

Written and Directed by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne

L'ENFANT

(THE CHILD)

WINNER, PALME D'OR
2005 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

A Sony Pictures Classics Release
Running Time: 95 minutes

EAST COAST:

SOPHIE GLUCK & ASSOCIATES
SOPHIE GLUCK / EMMA GRIFFITHS
225 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK, NY 10024
PHONE: (212) 595-2432
FAX : (212) 595-4295

WEST COAST:

BLOCK-KORENBROT
LEE GINSBERG
110 S. Fairfax Ave Suite #310
LOS ANGELES CA 90036
PHONE (323) 634-7001
FAX: (323) 634-7030

EXHIBITOR CONTACTS:

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS
CARMELO PIRRONE
550 MADISON AVENUE,
NEW YORK NY 10022
PHONE (212) 833-8833
FAX (212) 833-8844

VISIT THE SONY PICTURES CLASSICS INTERNET SITE AT:
<http://www.sonyclassics.com>

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

“This film probably dates from a day during the shooting of our previous film (THE SON). We were in Seraing, Belgium on Rue du Molinay. In the morning, afternoon and evening, we saw a girl pushing a pram along, with a newborn baby asleep inside it. She didn't seem to be going anywhere in particular – just around and around with the pram. We have often thought back to this girl, her pram, the sleeping child, and the missing character: the child's father. This absent figure would become our story... A love story that is also the story of a father.”

Jean-Pierre and Luc DARDENNE

SYNOPSIS

Dispossessed twenty-year old Bruno (J r mie Renier) lives with his eighteen-year-old girlfriend Sonia (D borah Fran ois) in Seraing, an eastern Belgian steel town. They live off Sonia's unemployment benefits and the panhandling and petty theft committed by Bruno and his gang. Their lives change forever when Sonia gives birth to their child, Jimmy. She returns home after Jimmy's birth to find that Bruno has sublet their apartment to total strangers. After an initial and promising change of heart about becoming a father and changing his ways, Jimmy becomes little more to Bruno than a new source of wealth. Desperate for money and unable to face his parental responsibilities, Bruno sells Jimmy to a black market connection, who promises to find the child an adoptive home. Realizing the error in his actions Bruno sets out to try and undo his callous deed, leading him to a powerful personal transformation.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Jérémie Renier (BRUNO)

First noticed as the young lead of the Dardennes' LA PROMESSE, Jérémie Renier is a rising star of the European film, theatre and television world. In addition to his work with the Dardenne brothers, Jérémie has worked with such notable French directors as Francois Ozon, Christophe Gans and Bertrand Bonello.

Jérémie has recently finished shooting FAIRPLAY directed by Lionel Bailliu and co-starring Benoit Magimel and Marion Cotillard.

Selected Filmography

- 1996 THE PROMISE (LA PROMESSE) (Dir: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne)
- 1999 ROSETTA (Dir: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne)
- 1999 CRIMINAL LOVERS (Dir: Francois Ozon)
- 2000 MURDEROUS MAIDS (Dir: Jean-Pierre Denis)
- 2001 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF (Dir: Christophe Gans)
- 2001 THE PORNOGRAPHER (Dir: Bertrand Bonello)
- 2002 THE SON (LE FILS) (Dir: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne)
- 2004 SAN ANTONIO (Dir: Frederic Auburtin)
- 2005 L'ENFANT (THE CHILD) (Dir: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne)
- 2005 FAIRPLAY (Dir: Lionel Bailliu)

Déborah François (SONIA)

L'ENFANT (THE CHILD) marks the film debut of Déborah François whose superb performance has been noted by critics worldwide.

FILMMAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Directors- Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne

The internationally acclaimed Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne have over 20 years of filmmaking experience as documentary producers/directors and segued into writing, producing and directing narrative feature films. In 1975, Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne founded the company "DERIVES," which has since produced over 60 documentaries, including their own. In 1994, they founded the production company "LES FILMS DU FLEUVE".

1996 was the Dardenne brothers' feature film breakthrough with the acclaimed release of LA PROMESSE (THE PROMISE) starring Jérémie Renier (who stars in L'ENFANT,) Olivier Gourmet and Assita Ouédraogo. They followed LA PROMESSE with the 1999's Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or and critical smash ROSETTA starring Emilie Dequenne and Olivier Gourmet, which also garnered a Cannes Best Actress Award for Ms. Dequenne. THE SON (LE FILS) starring Olivier Gourmet won Mr. Gourmet the Best Actor Award at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival.

The Dardenne brothers belong to a rare group of filmmakers, including Bille August, Francis Ford Coppola and Emir Kusturica, who have won the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or twice.

FILMOGRAPHY (FICTIONS FILMS)

- 1987 FALSCH
Starring: Bruno Crémer
- 1992 JE PENSE À VOUS (I THINK OF YOU)
Starring: Fabienne Babe and Robin Renucci
- 1996 LA PROMESSE (THE PROMISE)
Starring: Jérémie Renier, Olivier Gourmet and Assita Ouédraogo
- 1999 ROSETTA
Starring: Emilie Dequenne, Fabrizio Rongione, Anne Yernaux and Olivier Gourmet
Winner: Cannes 1999's Palme d'Or
Winner: Cannes 1999's Best Actress Award (Emilie Dequenne)
- 2002 LE FILS (THE SON)
Starring: Olivier Gourmet, Morgan Marianne, and Isabella Soupart
Winner: Cannes 2002's Best Actor Award (Olivier Gourmet)
- 2005 THE CHILD (L'ENFANT)
Starring: Jérémie Renier and Déborah François
Winner: Cannes 2005's Palme d'Or

Director Of Photography- Alain Marcoen

A long time collaborator of the Dardenne brothers, Alain Marcoen has worked with them since LA PROMESSE.

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- 2005 L'ENFANT (THE CHILD) (Dir: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne)

Editor- Marie-Hélène Dozo

In addition to being a regular collaborator to the Dardenne brothers, Marie-Hélène Dozo has worked with filmmakers from around the world since the early 1990s.

Selected filmography

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- 2000 MURDEROUS MAIDS (Dir: Jean-Pierre Denis)
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- 2005 L'ENFANT (THE CHILD) (Dir: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne)

CAST LIST

Bruno	Jérémie Renier
Sonia	Déborah François
Steve	Jérémie Segard
Young thug	Fabrizio Rongione
Plainclothes officer	Olivier Gourmet
Receiver	Stéphane Bissot
Bruno's mother	Mireille Bailly
Female shopkeeper	Anne Gérard
Shopkeeper	Bernard Marbaix
Older thug	Frédéric Bodson
Police station policeman	Léon Michaux
Thomas	Samuel De Ryck
Shelter janitor	Hachemi Haddad
Second shopkeeper	Olindo Bolzan
Inspector	Sophia Leboutte
Hospital receptionist	Alao Kasongo
Barman	Jean-Michel Balthazar
Showroom receiver	Philippe Jeusette

CREW LIST

Screenplay and Direction	Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne
Director of Photography	Alain Marcoen
Camera Operator	Benoit Dervaux
1st Assistant Camera	Hicham Alaouié
Sound Engineer	Jean-Pierre Duret
Editor	Marie-Hélène Dozo
Sound Editor	Benoit de Clerck
Sound Mixer	Thomas Gauder
Set Decorator	Igor Gabriel
Costumes	Monic Parelle
Make-up Artist	Tina Kopecka
1st assistant Director	Bernard Garant
Production Manager	Véronique Marit
Locations Manager	Philippe Groff
Producers	Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne Denis Freyd
Line Producer	Olivier Bronckart
Associate Producers	Arlette Zylberberg Geneviève Lemal Alexandre Lippens