleux to his wife. Unfortunately, to believe that it always takes us more and more, we risk losing our balance. Luckily, Régis wants nothing to do with the materialism that allows most people to feel part of our world, but Jérémie is still doubting whether his dad might be right.

The film is about legacy, without very little discussion of material heritage. It's more of a cultural legacy we're addressing, this impression of knowing the true nature of wealth that Régis would like to pass onto his son. But for him, the fear of failing in his role as a father prevents Régis from seeing how Jérémie, who was following in his footsteps, comes to slowly abandon, over the course of this summer, the natural elements that forged his identity.

Finally, *The Sound of Trees* provides an intimate view of adolescence. A moment of awkward growth that allows us to break with what has shaped us. This moment is both dizzying and filled with the natural sadness of acknowledging the inevitable separation between children and their parents.

To tell this tale of adolescence, we show thirty scenes that take place during one summer. These allow us to live at a more realistic pace to observe our characters, without feeling that the film's story is more important than what happens to its characters. We wanted to free ourselves from the narrative imperatives that are often forced into contemporary screenplays.

True to the image of this region, *The Sound of Trees* is a tough film in which light sometimes pierces, as through a canopy, providing a touching spectacle. It provides hope that people always grow through the experiences they live. It's a warm, human film in which awkward feelings reveal themselves more through actions than words. Thanks to *The Sound of Trees* I was able to make a sensitive and relevant feature film, deeply anchored in my own culture.





## DIRECTOR AND CO-WRITER FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN

Anthropologist at heart, with a deep love of people and their ordinary ways, François Péloquin creates powerful images that reflect his obsession for truthful details. It's by embarking in *La Course autour du monde 97-98* as a videographer for Radio-Canada that François discovered a medium that led to him directing many shorts, commercials, music videos, documentary series and stage designs. François is currently writing his second feature film *The Secrets (Les secrets)*, with Sarah Lévesque, the co-writer of his directorial debut, *The Sound of Trees (Le bruit des arbres)*.



PHOTO: FABRICE GAGNON

## CO-WRITER SARAH LÉVESQUE

As a child, Sarah Lévesque used to cut out images from magazines to tell stories to her family. So it seemed normal to her, as an adult, to write for a living. She started out as a journalist for various publications (Nightlife Magazine, ICI Montréal, Elle Québec, Clin d'oeil, Intérieurs, Paroles & Musique). She then started writing fiction and documentaries. She wrote *Horses, Men and Cash*, a series of three episodes on horse racing in Québec for Historia channel. She also co-wrote with director François Péloquin the feature film *The Sound of Trees*, released theatrically and in festivals as of July 2015. Currently, she is writing *L2F2* about love through texting with Dominique Skoltz and is finishing *The Secrets (Les secrets)*, her second feature with François Péloquin. Sarah is always looking for that piece of humanity in her stories, whether it be flawed or filled with light.



PHOTO: FABRICE GAGNON

## COUZIN FILMS

Couzin Films inc. is a film, television, and transmedia company based in Montreal. Founded in 1999 by Ziad Touma, its mandate is to develop and produce, in French and English, high quality audiovisual content, combining cultural diversity, social reflection, artistic innovation and commercial potential.

*The Sound of Trees* by François Péloquin is the fourth feature that Ziad Touma produces through Couzin Films. In 2014, *The Guardian Angel (L'ange gardien)* by Jean-Sébastien Lord, featuring Guy Nadon and Marilyn Castonguay, won the Gilles Carle Award for Best first or second feature at the RVCQ and was nominated for two performance awards at the Jutra (Best Actor for Guy Nadon and Best Supporting Actor for Patrick Hivon); *Adam's Wall* (2008), directed by Michael Mackenzie, starring Jesse Aaron Dwyre and Flavia Bechara, was nominated for a Jutra award for Best Supporting Actress (Maxim Roy); *Saved by the Belles* (2003) by Ziad Touma, featuring Brian C. Warren and Karen Simpson, was nominated for three Genie Awards.

The short film *Birthday Girl* (2008) by Erin Laing won the Grand Prize of Sodec's Run for your Shorts screenwriting competition; and *Line-Up* (1999) by Ziad Touma, won the Best Short Film Award at the Canadian Atlantic Film Festival.

Couzin Films also produced two interactive projects that gathered multiple digital media awards: *The Judas (Le judas, 2012)*, a participatory web fiction written by Annie Turcotte, directed by Ziad Touma and co-produced with Kngfu for Radio-Canada.ca, won two Digi Awards, four Boomerang Awards for Best Interactive Fiction and Best Online Game, and was presented in the Interactive Competition of Festival Nouveau Cinema and FIPA, and was also nominated at the Gala Numix and Géméaux Awards as Best interactive fiction series and Best performance; and *savedbythebelles.com* (2003), co-produced with BlueSponge, winner of the Grand Prix Boomerang in Arts and Culture and nominated at SXSW.

Couzin Films is currently developing its next projects from Québec, Canada as international coproductions, bringing its auteur visions to the world market.

## ROY DUPUIS

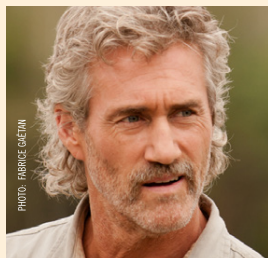


PHOTO: FABRICE GASTIN

Roy first won people's hearts with his moving portrayal of Ovilva Pronovost in the television series *Emilie (Les Filles de Caleb)*, for which he was awarded the Géméaux for Best Male Actor. Following these powerful performances, Roy was offered the title role in *The Rocket (Maurice Richard)*, for which he won the Canadian Genie award for Best actor and the Best actor award at the Tokyo

International Film Festival. Today, Roy Dupuis is a household name, popularized in large part by his role of Michael in the American series *Nikita*, which was broadcast in more than 50 countries. In *The Last Chapter*, the public selected him as Best Male Actor at the Gala Métrostar.

Roy Dupuis' film career took an international turn with performances in the TIFF hit *Screamers* by Christian Duguay, *Bleeders* by Peter Svatek and *Free Money* by Yves Simoneau, where he played opposite Marlon Brando. Roy performed the role of Alexis in *Séraphin: Heart of Stone (Séraphin: Un homme et son péché)*, the most popular film in the history of Québec cinema. He played Gérald in *Machine Gun Molly (Monica la mitraille)* by Pierre Houle and Jack Dekker in André Forcier's film *Les États-Unis d'Albert*. In *Looking for Alexander (Mémoires affectives)* by Francis Leclerc, he was awarded Best Actor at the Jutra and the Genie in 2005. He was part of the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois' opening night in Jeremy Peter Allen's first film *Manners of Dying*. Praised by American and Canadian critics alike, the film was released in France in 2006, overseen by Catherine Deneuve.

Since 2006, Roy Dupuis has performed in a wide variety of films that have garnered international attention: *Truffle (Truffe)* directed by Kim Nguyen, and Jean-François Richet's *Mesrine: L'instinct de mort* in 2007, *Sticky Fingers (Les doigts croches)* by Ken Scott in 2008; Yan Lanouette Turgeon's movie *Rock Paper Scissors (Roche Papier Ciseaux)* in 2012 and Patrick Gaze's *Stranger in a cab (Ceci n'est pas un polar)* in 2014. He finished shooting *Là où Atilla passe...*, directed by Onur Karaman, that will be released in 2015.

## FILMOGRAPHIE

### MOVIES

2015 *Là où Atilla passe...*  
Onur Karaman

2015 *Le Bruit des Arbres - The Sound of Trees*  
François Péloquin

2014 *Ceci n'est pas un polar - Stranger in a cab*  
Patrick Gaze

2013 *Séances - Seances*  
Guy Maddin

2012 *Roche Papier Ciseaux - Rock Paper Scissors*  
Yan Lanouette Turgeon

2011 *Cyanure*  
Séverine Cornamusaz

2010 *Coteau rouge*  
Marc-André Forcier

2008 *Mesrine: L'instinct de mort*  
Jean-François Richet

2008 *Les doigts croches - Sticky Fingers*

2007 *The Timekeeper*  
Louis Bélanger

2007 *Je me souviens*  
Marc-André Forcier

2006 *Shake hands with the devil*  
Roger Spottiswoode

2005 *Maurice Richard - The Rocket*  
Charles Binamé

2004 *Mémoires affectives - Looking for Alexander*  
Francis Leclerc

2003 *Monica la mitraille - Machine Gun Molly*  
Pierre Houle

2001 *Un homme et son péché - Seraphin Heart of stone*  
Charles Binamé

1995 *Screamers*  
Christian Duguay

1994 *C'était le 12 du 12 et Chili avait les blues - Chili's Blues*  
Charles Binamé

1993 *Being at home with Claude*  
Jean Beaudin

## AWARDS

2008 GALA DES JUTRA  
Best actor  
*Shake Hands With The Devil*

2007 GENIE AWARDS  
Best Actor  
*Maurice Richard - The Rocket*

2006 TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
Best Actor  
*Maurice Richard - The Rocket*

2005 GENIE AWARDS  
Best Actor  
*Mémoires affectives - Looking for Alexander*

2005 GALA DES JUTRA  
Best Actor  
*Mémoires affectives - Looking for Alexander*

2003 GALA MÉTROSTAR  
Best Actor  
*Le Dernier Chapitre*

1991-1992 GALA MÉTROSTAR  
Best Actor

1992 GALA DES GÉMEUX  
Best Actor  
*Les Filles de Caleb*

1991 FIPA (Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels)  
FIPA d'or - Best Performance  
*Les Filles de Caleb - Emilie*



PHOTO: FABRICE GASTIN

## ANTOINE L'ÉCUYER

Antoine l'Écuyer is a natural-born actor. Born in 1997, he has been taking acting lessons since he was six years old. His first big screen performance was in the 2008 Philippe Falardeau film *It's not me I Swear! (C'est pas moi je le jure!)*, which earned him an award for Best Actor at the Atlantic Film Festival for his portrayal of Léon. That same year, Antoine performed the role of Daniel in Sylvain Archambault's feature film *The Canadiens, Forever (Pour Toujours... Les Canadiens)*.



In Spring 2012, Antoine was "Samuel" in the Christophe Cousin movie *2 temps, 3 mouvements*. That summer, he starred as Gabriel in *The 4 Soldiers (Les 4 soldats)*, directed by renowned Québec filmmaker Robert Morin. In the Fall, he played the role of Sam in Sylvain Archambault's *La Garde*. In 2013, Antoine starred as François in *Corbo*, directed by Mathieu Denis. *The Sound of Trees (Le bruit des arbres)* is his eighth movie.

### FILMOGRAPHY

#### MOVIES

**2015** *Le bruit des arbres*  
*The Sound of Trees*  
François Péloquin

**2014** *Chorus*  
François Delisle

**2013** *Corbo*  
Mathieu Denis

**2012** *La garde*  
Sylvain Archambault

**2012** *Les 4 Soldats*  
*The 4 Soldiers*  
Robert Morin

**2012** *Deux temps, Trois mouvements*  
Christophe Cousin

**2008** *C'est pas moi je le jure!*  
*It's not me I Swear!*  
Philippe Falardeau

**2008** *Pour toujours... les Canadiens*  
*The Canadiens, Forever*  
Sylvain Archambault

### AWARDS

**2008** FESTIVAL DU FILM DE L'ATLANTIQUE  
Best Actor  
*C'est pas moi je le jure!*  
*It's not me I Swear!*

## THE SOUND OF TREES

A film by François Péloquin  
Feature film - Color - DCP - 78 min. - Canada

### CAST

JÉRÉMIE Régis Antoine L'Écuyer  
Roy Dupuis

MAYA Francis Willia Ferland-Tanguay  
P.O. Rémi Goulet  
Charles-Émile Lafleur

### CREW LIST

FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN	Director
ZIAD TOUMA	Producer
SARAH LÉVESQUE FRANÇOIS PÉLOQUIN	Screenwriters
FRANÇOIS MESSIER-RHEAULT	Director of photography
SIMON GUILBAULT	Art Director
JULIE CHARLAND	Costumes
TAMMY-LOU PATE	Make-up / Hair
MARTIN BOURGAULT AUBE FOGLIA SIMON SAUVÉ	Editing
FRANÇOIS GRENON SYLVAIN BELLEMARE LUC BOUDRIAS	Sound
MIMI ALLARD	Original Music
VIRGINIE LÉGER	Production Manager
NATHALIE BOUTRIE	Casting





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