

**Screening at the Festival del Film Locarno  
Concorso Cineasti del Presente Competition**

Reprise Films inc., in association with Nouveau Film inc. is proud to present

**JO POUR JONATHAN** - *Jo for Jonathan*

a film by *Maxime Giroux*

**VENTES / SALES**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Jo lives in the shadow of his older brother. Amidst a world of delinquency, they become interested in illegal car racing. One night they participate in of them, never reaching the finish line. Jo will become Jonathan.

## **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

80 minutes, color, shot in 16mm, screening format 35 mm, Dolby SR,

Original language: French

Subtitles: English

Ratio: 1:85

## **CAST**

### **Jonathan**

Thomas

Alexandra

Samuel

Competitor

Cynthia

Mother

Friend of competitor

Salesman in car parts shop

Soaked man

Woman who got stolen

SAAQ evaluator 1

SAAQ evaluator 2

Security agent 1

Security agent 2

### **Raphaël Lacaille**

Jean-Sébastien Courchesne

Vanessa Pilon

Jean-Alexandre Létourneau

Keven Noël

Éliane Gagnon

Andrée Vachon

Patrick Sylvain

Steve Mallette

Claude Talbot

Monique Pion

Martin Dubreuil

Simone Chevalot

Luc Lepage

Robert Blais

## **CREW**

Director

Director of photography

Screenwriters

Producer

Co-producer

Executive producer

Production manager

Production coordinator

Editor

First camera assistant

Gaffer and key grip

Sound

Wardrobe and costumes

SFX makeup artist

Blood/SFX makeup artist

3D VFX

Original music

Maxime Giroux

Sara Mishara

Alexandre Laferrière

Maxime Giroux

Paul Barbeau

Maxime Giroux

Paul Barbeau

Michelle Quinn

Catherine Simard

Mathieu Bouchard-Malo

Guillaume Parisien

Alexis Vallée-Charest

Marcel Chouinard

Patricia McNeil

C.J. Goldman

Martin Dubreuil

Joshua Sherrett

Olivier Alary

## **JO FOR JONATHAN NOTE FROM AUTHORS**

### **FIRST THERE IS JO AND THE CAR**

At 17, Jo idolizes his big brother, Thomas, car enthusiast and drag racer extraordinaire. One night an illegal race ends in a fiery crash. Jo is more or less uninjured, but Thomas is badly burned and disfigured. Condemned to isolation and shame, Thomas asks Jo to help him end his suffering...

Through this drama, the film explores the ever-closer connection between certain young people and their cars. It's a connection that has developed and grown stronger. For our characters, cars are far more than just a means of transportation. They are a symbol and an ideal, a precious emblem that defines who they are, an extension of themselves. Cars have the power to change the way others see them.

The characters are defined by their cars. The final frontier of this love affair is racing. Racing raises them to the level of gods. Racing gives them a platform, a way to achieve recognition. It's an adrenaline rush they can access here and now. They fill the emptiness of their lives by racing, without ever considering the consequences of their actions and the dangers it may lead to.

Where does this fascination with cars come from? To what extent does a car define its owner's social status? What about speed? Carelessness or suicidal desire to break through limits? Our goal was to draw connections, explore and question the terrible effects of this excess. There is no demagogic message in Jo for Jonathan, just the portrait of a young man in the throes of realization, slowly watching his illusions disappear.

### **THERE ARE PLACES AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE**

Every year, about 600 Quebecers, out of a population 7.5 million, die in car accidents. Of these, 25% are between 15 and 24 years old. Speeding is one of the main causes of these deaths.

In its own particular way, suburban Quebec provides a very realistic portrait of what our society has become. What it aspires to in terms of lifestyle and sophistication. Its short- and long-term vision. We did not want to change the reality of that urban universe, with its social context and incomprehensible violence, so with a skeleton crew, we infiltrated the world of car racing.

We tried to stay true to the reality. The locations were not changed and the people in the film are real car race enthusiasts. Both at the autodrome, where the competitions are legal and supervised, and in the industrial zones where, on the contrary, races can quickly become tragic. We even filmed in the house of the director's father, who lives just a few minutes away from the race site.

Our main goal was to draw inspiration from the locations, to film Americanized youth without showing the spectacular side of the races. Suggest collisions, and examine the psychological impacts.

## AND THEN THERE IS JONATHAN

After the accident, Thomas is destroyed. He has lost his identity and he refuses to live with his new deformed and disabled self. His face is hideous, and the future stretches out ahead as one long road of agony. Jo has to choose: let him live or help him to die.

Initially carefree and playful, Jo has to take the plunge from adolescence into adulthood. And so we watch as he becomes someone else, someone named Jonathan. This painful transition shatters his dreams and his love of cars. Imprisoned by the inevitable, Jo, having become Jonathan, makes his choice and carries through. He will have to bear the burden of the past, but he has become a man. He has come face to face with his humanity.

The film focuses on two different time frames, the time of Jo and the time of Jonathan. Jo for Jonathan is both tragic and luminous. Among the roaring engines and the tragedy of things that can't be changed, we also witness the romanticism of youth and brotherhood.

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**MAXIME GIROUX** – director

Maxime Giroux has directed four short films since 2001. His two most recent films, *Le rouge au sol (Red)* and *Les jours (The Days)* have been selected in over 50 festivals (including Tempere, Clermont-Ferrand, Sundance, Rotterdam and Oberhausen) and have won more than 15 international awards. These include awards for best short film at the Toronto International Film Festival, the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma de Montréal, the 2007 Genie Short Film Award and the Jackson-Triggs Award at the 2006 Worldwide Short Film Festival in Toronto. *Demain (Sophie)*, his first feature-length film, was selected in the official competition at the Turin Film Festival. He has also earned an honourable mention by the jury at the Tübingen-Stuttgart International French Film Festival.



*Jo pour Jonathan*, his most recent film, is in perfect continuity with his earlier works. Its world premiere will be at the International Film Festival in Locarno. Giroux is currently at work on two other feature-length films.

**RAPHAËL LACAILLE** – actor  
*Jonathan*

Graduated from the St-Hyacinthe School Theatre (2009), Raphael has found his place in the large artistic world and it finally feels like home. His passion for acting has led him to join the Dynamo Theater, where he entered for the second year an intense formation in acting.

Raphaël has found a way to get noticed as well in plays and in television. He played at first in *Toute la vérité*, *Providence*, *Trauma*, *Rock et Roland* and *La promesse*. In movies, he plays the lead role Jonathan in *Jo pour Jonathan*, his first major feature film role and a second part in *Voyez comme ils dansent* of french director Claude Miller.



He is actually creating a show for youth, *Matéo et le souvenir perdu*, of which the tour will begin in next September all around Quebec. He is also co-writer, director and actor of web-tv called *Les motst'asdots*, airing next August.

**PAUL BARBEAU** – producer

Paul Barbeau got his start as owner of Nufilms, where he produced over 700 music videos for many international artists. He is a two-time nominee at the Victoires de la musique in Paris. He collaborated with French rapper Diam's on her highly controversial music video *Ma France à moi* starring Pascal Greggory. He also got a nomination at the Grammy Music Awards for music video of the year in January 2010 for the artist Beast.

Over the past five years he has produced some 15 short films, shown in over 50 different film festivals, winning 20 prestigious awards (Toronto International Film Festival, Milan, Melbourne and F.N.C., to name a few).

In 2009, Barbeau produced his first feature-length film entitled *Demain* with Maxime Giroux, which was shown in Turin and received an honourable mention for best film at the Tübingen-Stuttgart Festival in Germany. *Jo pour Jonathan* is the second feature-length film which he has also produced with Giroux. Barbeau currently has three other films in production set to be released in 2011, including *Grandes espérances*, directed by Ivan Grbovic, and *Avant que mon coeur bascule*, directed by Sébastien Rose.

