

ABOUT FILMS 53/12

FRANÇOIS DELISLE

Producer/Director/Screenwriter

Before majoring in cinema at Montreal's Concordia University, François Delisle directed several experimental short films on super-8 including *La Grande Fosse* (selected for the *Festival international du jeune cinéma de Montréal* in 1987), *Swing Troubadour* and *Un Requin dans ta Poche*. While still at school and afterward, he directed two shorts: *La Mer on s'en Fout!* (selected for the *Concours international des jeunes réalisateurs* in Valencia and for international competition at the *Festival international du jeune cinéma de Montréal* in 1989) and *Du Couteau au Fusil* (selected for international competition at the *Festival international du jeune cinéma de Montréal* in 1990). In 1991, François Delisle came to critics' attention when he was named best new director of short and medium-length films at the *Rendez-Vous du Cinéma Québécois* for his medium-length film *Beebe-Plain*. The film was shot on a shoestring, but in complete freedom. By then, François Delisle had begun making a name for himself as an independent producer and director of his films through his company Gachet Films, which he founded in 1990.

In 1994, *Ruth*, François Delisle's first feature film, was named best feature of the year and best screenplay at the *Rendez-Vous du Cinéma Québécois*. *Ruth* drew critical acclaim and was screened in Québec, Canada and as far away as Germany, Belgium and France.

In 2002, François Delisle founded the company Films 53/12 to direct and produce his second feature, *Happiness is a Sad Song* (2004). After winning the award for best feature at the *Festival international du cinéma francophone en Acadie* and named the best film of the year award from the *Association québécoise des critiques de cinéma*, *Happiness is a Sad Song* went on to international recognition when it toured the world to over twenty festivals and film events including ones in Alexandria, Munich, Moscow, Manchester, Milan, Vienna, Budapest, São Paulo, Namur, Vancouver, Halifax and Québec City.

For 2007, François Delisle prepares the output of its third full-length film entitled *You*.

Films 53/12 is a venue for François Delisle to staunchly defend independent and personal filmmaking through his efforts on both the creative and the production sides.