

METAFILMS PRESENTS



Jeune Juliette

A FILM BY **ANNE ÉMOND**

FILMS *Boutique*



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Produced by Metafilms Inc.

2019 - Canada - Comedy/Drama - 1.78 - 93 min

with Alexane Jamieson, Léanne Désilets, Antoine Desrochers

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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Short Summary

Meet Juliette, a high school sophomore. Juliette is a heavy girl; she's also bold, funny, slightly scheming and totally endearing. It's the hectic last few weeks before summer vacation, and Juliette is about to learn some big lessons about boys, love, and friendship. She'll even do some growing up—but not too much.

Ten-line summary

Fourteen-year old Juliette lives in the country with her father and her older brother. When Juliette was younger, her mother left the family to pursue her career in New York; from that moment, Juliette started to gain weight. Today, she's not obese, but she's clearly the heaviest girl at her high school. But that doesn't stop her from being vivacious, funny and unrepentantly rebellious. Juliette has big dreams: she wants to throw the best parties, move to New York to live with her mother, and date the most gorgeous guy in her school, an older boy who is about to graduate. In short, she wants everything she can't have—which sometimes makes her forget to appreciate those who really love her. We follow this brazen and endearing girl during her hectic last few weeks before summer vacation, and watch as she does some growing up—but not too much.



Director's Statement

JEUNE JULIETTE is the simple story about a young girl leaving childhood behind her to start the long journey towards self-discovery and acceptance of her personality, image and beliefs. If many « coming-of-age » movies tell the hardship of becoming an adult, JEUNE JULIETTE focuses on the hardship of becoming a teenager.

« I'm looking forward to something, but I don't know what », says Juliette to her dad, at the very beginning of the film. She therefore describes with eloquence but unconsciously this period of life so exciting though also terrifying. She doesn't know what she will become, but she knows that she is looking forward to becoming it.

Juliette will live several experiences which will change her forever. She will understand how important other peoples' opinion and glance can be. The child she is doesn't even see that she is chubby, and therefore doesn't see that other people notice it. The child she is can both beautifully and naively believe that this out-of-reach guy she's in love with will soon love her back. The child she is can believe that her mother, who almost abandoned her, will warmly welcome her in New York.



The end of childhood is like stopping to believe in the impossible.

I did get somehow inspired by my childhood to write this script. I, myself, was pretty chubby from age 8 to 18 approximately. When I think about this period, two facts amuse me and seem interesting at the drama level. First, it's only very late, when I was around 14, that I noticed the situation. Before that, at school, some pupil called me « fat Emond », I had never thought about my body, nor compared it to others'. I think that I simply never realized that I was overweight. This probably led me to the second interesting aspect of this story: being fat never impeded me from doing anything. I had a few girlfriends, but loyal and amazing ones. I was trying out every style, from hippie to gothic to punk rock: I was pretty audacious and felt good. I fell in love with boys who didn't love me back in real life, but they triggered daydreams in me, and I lived « true imaginary stories » with them.

Juliette, despite her weight and her dissatisfactions, has everything to be happy: friends, a strong personality, a good family. She just needs to figure it out. This is the journey she takes in the movie. Rather than running for everything she can't have, she learns to love what she has. She learns to accept who she is and those she loves, no matter how « different » they can be: lesbian, OCD, etc. Careful, she's only 14, and won't become wise by the end of the movie. She will grow up, sure, but will remain a young, bold, liar and



insolent girl. So good at dreaming, Juliette won't stop so early on, nor will she stop making her life more beautiful, nor lying, nor getting revenge.

JEUNE JULIETTE, I hope so, is a funny, colourful, endearing and somehow quirky movie, as its protagonists. It's a movie which kindly depicts these teenage years when everything seems dramatic and essential while we would soon discover how beautiful and simple this period was. It's a funny movie but not bland, nostalgic but not too heavy. And since we are talking about nostalgia, JEUNE JULIETTE makes a few references to my first favourite movies, from childhood, from L'EFFRONTE by Claude Miller to BREAKFAST CLUB by John Hughes.

Very rarely does cinema depicts female characters who love themselves and accept themselves as they are, despite their flaws. We need this, and on a personal note, I believe that I would have loved having access to some JEUNE JULIETTE-type movies when I was young. I hope that I have made a movie about the victory of singularity. The winners, the true heroes here, are not representative of the « norm », they are young people who are different and full of flaws but also with strong personalities. The bold chubby one, the androgynous skinny one, the gifted and anxious one. I am curious about them, and I expect a lot from them in the future.

Anne Emond



Director's Bio

Anne Émond is a director and scriptwriter who lives and works in Montréal. Between 2005 and 2011, she wrote and directed seven shorts, among which *NAISSANCES* and *SOPHIE LAVOIE*, which travelled to several international film festivals and received many awards. In 2001, she directs her first feature, *NUIT #1*. This movie has then been selected to more than twenty-five international film festivals, including Busan IFF, Rotterdam IFF, Taipei IFF and TIFF. The feature received several awards and mentions, among which the Best first Canadian feature at the Génie 2012 gala. It was sold in ten countries, like France and the USA. *LES ETRES CHERS* (OUR LOVED ONES), her second fiction feature in 2015, has also been warmly welcomed and noticed (Locarno, TIFF, Le Gala du Cinéma Québécois, Canadian Screen Awards). *NELLY*, her most recent feature (2017), freely adapted from the life and work of Nelly Arcan, a writer from Québec, and for which she also wrote the script, has taken off with success at the TIFF, FIFF, and is following its prestigious festival circuit worldwide.

Anne has just finished directing her last feature *JEUNE JULIETTE* and is currently working on writing her next one, called *MONDE NEUF*.

Cast

Juliette

Léane

Bernard

Arnaud

Liam

Pierre-Luc

M. Bernier

Malaïka

Serge

Maude

Alexane Jamieson

Léanne Désilets

Robin Aubert

Gabriel Beaudet

Antoine Desrochers

Christophe Levac

Stéphane Crête

Tatiana Zinga Botao

Karl Farah

Myriam LeBlanc

Crew

Director/Scriptwriter

Producer

Co-producer

Director of photography

Costumes designer

Art Director

Editor

Sound designer

Music

Anne Émond

Sylvain Corbeil

Marie-Claire Lalonde

Olivier Gossot

Caroline Bodson

Sylvain Lemaître

Alexandre Leblanc

Simon Gervais

Vincent Roberge (Les Louanges)

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