

PRODUCTIONS OF FILMS 53/12

YOU (2007)

Michèle shares her life with Paul, her husband and work colleague. She has a lover, Thomas, a musician with whom she has been having a passionate affair for some time. Attracted by Thomas's non-conformity and lust for life, Michèle abandons her husband, her son and her profession to live this frenzy through to its conclusion. A quest for freedom and change which sends Michèle on a turbulent drift, but remains, nevertheless, intimate and personal...

"François Delisle is undeniably top-notch." ICI Montréal

"A real punch to the solar plexus." VOIR

"Definitely one of the great films of FFM 2007 - the actors are amazing and the director beyond brilliant. An absolute must-see." ICI Montréal

"That punk-rock-like intensity doesn't let up for the next 90 minutes in this thrilling, deeply disturbing work." The Gazette

"This powerful film turns out to be a gorgeous odyssey, verging on the unreal and fantastic, into the heart of modern despair." Le Devoir

"A gripping and powerful film. ... In You, Anne-Marie Cadieux delivers what may be the best performance of her career." Le Journal de Montréal

"Delisle has orchestrated a visceral, modern fairy tale that echoes a gruelling existential quest. The directing, mirroring the subject's urgency, avoids gimmickry of any kind to focus constantly on the essential. In its very harshness, Toi is a beautiful film. You can take it. Or leave it..." La Presse

"This is a standout role for Anne-Marie Cadieux, the actress Delisle directed so well in Happiness is a Sad Song." Le Devoir

With: Anne-Marie Cadieux, Laurent Lucas, Marc Béland

Directed, written and produced by: François Delisle

DOP: Sylvaine Dufaux

Camera: François Delisle

Sound: François Grenon

Production designer: Éric Bernard, Louise Cova

Editing: Pascale Paroissien

Music: Ève Cournoyer, New Electric Dog, The States

Line Producer: Joceline Genest

35 mm, color, 87 min.

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HAPPINESS IS A SAD SONG (2004)

Imagine it is summer and that, for the last several days, Montreal has been swimming in sweltering heat and smog.

Then imagine that you are in the city's downtown core and a woman holding a small video camera approaches you. She asks you to participate in a one-question survey. Although you are slightly wary of this proposal, you stop to listen. She asks you: "What does happiness mean to you?" and awaits your answer.

Go on! What are you waiting for? Answer!

Happiness is a Sad Song tells the disjointed story of Anne-Marie, an unemployed publicist pounding the pavement in Montreal with her mini-cam, collecting testimonials on the subject of happiness. It is happiness that she appears to seek, or understand to the point of being obsessed by her quest. Guided by serendipity and a series of surprising and varied encounters, Anne-Marie dives head-first into her project. She meets a medley of characters whom she engages in engrossing, thought-provoking discussions about happiness. Anne-Marie moves from one character to the next, from one idea to the next in her survey, gathering reactions and challenging viewpoints that give her a chance to reflect upon her own life.

How can her obsession be explained? Why the survey? And why the video camera?

"Best Québec film of 2004." Le Devoir

"Pic could be remade as an English-lingo star vehicle, but that approach would lose the pic's essential quality - of anonymity striving for something more - that makes this such a fest-ready charmer." Variety

"Here happiness comes in a variety of shapes and forms, mainly of the private kind, thanks to Anne-Marie Cadieux's luminous presence and supporting actors who manage within a single scene to move us to the verge of tears." Cinébulles

"In this sense it bears no resemblance to mainstream Québec cinema. Surrendering utterly, Anne-Marie Cadieux fuses with her character, laying herself bare to the camera, sweat, tears, fatigue and all." Radio-Canada

*"Cool urban film language counterbalances emotional tour-de-force acting by local treasure Anne-Marie Cadieux in *Le Bonheur c'est Une Chanson Triste*, a powerful new story of loneliness by multi-talented Quebecois director Francois Delisle." The Gazette*

*"Delisle, who appeared in *Deux Actrices* by Micheline Lanctôt (here lending her luminous smile to the proceedings), is a terrific director of actors. Anne-Marie Cadieux, on camera in every scene, gives a sensitive and nuanced performance..." Voir*

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"Anne-Marie Cadieux is outstanding as a publicist who abandons her career to wander the streets of Montréal asking people she meets the same question: "What does happiness mean to you?" La Presse

With: Anne-Marie Cadieux, Boucar Diouf, Miro, Marie Brassard, Denis Trudel, Luc Proulx, Frédérick De Grandpré, Micheline Lanctôt

Directed, written and produced by: François Delisle

DOP: Édith Labbé

Camera: François Delisle

Sound: Marcel Chouinard

Production designer: Éric Bernard

Editing: Pascale Paroissien

Music: Ève Cournoyer

Line Producer: Joceline Genest

35 mm, color, 84 min.

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RUTH (1994)

Ruth is the story of a painful adolescence. Ruth decides on a whim to leave her small village in the Bas Saint-Laurent for the "real world" of the big city, Montréal. There she meets up with her brother, Jean-Paul. Her many lovers range from one-night stands like Bernard to Yves and Robert, who are briefly in her life. Passionate, anticonformist Ruth has to contend with her brother's ferocious jealousy - he goes as far as attacking Robert, his best friend. Robert, completely baffled by Ruth's cynical recklessness, finally pushes her away. Ruth continues her struggle to find absolute love. She clings passionately, clumsily and shamelessly to those she loves, and those she doesn't, in frenzied desperation. Continually disappointed and shut out by the "real world," she chooses a way out that is typically extreme..

"Something new in the Québec film landscape. Natural acting belies solid direction." Le Devoir

"Ruth is one of the most moving films I've been lucky enough to see for a very long time." Filmwärtz (Berlin)

"We've been waiting for a first film like this for years."
24 Images

"With Ruth, the films we're seeing here can finally be described as modern." Séquences

"Ruth is an alarm call, a lifeline thrown into the ocean." La Presse

With: Ariane Frédérique, Frédéric Teyssier, Émmanuel Bilodeau, Micheline Lanctôt, Gaétan Nadeau, Jean Gaudreau, Marcel Pomerlo

Directed, written and produced by: François Delisle
DOP: Étienne DeMassy
Sound: Pierre Bertrand / François Guérin / Martyne Morin
Production designer: Éric Bernard
Editing: Pascale Paroissien
Music: Me Mom and Morgentaler
Line Producer: Joceline Genest

35 mm, color, 70 min.

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BEEBE-PLAIN (1991)

A first snowfall in Montréal. Jean's sax playing mirrors his life, including the false notes.

"One thing's for sure, Beebe-Plain's intense realism captured young Quebecers who haven't seen much of themselves on screen these last few years." Cinébulles

"Its dramatic intensity got to me more than anything else I saw during the Rendez-Vous du cinéma québécois." Montréal Campus

With: Pierre Monet-Bach, Anne-Marie Théroux, Gaétan Nadeau, Marcel Pomerlo, Jean Gaudreau, Joanna Gruda

Directed, written and produced by: François Delisle

DOP: Éric Bernard

Sound: Jean-Philippe Dupuis

Editing: François Delisle

Music: Yannick Rieu Ensemble

16 mm, B&W, 43 min.

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DU COUTEAU AU FUSIL (1990)

A story of the city, the suburbs and a stolen car.

With: Denys Desjardins, Louise Bourque, François Delisle

Directed, written and produced by: François Delisle

DOP: Éric Bernard

Sound: Mireille Rico

Editing: François Delisle

16 mm, color, 14 min.

LA MER ON S'EN FOUT! (1989)

Monique and Lussier, two close friends from the street, muddle along in their somewhat dreary little world. Af if in a dream, they end up rising from the slush and floating over our heads. "Work! That's all you ever think about!"

With: Monique Lévesque, Denys Desjardins, Les Vilains Pingouins

Directed, written and produced by: François Delisle

DOP: Maria Pirès

Sound: Éric Careau

Editing: François Delisle

Music: François Delisle

16 mm, B&W, 13 min.