

# Marie and the Misfits



Written & directed by  
Sébastien Betbeder

Produced by Envie de Tempête Productions – Frédéric Dubreuil  
2016 – HD – 104 min – 5.1 – 1 : 1.85 – French  
with the support of Canal +, Ciné +, Région Bretagne, Indéfilms 3, CNC and Région Ile de France

## synopsis

An alternative love triangle swinging between fiction and literature.

Marie is an alluring young woman who lacks self confidence. When she leaves Antoine – a melancholic writer, she meets with Simeon, a jobless journalist. Yet she prefers to let fate decide for her future. Antoine and Simeon become obsessed by an elusive Marie.

This is a story of desperate souls between Paris and an island in Brittany.  
It's also a story about a story being written.



## Director's note

I started to write the script of « Marie and the Misfits » during the post-production of « 2 autumns 3 winters ». The trigger was this envy, a bit utopian, to build a movie whose characters would be like old brothers of Arman and Amélie (from *2 Autumns...*). What interested me was to see how they would affect the plot, making them responsible for the narration. From one film to the other remained the principle of the actors addressing to the camera. In early versions of the script « Marie and the Misfits », it was a voiceover and then I decided to keep this device.

An interview with Alain Resnais marked me a lot: he explained that he was writing complete biographies of the characters and would give them to his actors. They never spoke during filming, but it was an achievement, a way to "fill" the comedian. I have this idea in mind since I started making films as a fantasy: why not make a film where the characters would release their past, would offer the viewer to create with him a strong bond that would follow them anywhere?

## The actors

Regarding all the characters, the Misfits, I think that there is in each of them a form of inadequacy to the modern world. Suddenly, Mary, Simeon and Antoine take risks to search for happiness and they end up on an island ! I went many times to the Island of Groix, for writing as well and in the museum I discovered the painting of Paul-Emile Pajot which opens up the film. It long haunted me and appealed my imagination.

For the actors, Pierre Rochefort was the first to whom I proposed the role for Siméon. I had seen him in Nicole Garcia's « Un Beau Dimanche » and liked his rare intensity. The first scene funny and moving in the Karaoke bar introduces a very strong character (Wim Willaert), a sort of oracle who speaks of life and death, with a mixture of distress and joy. We will never see him later and he is also a 'misfits'. Moreover, with Simeon biography immediately following this scene, it says a lot about his personality.



For me, Eric Cantona is somehow a kind of 'Bill Murray' with a southern accent ! For the role of Antoine, I needed somehow a bit excessive – someone who could hold a gun, make us laugh and moving at the same time.



If I make a film, it is also to tell mysterious things. These invisible bonds between people, which I think I can, as an author create them. It is a pact with the spectator: he is the

only to know that Suzanne died at 3:14 and that the abstract dance of the end occurs at the same time ... It is a way of saying that, after all, someone pulls the strings, and in this case, it is the author.



Suzanne (Emmanuelle Riva) is the most important person in the life of Marie. It is a kind of 'angel of death'. I think that if I told my own life, I would also have to speak about missing persons. There are two triggers with the character of Marie: her 'acid' trip and her meeting with Suzanne, being so close to her and then to immediately lose her. When she says she feels « like indecent to still be there », it's not negative. She had a romantic life and it's like if she wanted to make room for those who arrive after that and live as she lived. Suzanne knows how difficult it is to lead an adventurous life today, because attempts of freedom are considered rebellious acts. It's sad and anachronistic, but that is a fact. Choosing Emmanuelle Riva, was again obvious. Because of Alain Resnais, of course, but also because her character came loaded with an extremely strong past, allowing it to be fully this character in three minutes. It was moving to fit together the face of Marie, in the process of manufacture, and the one of Suzanne .

As for the dance scene which closes the film, it is something I fantasized for a long time because I a big admirer of contemporary dance. It is for me a way of saying that I can not settle the fate of these characters. The choreography was made in collaboration with Shush Tenin. We started working from gestural improvisations of the actors and the choreography evolved into something less aware, the aim being that the actors and the characters forget themselves in the dance, they go beyond the meaning and the simple analogy of a gesture and an idea. The dancing in unison is a moment of communion between my characters, where the dialogue would never be achieved.

Music was also from the beginning a character of the film. Like many people of my generation, music plays an important role in our lives. I feel around me, everyone is a DJ, everyone touched electronic music with various success, but with the technical facilities offered by the new machines. In short, we can not tell the life of people of 30-35 years without music.

Sébastien Tellier inspired the character of Cosmo. I asked him first to play this role but he declined. I love his adventurous side of music, an extravagance which, taken to the extreme, becomes a matter serious, creates its own logic. We both feel for the same music, lyrics, like François de Roubaix wrote for French cinema 70s Music that stimulus packages and the story, as opposed to these atmospheric compositions plated images that annoy me in contemporary cinema. One of the first things we expressed "the music will have to be beautiful and melancholic "





### DIRECTOR'S BIO & FILMO

Sébastien Betbeder was born in 1975 in Pau and is currently based in Paris. After his studies at the Beaux Arts in Bordeaux, he completed his degree in Tourcoing at the Fresnoy.

2016 Marie et les Naufragés (104')

2016 Voyage au Groënland (90') - Cannes 2016 – Acid

2014 Inupiluk (34') Jean Vigo Award- Clermont Ferrand – Audience Award

2014 Le film que nous tournerons au Groeland (32')

2013 2 Automnes, 3 Hivers (93') Cannes 2013 - Acid

2012 Les Nuits avec Théodore (67') Toronto – Contemporary Cinema Section

2012 Je suis une ville endormie (59')

2010 Yoshido (les autres vies) (53')

2008 La Vie lointaine (56')

2007 Nuage (81') Locarno – Official Competition

2006 Les Mains d'Andrea (38')



*Sébastien Betbeder*



### CAST

Pierre Rochefort  
Vimala Pons  
Eric Cantona  
Damien Chapelle  
André Wilms  
Emmanuelle Riva  
Wim Willaert  
Didier Sandre, de la Comédie Française  
KT Gorique  
Philippe Petit

Siméon  
Marie  
Antoine  
Oscar  
Cosmo  
Suzanne  
Wim  
L'éditeur  
La jeune fille de " La Jetée" (Ile de Groix)  
Rémi

### CREW

Réalisation  
Scénario & dialogues  
Produit par  
1er Assistant Réalisateur  
Image  
Montage  
Scripte  
Son  
Décors  
Montage son & Mixage  
Directeur de Production  
Musique Originale

Sébastien Betbeder  
Sébastien Betbeder  
Frédéric Dubreuil  
Anthony Moreau  
Sylvain Verdet  
François Quiqueré  
Louison Pochat  
Jérôme Aghion - AFSI  
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