

# PUBLICITY INFORMATION

## BAISE-MOI

RAFFAELA ANDERSON KAREN BACH DELPHINE McCARTY  
LISA MARSHALL and ESTELLE ISAAC

music by VAROU JEAN  
production designer BAUDOIN CAPET  
editors ALIO AUGUSTE FRANCINE LEMAITRE VERONIQUE ROSA  
director of photography BENOIT CHAMAILLARD JULIAN PAMART  
produced by PHILIPPE GODEAU and ALAIN SARDE  
screenplay by VIRGINIE DESPENTES and CORALIE TRINH THI  
directed by VIRGINIE DESPENTES and CORALIE TRINH THI

Running Time: 87mins

Certificate: 18

UK Publicity:  
Cowan & Symes

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BAISE-MOI will open in the UK on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2002

[www.baise-moi.co.uk](http://www.baise-moi.co.uk)

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Based on the novel by Virginie Despentes of the same title. Manu and Nadine lose their last tenuous relationship with mainstream society when Manu gets raped and Nadine sees her only friend being shot. After a chance encounter, they embark on an explosive journey of sex and murder. Perhaps as revenge against men, perhaps as a revolt against bourgeois society, but certainly in a negation - almost joyful in its senseless violence - of all the codes of a society which has excluded, raped and humiliated them. Controversial for its violence and real sex scenes: a vividly nihilist road movie set in France.

## DIRECTORS' COMMENT

In 1995, I sold the film rights to my novel BAISE-MOI to Philippe Godeau, who suggested that I direct the film myself. The project was set in motion: the problem was finding two actresses to play Nadine and Manu, the heroines. During this period, I got a taste of what it means to make a film. I learned the need to film characters, to give a physical face, a voice, a look and a body to what I had previously only imagined.

In 1999, I saw EXHIBITIONS 1999, (John B. Root), a docu-drama featuring interviews with ten French porn actresses. Karen and Raffaella stuck me immediately as the only choices for Nadine and Manu. I also called Coralie straight away: she barely paused, sharing my enthusiasm from the beginning.

We quickly wrote an adaptation which remained entirely true to the novel. Then met Karen and Raffaella, who were seduced by the project.

I proposed to Coralie that she co-direct the film as she both knew and understood the world I wanted to show, and because she had a vision that was entirely at one with my work.

She and I shared the vision of a feminist battle, an avant garde battle, as well as certain fondness for provocation.

BAISE-MOI is a brutal book, a troubled book. Nadine and Manu aren't "bad girls", they simply want to live, truly live, whatever it takes. An unfortunate combination of circumstances is all it takes to push them across the boundary between good and evil, the possible and the impossible. Music, violence, sex, the road, humour: it's all adrenalin, a sure way to avoid the worst fate of all: obedience, submission, renunciation of the self -boredom.

Music is everywhere in the book. We wanted to carve out an equivalent place in the film. Soundtrack duties were handed over to Var. Jan, a truly experienced musician and composer who understands perfectly my take on

music. Music conveys raw emotions: it surrounds Nadine and Mann incessantly, echoing everything they feel.

They feel alive when they murder, but it's not as simple as that. A moment, a single misplaced gesture and the whole thing will collapse. The trigger pressed too late, through pity, through remorse. They are outlaws. No excuses, no explanations, no intellectualization. They are close to us, because they are beyond judgement. Sensation, not thought.

When they fuck, they let themselves go, they feel alive. They don't ask why, they don't think about what will happen next. While it's happening, it feels good; they don't think about anything else: they are set free. To film the sex scenes "for real", without stand-ins, was vital, as this was the first time that women being fucked would be shown, but also a lot more than that. Time to finish with fragmentation. These scenes had to be real, to do that. Time to return their complete bodies to women, of which they have always been deprived.

To reclaim women's rights over their true sexuality, to seize it back from the male gaze. It's always men who have a problem with a woman's sex: that's their problem, not ours.

It was vital that the film should remain faithful to the spirit of the book. A blood-soaked road movie, but human, without artifice. Also, the decision to work with two directors, with a tiny crew, in natural light, on video, with non-professional actors who were nonetheless very close to their characters, with a hardcore soundtrack... all this came naturally. We had to get to the heart of things, to places normally avoided. We wanted to dig deep, in order to end up right inside.

- It's not my idea of literature.
- Nor mine.

(Sagan and Sollers on the book BAISE-MOI)

It won't be their idea of cinema either.

## CAST

Manu	Raffaella Anderson
Nadine	Karen Bach
Severine	Delphine McCarty
Karla	Lisa Marshall
Alice	Estelle Isaac
Martin	H.P.G
Architect	Marc Rioufol

Radouan	Ouassini Embarek
Barfly	Adama Niane
Blonde guy	Christophe Claudy
Francis	Patrick Eudeline
Lakim	Hacene Beddrouh
Rapist 1	Philippe Houillez
Rapist 2	Steven Jhonsson
Rapist 3	Ian Scott
Nadine's client	Gil Stuart
Big guy	Karim Sabaddehine
Cute guy	Titof
Receptionist	Marc Barrow
Flasher	Rodolphe Amtrim
Gun shop assistant	Jean-Marc Mineo
Condom-wearing wanker	Gabor Rassov
Lady at cashpoint	Elodie Cherie
Barman	Tewfik Saad
Girl at the bar	Celine Beugnot
Guy in front of bar	Patrick-Kodjo Topou
Hoodlum	Simon Nahoum
Arsehole	Jean-Louis Costes

## CREDITS

Philippe Godeau and Alain Sarde present

A film by Virginie Despentes and Coralie Trinh Thi  
Screenplay Virginie Despentes and Coralie Trinh Thi

From the Virginie Despentes novel BAISE-MOI published by Grasset

Produced by Philippe Godeau and Alain Sarde

Assistant producers Beatrice Hureau and Emmanuelle Labonne

Financial director	Alexandre Mallet-Guy
Directors assistants	Ketal Guenin and Estelle Isaac
Locations manager	Jerome Dubusschere
Casting director	Jeanne Biras
Director of photography	Benoit Chamailard Julian Pamart

Sound	Eric Boisteau Jacques Sans
Film editor	Ailo Auguste Francine Lemaitre Veronique Rosa
Production director	Baudoin Capet
Production manager	Joseph Martineau Sylvain Cahen-Delabre Clauss Gigli David Caujolle Sebastien Brun
Administrator	Anne Serrie
Set design	Irene Galiitzine Paul Fayard Christophe Mureau
Costume designer	Isabelle Fraysse Magali Baret
Make-up	Charlotte Arguillere
Stunts advisor	Jean-Marc Mineo
Fight advisor	Christophe Maratier
Fight choreographer	Stephane Bourdon
Special effects	Guillaume Catagne Perrine Poirier Pierre-Paul Jayne Frederic Laine Christophe Chabenet
Original Music	Varou Jan
Music publisher	Pan-Europeenne Musique
Camera	VIDEO PLUS
Laboratory	V.D.M.
Synchronisation	D.C.A.
Sound material	TAPAGES
Editing	TELE EUROPE
Insurance Assurances	Continentales Audiovisual

With the participation of Canal +

A Pan-Europeenne Production - Les Films Alain Sarde co-production  
International sales - Wild Bunch (a division of le Studio Canal +)

## VIRGINIE DESPENTES

### Published novels

November 1994 BAISE-MOI

Publisher Editions Florent Massot

Sales 80,000

Second Edition - May 1999 Publisher - Grasset

Paperback Edition - September 1999 Publisher - J'Ai Lu

### Also published in:

COUNTRY	PUBLISHER	LOCAL TITLE
Japan	Hara-Shobo	
Germany	Rowohlt	Wolfe fangen
Italy	Hinaudi	Scopami
Spain	Grijalbo	Follame
Netherlands	Manteau	
Sweden		
Norway		
Greece		
Denmark	Tiderne	Blodsostre
Finland	Like	Pane mau

March 1996 LES CHIENNES SAVANTES

Publisher Editions Florent Massot

Sales 30,000

Paperback - September 1997 Publisher - J'Ai Lu Sales - 25,000

October 1998 LES JOLIES CHOSES

Publisher Editions Grasset

Sales 40,000

Winner of the Prix de Flore

September 1999 MORDRE AU TRAVERS

Publisher Flammarion

### Cinema

Adapted Screenplay of BAISE-MOI for Pan-Europeenne

Completed screenplay - SUGAR and SPICE for Pan-Europeenne

## CORALIE TRINH THI

### Films

- 1997 Sombre                    dir. Philippe Grandrieux  
      Deja Mort                dir. Olivier Dahan
- 1995 Parfait Amour        dir. Catherine Breillat  
      Le Coeur Fantome    dir. Philippe Garrel  
      En A Voir Ou Pas    dir. Laetitia Masson

### Shorts

- 1999 Seven Lonely Girls: Cowboy Hat and Ministere's Of Blood  
      dir. Pierre Emery and Gilles Lesage
- 1998 Les Jolies Doses        dir. Virginie Despantes  
      Exercise of Steel     dir. Marc Caro  
      Sodomites             dir. Gaspar Noe