

DIABOLO FILMS PRESENTS

PERRINE TOURNEUX

IGOR SKREBLIN

THIERRY SEBBAN

WHO'S NEXT?



A FILM BY THIERRY SEBBAN

# PSEUDONYM

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY **SIMON ABKARIAN**

DIABOLO FILMS, LA PETITE REINE and LORETTE PRODUCTIONS

PRESENT PSEUDONYM WITH PERRINE TOURNEUX, IGOR SKREBLIN, THIERRY SEBBAN, SACHA MIJOVIC SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY SIMON ABKARIAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHE GRELJE SOUND PIERRE GAUTHIER AND MATHIEU DESCAMPS PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANNE-SOPHIE CRIAUD EDITED BY ERIC ARMROSTER AND THIERRY SEBBAN SOUND EDITING FLORENT VRAC

SOUND MIXING AXMERIC DUPAS COLORIST RÉGINALD GALLIENNE MUSIC BY NICOLAS BABY PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR BENJAMIN PHUONG DUNG PRODUCED BY GILLES POESTA IN COPRODUCTION WITH THOMAS LANGMANN,

ARNAUD BERTRAND, CHRISTOPHE BICHOT, DOMINIQUE BOUTONINAT, HUBERT CAILLARD COPRODUCERS EMMANUEL MONTAMAT AND ERIC MISTLER WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY THIERRY SEBBAN

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technicolor

TSF

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Diabolo Films with La Petite Reine & Lorette Productions Present



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WORLD FÉST - HOUSTON 2015

# PSEUDONYM

Starring

Perrine TOURNEUX, Igor SKREBLIN, Thierry SEBBAN

Special appearance by Simon ABKARIAN

France - 2014 - English subtitles - 1h14 - 2 35 - Dolby. 5.1

## Distribution & International Sales

DIABOLO FILMS

Gilles Podesta

diabolofilms@gmail.com

+33 6.07.17.28.22

## SYNOPSIS

Alex is a divorced father, a very busy, stressed-out executive. His life is all about work, work, and work.

Tonight, he is in a hurry. He has got a date with a young unknown woman... on internet.

But this night meeting is going to plunge him into a vicious downward spiral and throw his life off-course forever.

As he is enjoying the girl's strip-tease on his screen, Alex witnesses a violent attack on her, at her home. He then finds himself hunted down and forced to flee his home to escape this manhunt, till he is trapped.

Locked up and confused as to what is happening to him, he discovers with horror that he is the victim of a predator who hunts man according to his perverse impulses. And tonight, he is the prey...

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

While internet is a great means of research and communication, recent news events too often remind us that it can also be a vector of real danger.

Intrusion into the privacy of others has become simple, exciting, even fascinating. Our neighbor is now on the other side of the screen, should he be thousands of miles away, or right nearby. A 'rear window' on internet, but a pernicious one.

Indeed, no society, no individual can claim to have control over the web, which expands at an exponential pace. This world, free of regulations, limits and restrictions, and accessible to all, is an open territory for the most perverse, violent and Machiavellian actions.

*Pseudonym* is a psychological thriller rooted in this reality, and stages the potential drifting of a seemingly harmless virtual meeting.

With this film, I wished to explore the framework of a web-cam and show the reality that exists within and beyond this frame-work, thus showing what the viewer actually beholds. A necessary *mise en abyme*, an ordinary voyeurism which raises the following question: Are we really sure not to be seen, watched and spied back on, without knowing it ?

Alex's character, an average Joe wrapped up in his everyday life, indulges in meeting a young woman on internet one night, to spice up a monotonous life a little. On the surface, this quite common starting point looks like a chapter of a romance novel.

I placed the plot in the heart of Paris, but in an abstract way, so as to isolate the main character, for instance when he walks the empty streets of the capital. It is a metaphor for a spider's web - like that of internet- where the trapped prey throws itself into the threads woven by its predator.

*Pseudonym* is, by no means, meant to be sanctimonious. It only sends a warning. For here, the predator's actions are not motivated by greed, payback, racism, etc. No. I wanted to explore a devastating violence beyond comprehension, which can in no way be justified. A random violence linked to extreme perversion and overwhelming power.

Thierry Sebban

# DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER

## THIERRY SEBBAN

In parallel with his being an actor, Thierry has been drawn, since 1996, to the directing and screenwriting work. He then decides to write, produce and direct his first short film, COEUR D'AIGUILLE (Needle-Heart), in which he also plays. This film, shot in black and white, deals with the subject of suicidal behavior. It is broadcast on Ciné Cinéma channel in France Roche's (French journalist, film critic and TV producer and presenter) program, and takes part in several festivals such as the Sarlat, Vendôme or Nevers festivals.

In 1998, Thierry directs TOURNIQUET ORANGE (Orange Turnstile), his second short film. He handles the topics of childhood and the loss of innocence. This poetic film takes part in many French Festivals such as the Clermont-Ferrand or the Sarlat festivals, but also international ones such as the Geneva, Manchester, Dublin, Birmingham or Cork festivals.

In the meantime, Thierry takes interest in theater and co-directs LES FIANCES DE LOCHES (The Fiancés of Loches) by Feydeau, then LE MARCHAND DE SEL ET LA MOUCHE (The Salt Merchant and the Fly), by Jan Fabre, in which he also acts.

In 2004, he reunites with film directing with a third short film , SOYONS ATTENTIFS (Beware...) which he writes, produces, directs and plays in. This film, which deals with the subject of prejudice, is initiated in collaboration with Kodak, in order to officially represent one of their camera films in all the capitals of Europe and in South Africa. At the same time, the film is selected in over fifty French and international festivals, and receives a dozen prizes, including the "Best French Short Film" award at the Avignon / New York Film Festival, or the "Special Jury Prize" at the Human Rights International Film Festival. It is also broadcast on TPS channel, and distributed internationally (Australia) and in France before Dany Boon's film LA MAISON DU BONHEUR (The House of Happiness), thanks to Claude Berry.

Furthermore, Thierry develops feature film scenarios such as "Pilleur de vie" (The life-robber), "Petit week-end entre amis" (A quiet friends' weekend), co-written with Pierre-Yves Touzot, or a film based on the novel COSMETIQUE DE L'ENNEMI (The Enemy's Cosmetique) by Amélie Nothomb.

# NINA

## PERRINE TOURNEUX

Perrine Tourneux begins theater at the age of 16, after an audition for the play "The Father" by Auguste Strindberg, directed by Julien Brochen and François Marthouret. With this first play she goes on tour for a year and performs on the stages of the Théâtre 71 in Paris-Malakoff, the Théâtre du Gymnase in Marseille, the Théâtre des Célestins in Lyon, or the Scène Nationale in Annecy.

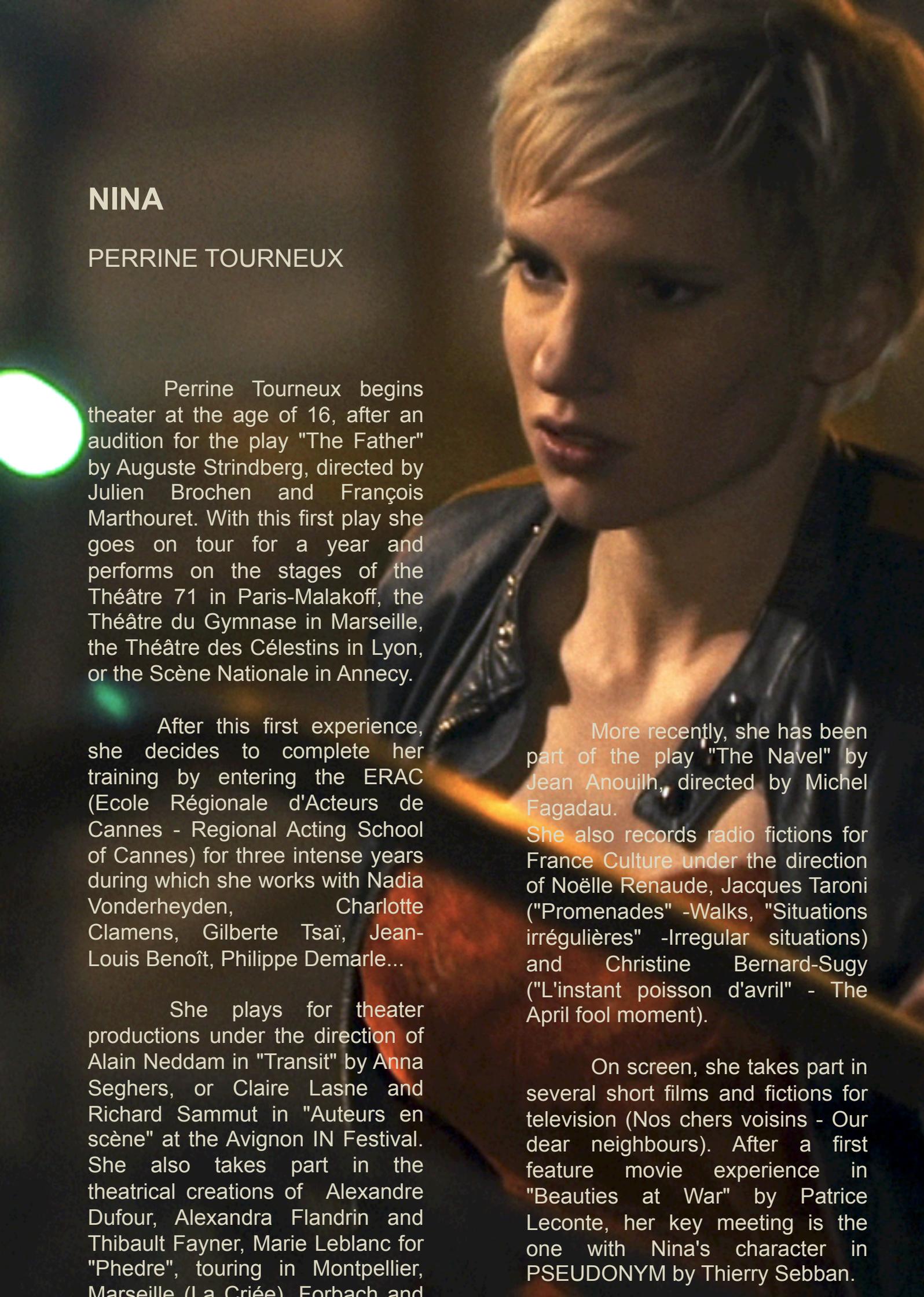
After this first experience, she decides to complete her training by entering the ERAC (Ecole Régionale d'Acteurs de Cannes - Regional Acting School of Cannes) for three intense years during which she works with Nadia Vonderheyden, Charlotte Clamens, Gilberte Tsai, Jean-Louis Benoît, Philippe Demarle...

She plays for theater productions under the direction of Alain Neddham in "Transit" by Anna Seghers, or Claire Lasne and Richard Sammut in "Auteurs en scène" at the Avignon IN Festival. She also takes part in the theatrical creations of Alexandre Dufour, Alexandra Flandrin and Thibault Fayner, Marie Leblanc for "Phedre", touring in Montpellier, Marseille (La Criée), Forbach and

More recently, she has been part of the play "The Navel" by Jean Anouilh, directed by Michel Fagadau.

She also records radio fictions for France Culture under the direction of Noëlle Renaude, Jacques Taroni ("Promenades" -Walks, "Situations irrégulières" -Irregular situations) and Christine Bernard-Sugy ("L'instant poisson d'avril" - The April fool moment).

On screen, she takes part in several short films and fictions for television (Nos chers voisins - Our dear neighbours). After a first feature movie experience in "Beauties at War" by Patrice Leconte, her key meeting is the one with Nina's character in PSEUDONYM by Thierry Sebban.



A close-up portrait of Igor Skreblin, a man with short grey hair and a goatee, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

# SERGUEÏ

IGOR SKREBLIN

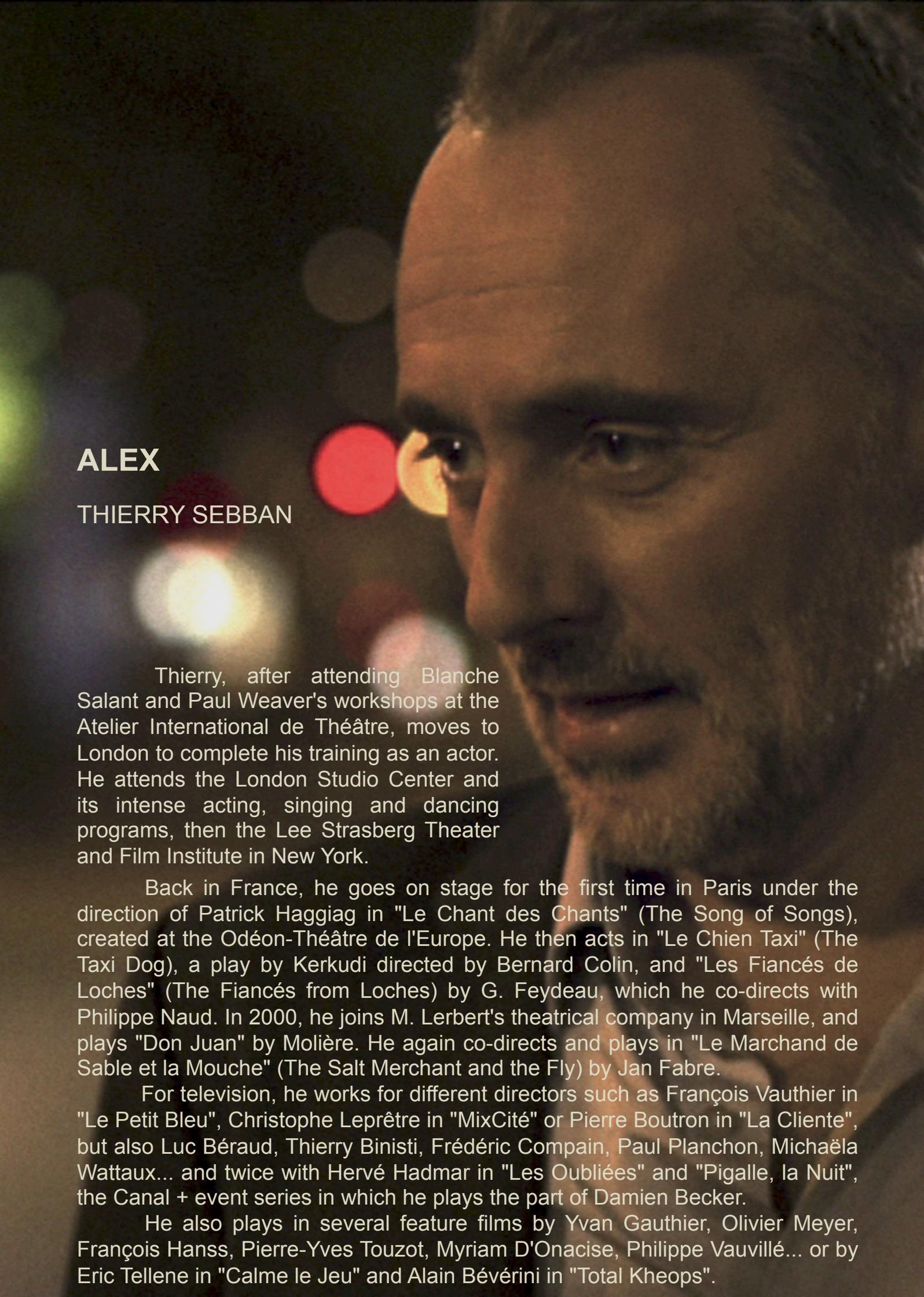
Igor begins his training as an actor at the Ecole Internationale de Théâtre (International Theater School), directed by Stéphane Boubilil then completes it by joining Ariane Mnouchkine's company, Le Théâtre du Soleil.

In 1994, he acts in "Don Juan de Molière à Pouchkine" (Don Juan from Moliere to Pushkin) by Stéphane Boubilil at the Théâtre des Amandiers. He then acts in numerous plays with directors such as Tsunenori Yanagawa,

In 2003, he joins the cast of "Titus Andronicus", directed by Simon Abkarian. The following year, he reunites with Ariane Mnouchkine on stage, this time in "The Last Caravan Stop" and takes part in Marie-Pascale Osterrieth's "Dolores Claiborne". In 2014, he is again at the Théâtre des Amandiers in the play "Dernier jour de jeûne" (Last day of fasting), by and with Simon Abkarian.

Igor Skreblin plays in several series and fictions for television. He is credited in "Flag" by Etienne Dhaene, "Le Négociateur" by René Manzor, or "Commissaire Valence" by Patrick Granperret. In 2005, he works with Karim Dridi in the film "Gris Blanc", and Laurent Carcelès in "Capitaine Laura Monti". He also works with directors such as Joyce Bunuel, Philippe Setbon, Nina Companeez, Marc Rivière, Patrick Dewolf, Régis Musset... and plays the part of Olivier in "Pigalle, la nuit", a Canal + event series by Hervé Hadmar.

Igor Skreblin makes his feature film debut with Cédric Klapisch in "Ni pour ni contre (bien au contraire)", and Myriam Mézières and Alain Tanner in "Fleur de sang". He then gets several parts with other film directors just as renowned, such as Antoine de Caunes, Cédric Kahn, Serge Le Péron, but also Frédéric Schoendoerffer in "Truands", Nicolas Boukrief in "Cortex" or Gérard Krawczyk in "L'Auberge Rouge". He also plays in many first films such as "Voleur de Chevaux" by Micha Wald, "Captifs" by Yann Gozlan, "Le Jour de la Grenouille" by Béatrice Pollet, or "Le Jour Attendra" by Edgar Marie. In 2013, he plays in "Les Invincibles", by Frédéric Berthe.



**ALEX**

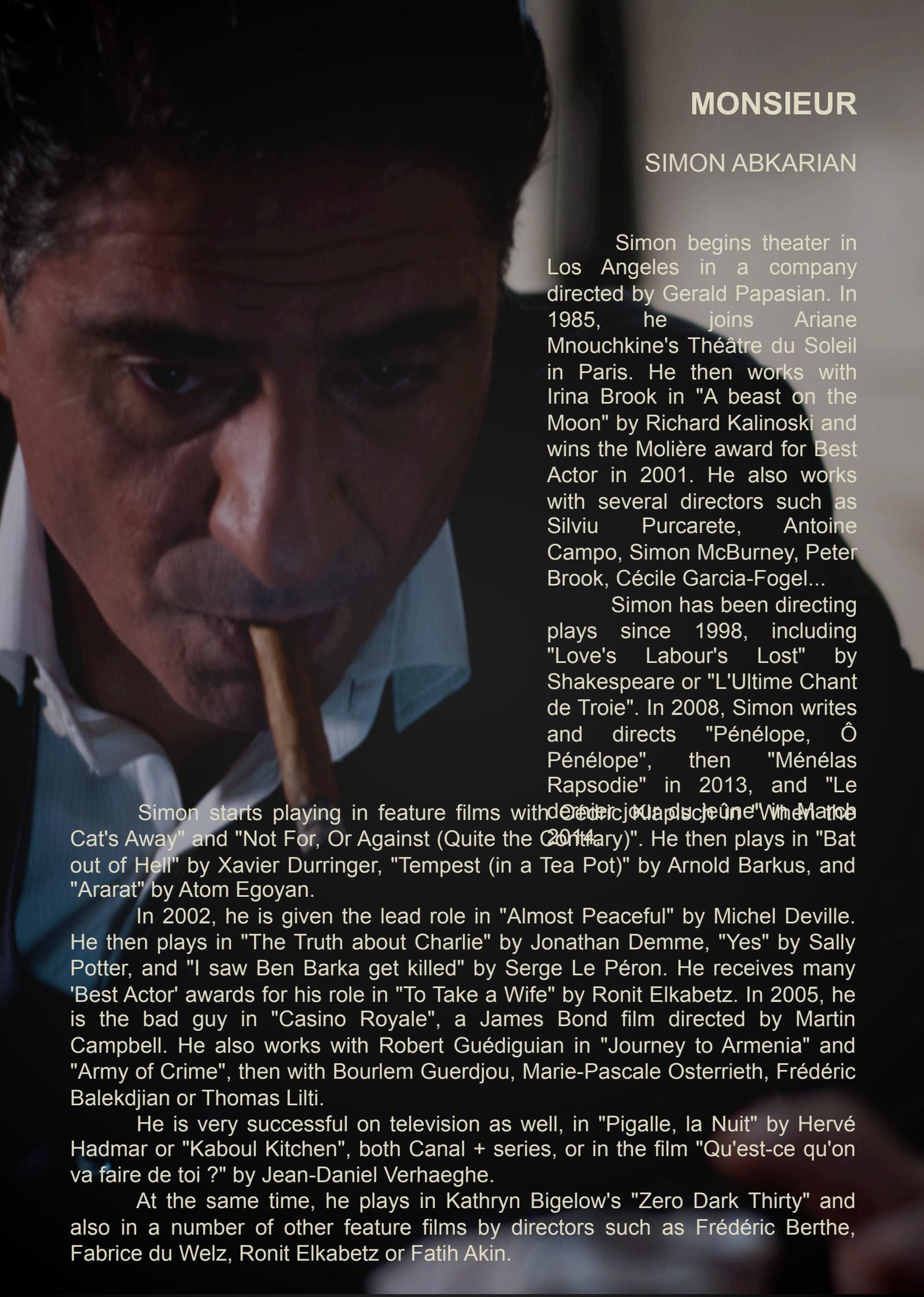
**THIERRY SEBBAN**

Thierry, after attending Blanche Salant and Paul Weaver's workshops at the Atelier International de Théâtre, moves to London to complete his training as an actor. He attends the London Studio Center and its intense acting, singing and dancing programs, then the Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute in New York.

Back in France, he goes on stage for the first time in Paris under the direction of Patrick Haggiag in "Le Chant des Chants" (The Song of Songs), created at the Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe. He then acts in "Le Chien Taxi" (The Taxi Dog), a play by Kerkudi directed by Bernard Colin, and "Les Fiancés de Loches" (The Fiancés from Loches) by G. Feydeau, which he co-directs with Philippe Naud. In 2000, he joins M. Lerbert's theatrical company in Marseille, and plays "Don Juan" by Molière. He again co-directs and plays in "Le Marchand de Sable et la Mouche" (The Salt Merchant and the Fly) by Jan Fabre.

For television, he works for different directors such as François Vauthier in "Le Petit Bleu", Christophe Leprêtre in "MixCité" or Pierre Boutron in "La Cliente", but also Luc Béraud, Thierry Binisti, Frédéric Compain, Paul Planchon, Michaëla Wattaux... and twice with Hervé Hadmar in "Les Oubliées" and "Pigalle, la Nuit", the Canal + event series in which he plays the part of Damien Becker.

He also plays in several feature films by Yvan Gauthier, Olivier Meyer, François Hanss, Pierre-Yves Touzot, Myriam D'Onacise, Philippe Vauvillé... or by Eric Tellene in "Calme le Jeu" and Alain Bévérini in "Total Kheops".



# MONSIEUR

SIMON ABKARIAN

Simon begins theater in Los Angeles in a company directed by Gerald Papasian. In 1985, he joins Ariane Mnouchkine's Théâtre du Soleil in Paris. He then works with Irina Brook in "A beast on the Moon" by Richard Kalinoski and wins the Molière award for Best Actor in 2001. He also works with several directors such as Silviu Purcarete, Antoine Campo, Simon McBurney, Peter Brook, Cécile Garcia-Fogel...

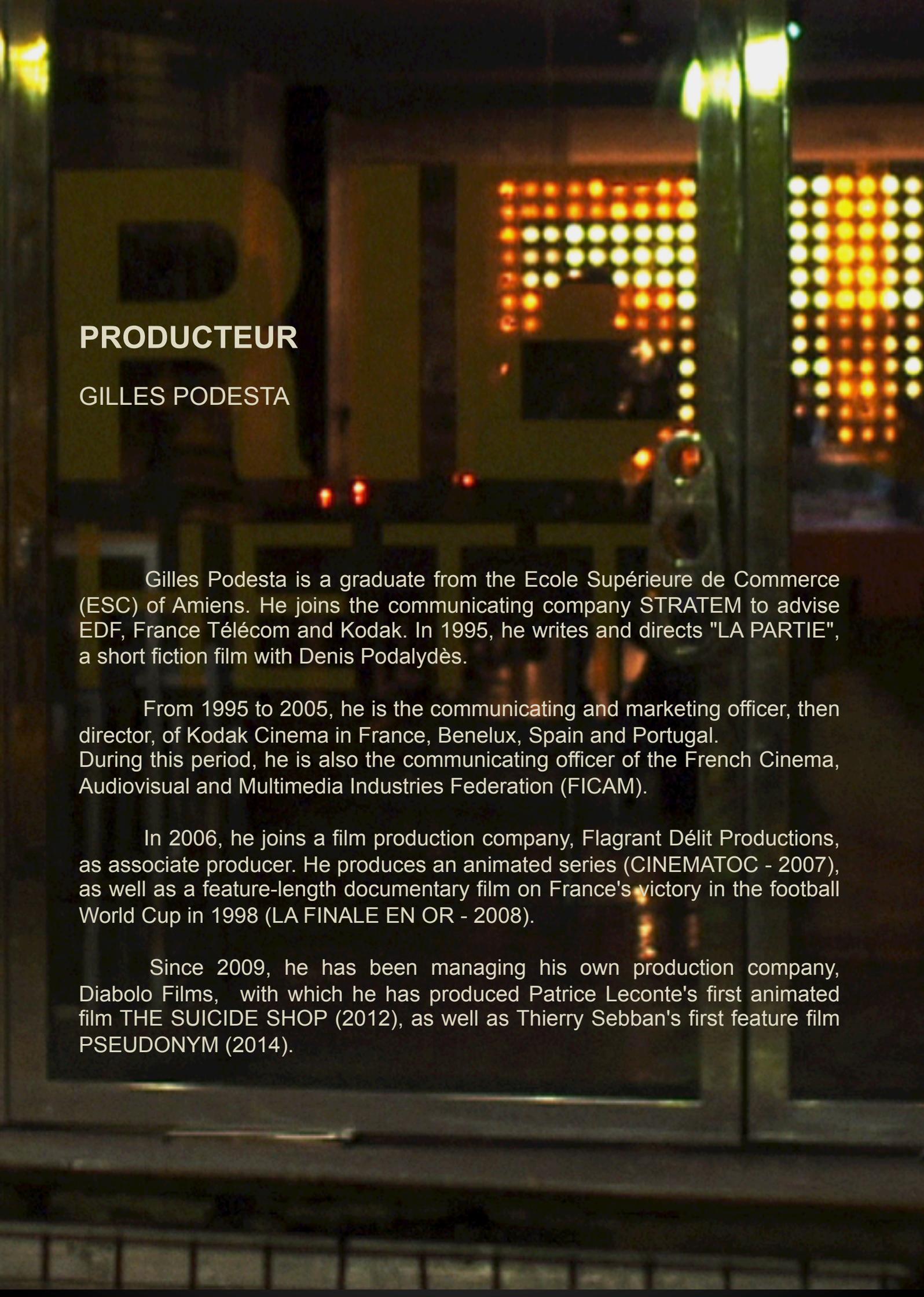
Simon has been directing plays since 1998, including "Love's Labour's Lost" by Shakespeare or "L'Ultime Chant de Troie". In 2008, Simon writes and directs "Pénélope, Ô Pénélope", then "Ménélas Rapsodie" in 2013, and "Le

Simon starts playing in feature films with *Order of the Day* in 2001, *When the Cat's Away* and "Not For, Or Against (Quite the contrary)" in 2014. He then plays in "Bat out of Hell" by Xavier Durringer, "Tempest (in a Tea Pot)" by Arnold Barkus, and "Ararat" by Atom Egoyan.

In 2002, he is given the lead role in "Almost Peaceful" by Michel Deville. He then plays in "The Truth about Charlie" by Jonathan Demme, "Yes" by Sally Potter, and "I saw Ben Barka get killed" by Serge Le Péron. He receives many 'Best Actor' awards for his role in "To Take a Wife" by Ronit Elkabetz. In 2005, he is the bad guy in "Casino Royale", a James Bond film directed by Martin Campbell. He also works with Robert Guédiguian in "Journey to Armenia" and "Army of Crime", then with Bourlem Guerdjou, Marie-Pascale Osterrieth, Frédéric Bolekdjian or Thomas Lilti.

He is very successful on television as well, in "Pigalle, la Nuit" by Hervé Hadmar or "Kaboul Kitchen", both Canal + series, or in the film "Qu'est-ce qu'on va faire de toi ?" by Jean-Daniel Verhaeghe.

At the same time, he plays in Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Thirty" and also in a number of other feature films by directors such as Frédéric Berthe, Fabrice du Welz, Ronit Elkabetz or Fatih Akin.



## PRODUCTEUR

GILLES PODESTA

Gilles Podesta is a graduate from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (ESC) of Amiens. He joins the communicating company STRATEM to advise EDF, France Télécom and Kodak. In 1995, he writes and directs "LA PARTIE", a short fiction film with Denis Podalydès.

From 1995 to 2005, he is the communicating and marketing officer, then director, of Kodak Cinema in France, Benelux, Spain and Portugal. During this period, he is also the communicating officer of the French Cinema, Audiovisual and Multimedia Industries Federation (FICAM).

In 2006, he joins a film production company, Flagrant Délit Productions, as associate producer. He produces an animated series (CINEMATOC - 2007), as well as a feature-length documentary film on France's victory in the football World Cup in 1998 (LA FINALE EN OR - 2008).

Since 2009, he has been managing his own production company, Diabolo Films, with which he has produced Patrice Leconte's first animated film THE SUICIDE SHOP (2012), as well as Thierry Sebban's first feature film PSEUDONYM (2014).

## ARTISTIC CREDITS

Nina  
Perrine TOURNEUX

Sergueï  
Igor SKREBLIN

Alex  
Thierry SEBBAN

Monsieur  
Simon ABKARIAN

## TECHNICAL CREDITS

Director & Screenwriter  
Thierry SEBBAN

Producers  
Gilles PODESTA  
Thomas LANGMANN

Director of Photography  
Christophe GRELIE

Film Editors  
Eric ARMBRUSTER  
Thierry SEBBAN

Sound  
Pierre GAUTHIER  
Mathieu DESCAMPS

Music Composer  
Nicolas BABY

PRODUCTION  
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DIABOLO FILMS  
Gilles Podesta  
diabolofilms@gmail.com  
+33 6.07.17.28.22