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Présents

AGNES SORAL

LINH-DAN PHAM

ANAÏS PARELLO

# IMPATIENT

A film by

QUENTIN DELCOURT



AÏSSA MAÏGA

AYEM NOUR

JONAS BEN AHMED

OLIVIER LALLART

ALSO STARRING BRICE LONDON AND PATRICK FABRE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY VINCENT MATHIAS SOUND DESIGNER THOMAS VAN POTTTELBERGE FILM EDITOR  
MARION MONESTIER SOUND EDITOR HUGO MOUCHART MUSIC COMPOSER CHRISTOPHE JULIEN MIXER MATTHIEU FRATICELLI PRODUCED BY IRRIX FILMS  
PRODUCTIONS PRODUCER QUENTIN DELCOURT COPRODUCED BY SERIALB, 7 AU CINE, PROARTI COLOR GRADING JEAN-CHRISTOPHE SAVELLI SCRIPT GARANCE MARIE

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# IMPATIENT

A film by Quentin Delcourt

Starring

Linh-Dan Pham, Aïssa Maïga, Agnès Soral, Anaïs Parello, Ayem Nour, Olivier Lallart  
et Jonas Ben Ahmed

*Short film – 29 min – France*

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# Synopsis

After a traumatic event, Christine decides to admit herself into a mental hospital. While there, she meets Princess Titou and Laure, two kind-hearted and mischievous inpatients who soon become part of her recovery.

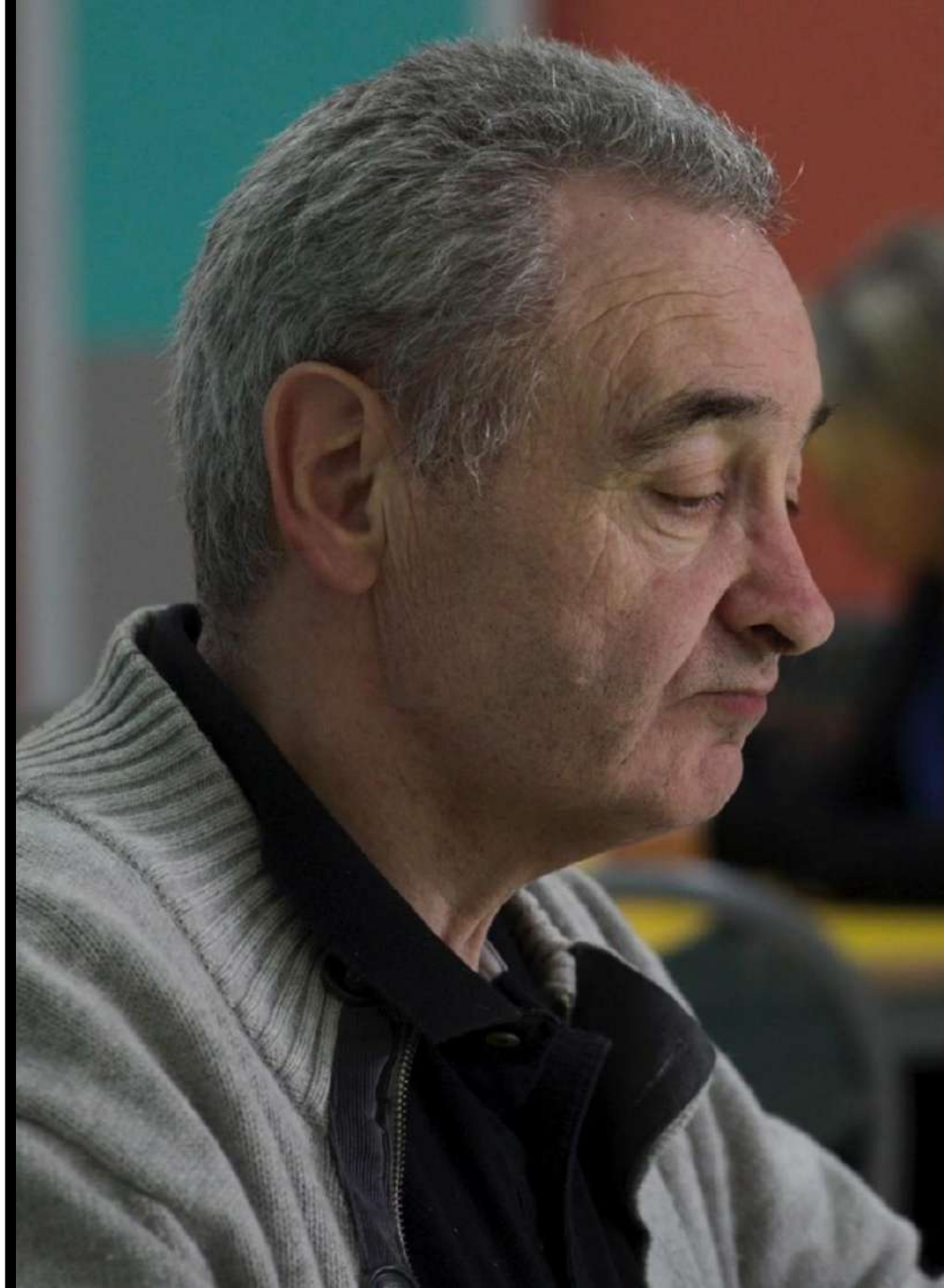


About production

*IMPATIENT* is a **thought-provoking social** film that sheds light on the often overlooked and challenging daily life of psychiatric hospitals. Despite being essential to the French healthcare system, these places are still considered taboo.

The film seeks to break down these barriers by highlighting the **humanity** that exists between patients and caregivers, even within the confines of the established rules. Dr. Milleux (played by Aïssa MAÏGA) and nurse Nora (played by Ayem NOUR) are portrayed as kind and respectful professionals who supervise the patients in their care. The goal of the film is to raise awareness and **eliminate the stigma** surrounding psychiatric care.

The film was shot with great attention to detail by Vincent MATHIAS, who almost used a documentary-style approach. The characteristic tension of the psychiatric microcosm is skillfully reflected in the film's editing by Marion MONESTIER. The music composed by Christophe JULIEN enhances the emerging and invisible connections between the characters, giving the work a truly cinematic feel.





The author-director's values of **inclusion** and **transmission** are reflected in the film's diverse and intergenerational cast.

*IMPATIENT* was filmed at the Public Mental Health Establishment (EPSM) of the Somme, in Amiens. The close collaboration with the professionals and patients at the site provided a deeper understanding of the specific issues facing the sector, resulting in a more authentic portrayal of psychiatric care. Some of the hospitalized patients even participated in the making of the film.

With a hopeful tone and touches of humor, *IMPATIENT* pays tribute to the patients and caregivers who work tirelessly in these necessary services. The film hopes to spark a conversation about the realities of psychiatric care and the representation of these **important services** in society.



# Interview with the director

## *What inspired you to tackle the subject of psychiatry in IMPATIENT?*

Psychiatry is often a topic surrounded by **stigma and cliches** in our society. Despite the fact that one in five people in France are affected by a mental disorder each year, the image of psychiatry in cinema and the media is often **sensationalized and dramatized, perpetuating social fears**. The public's perception of psychiatric care is still viewed as dangerous and shameful, which only adds to the existing stigma.

In the film, Christine, a happily married mother and teacher in her forties, is in need of temporary psychological support and seeks **professional help** at a psychiatric hospital. This **simple yet necessary approach** is still unthinkable for many people today. It's crucial **to destigmatize the image of psychiatry** and accept that mental disorders such as depression, bipolarity, and schizophrenia are a part of life, and we should be able to talk about them **openly**.

I also wanted **to honor** the patients and medical staff of psychiatric hospitals who work in often difficult financial and material situations with reduced staffing, providing constant attention and care with particular sensitivity. These essential vocations deserve to be recognized and valued by society.







## *How did you prepare for filming IMPATIENT?*

I had already gained experience in the world of psychiatry through supporting someone close to me on their therapeutic journey. However, it was important to me that the film crew also **understood** these issues. So, I asked my team to immerse themselves in the subject matter beforehand by visiting the EPSM de la Somme, where real nurses, psychiatrists, and patients accompanied us in our research and on the set. We wanted to **portray** an environment where human relationships were **authentic** and **essential** despite the strict framework and necessary protective actions, such as isolation. I was interested in capturing the humanity of a medical microcosm that reflects our society's flaws and daily victories. Although the film is a work of fiction, I wanted to stick as closely as possible to reality, resulting in an **almost documentary** treatment of situations at times. The sound work was also exciting, and whenever we had a break, Thomas VAN POTTELBERGE and I would go record sounds and atmospheres in other buildings.

A documentary making-of of all this preparation was shot, featuring caregivers, patients, and managers testifying to their realities and their meeting with the film crew. This making-of will accompany the release of the film and will continue the discussion.

## *Can you tell us about the cast of IMPATIENT?*

I am thrilled with the cast as it is both **eclectic** and **transgenerational**, bringing together experienced French film professionals and newcomers. I wrote the role of Christine specifically for Linh-Dan Pham, whose acting is both precise and organic. It was also important for me to propose a leading role for an Asian actress without the question of origins, skin color, or social background being a subject of the film. Agnès Soral, who plays Princess Titou, Anaïs Parello as Laure, and Aïssa Maïga as the psychiatrist are also fantastic in their roles. Ayem Nour, who plays Nora, is a real revelation and a newcomer to the big screen. I wrote this role specifically for her, inspired by her natural generosity and empathy. I deliberately chose actors who were **very different** from each other and wrote knowing where I wanted to take them. The **collaboration** was delicious and filled with emotions. Working with the psychiatrists on-site was also very beneficial and instructive. Professional actors, real patients, and nurses worked together in front of and behind the camera, making the shoot an enriching human experience. The actors' total **immersion** in the film allowed them to forget themselves and make room for their characters to evolve freely or not.





*To conclude,*

It's crucial for me to **raise awareness** about mental disorders, which are invisible illnesses that can be daunting to discuss. Starting at school, we need the involvement of public authorities to break the stigma and **educate children** about conditions like bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and depression, just as we do for civic and sexual education courses. Shockingly, over **64% of French people** have reported experiencing psychological suffering, which jumps to **75% among those under 35**, and has only been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Understanding these issues is crucial for building a more balanced and peaceful society.

From *IMPATIENT*, I hope we can also recognize the solidarity that forms between characters and the friendships and trust that emerge in such closed places. Christine, Titou, and Laure are sisters in misfortune who come together **to support each other**, and this essential solidarity is also evident among caregivers.

# IMPATIENT Team on set



# Linh-Dan Pham

‘Playing the character of Christine was a scary experience for me. She's a character that suffers so much that I wondered if I could do her justice. However, as an actress, I found great pleasure in portraying her.’

‘While working on this film at the EPSM de la Somme, I was struck by the suffering and pain of patients. I have great respect and admiration for caregivers and patients alike. I sensed a genuine compassion and dedication among caregivers to reach out and help others.’

‘This was the first time I felt completely free and emotionally intense, yet surrounded by a supportive and nurturing team. There was a lot of unconscious energy that came into my work every day.’



Portrait :  
Matthieu Camille Colin



# Agnès Soral

‘Princess Titou, my character, was challenging to portray due to her naivety and being medicated, which required me to focus on microexpressions and tics. However, I found her spontaneous and humorous personality refreshing, even though she was dealing with a traumatic experience.’

‘Titou doesn't have a filter, which I find hilarious and was one of the things that drew me to the role. She has this spontaneous side to her that really makes me laugh. Her character has undergone a decompensation, which is a coping mechanism she's adopted to avoid confronting a serious accident that upended her life.’

‘It's surprising how many people are actually dealing with mental illness, yet so few are diagnosed. However, once you acknowledge that you have a mental health issue, you can learn to live with it. Unfortunately, in France, people are still reluctant to seek help for mental health problems, which is a mistake.’

# Aïssa Maïga

‘The situations are presented in a very relevant and sensitive way, using very few words.’

‘It's a film that portrays a dramatic situation with both absurdity and humor. I appreciated the way it conveyed the personal dramas and pathologies of several characters, while still capturing their humor, distance, and irony in a very realistic manner.’

‘Our society is often brutal towards those with mental illnesses. If there were less social stigma, there would be more acceptance from families and less denial. It's important to strive for harmony between patients, caregivers, and the hospital world.’

‘Linh-Dan Pham's performance in this film is the kind that truly showcases the talents of great actresses.’



Portrait :  
Matthieu Camille Colin



Portrait :  
Matthieu Camille Colin

# Anais Parello

‘Laure is a deeply revolutionary person. She's passionate about fighting for other women and defending causes that she believes in. Her character is filled with touching stories and a sense of hope. It's rare to play a role that is so rich and complex.’

‘One of my favorite scenes in the film is when I call on everyone in the common room to join the revolution and follow the yellow vests.’

‘To prepare for my role and understand Laure's bipolar disorder, I watched documentaries and consulted with a therapist. I wanted to avoid any clichés and portray the character as authentically as possible.’

‘Each character has their own unique perspective and experiences, but they all share the same living space. With the other actresses, we worked together to ensure that our performances accurately reflected our characters.’

# Ayem Nour

‘Nora is a deeply empathetic young woman who feels the pain of others very strongly, and despite her efforts to maintain a professional distance, she often takes things to heart. I can relate to this aspect of her personality.’

‘It was only natural for me to work with Quentin on this film, as the themes it explores affect us all to varying degrees.’

‘I was struck by the incredible responsibility placed on nurses who are left alone at night to care for multiple patients due to a lack of staff. Having just one woman in charge of an entire ward at night is not only unsettling, but potentially dangerous.’





About the director

# Quentin Delcourt

*Quentin Delcourt is a Director, Screenwriter, Producer, and the Pluriel.les International Film Festival Director.*

He is an alumnus of the Film Studies program at the University of Montreal (2013, Canada). In 2014, he produced and directed his first short-film, 'ALAIN', in Montreal, which was based on a heavy family secret. He then joined Mecam Productions as the Artistic Director for Canadian pop singer and actress Carissa Vales and directed the music videos "City lights" and "Once again."

In 2018, he returned to France and created the Pluriel.les International Film Festival at the Majestic of Compiègne theater (14 screens) with Laurence Meunier, the multiplex's CEO. The festival honors women and diversity in contemporary international cinema and is divided between French and International competitions.

In 2019, Quentin Delcourt launched his own production company, IRRIX Films, and released his first documentary, "PYGMALIONNES," on January 22, 2020, about inspiring women in the French cinema industry.

In 2022, he produced and directed "IMPATIENT", a short film that was entirely shot in a mental institution. Quentin Delcourt is a member of the Society of Authors-Directors-Producers in France and also a member of the Classification Committee in the CNC. His first feature, "THE SEAGULLS," is currently in development.



# Cast

*Christine* : Linh-Dan PHAM

*Dr. Milleux* : Aïssa MAÏGA

*Princess Titou* : Agnès SORAL

*Laure Lameau* : Anaïs PARELLO

*Nora* : Ayem NOUR

*Clément* : Olivier LALLART

*Lucas* : Jonas BEN AHMED

*Christine's husband* : Brice LONDON

*Milo* : Aaron F.

*Guard* : Patrick FABRE





# Crew

*Writer & Director* : Quentin DELCOURT

*Director of photography* : Vincent MATHIAS  
*Sound designer* : Thomas VAN POTTELBERGE  
*Music composer* : Christophe JULIEN

*Editor* : Marion MONESTIER  
*Sound editor* : Hugo MOUCHARTE  
*Mixer* : Matthieu FRATICELLI  
*Color grading* : Jean-Christophe SAVELLI

*Production* : Irrix Films Productions  
- Quentin DELCOURT  
*Distribution & Sales* : Fløw Art Sales  
- Juliette LOUCHARTE



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