



— FEMALE —
FILM CLUB

Resources

Film: The Innocents (2016)
Director: Anne Fontaine



Anne Fontaine: "The Vatican saw the film and they said to me that it's very true to the point of view of religious life, which was very important to me because I didn't just want to be a tourist in their world. Every object, every piece of furniture had to be true, it had to be very minimal and very pure."



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Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Go63ZVVwivI>

Fun facts:

- Agata Kulesza (known for her role as the outgoing Communist Party member Wanda in Pawel Pawlikowski's Oscar-winning drama *Ida*), who plays the cool and unmoveable mother superior. Was almost not getting the part, Anne met her in a café and told her she was too 'young and sexy' for the part; Agata said to let her try, she recorded self tapes of herself with a completely different energy and Anne knew she was the one.
- The French director Anne Fontaine directed the film without being able to speak the Polish language.
- They weren't able to film in a working convent so they found a shell of an abandoned one and they build the whole interior of it for the film, they also constructed the hospital and the train station for the film.
- Anne Fontaine: "Everyday I would come back from the shooting and find the cast around the table – the Polish actors and Lou – and we would talk. I felt very comfortable because they were intelligent about their characters and they were very creative and very concerned about the story. We were at the end of nowhere, always together in the same boat for weeks. It's something special to be in a convent every day, plus the cold in winter creates solidarity. The feeling in the film was mirroring real life, which was really incredible."
- Anne Fontaine also directed the acclaimed film: *Coco before Chanel* in 2006.
- The film is a French-Polish-Belgium co-production supported by the Polish film institute and Film Commission Poland
- The Film has a 95% rating on Rotten Tomatoes!



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Festival Appearances and awards:

- Sundance Film Festival (world premiere)
- Stockholm International Film Festival
- Cesar Awards:
Nominated:
Best Film
Best Director
Best Original Screenplay
Best Cinematography
- Norwegian International Film Festival
WON:
Andreas Award (Jury prize)
- Australia Film Critics Association
Nominated:
Best International Film
- Provincetown International Film Festival
WON:
Audience Award
- Valladolid International Film Festival
WON:
[Fipresci Prize](#)



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Video material:

Le Mag (French)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2plb_hVnDQ
Stockholm International Film Festival	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKdIXCTowVY

Interviews:

Another Mag	https://www.anothermag.com/design-living/9267/the-true-story-behind-haunting-new-film-the-innocents
Curzon	https://www.curzonblog.com/all-posts/2016/11/11/the-innocents-interview-with-director-anne-fontaine
Variety	https://variety.com/2015/film/global/films-distribution-boards-anne-fontaines-agnus-dei-exclusive-1201410640/

Reviews:

The Guardian	https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/nov/10/the-innocents-review-anne-fontaine-rape-nuns
IndieWire	https://www.indiewire.com/2016/07/the-innocents-review-agnus-dei-anne-fontaine-1201701451/
Roger Ebert	https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/the-innocents-2016



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