





with Hélène Cattet & Bruno Forzani

What were the original inspirations for REFLECTION?

It all started when we saw Monte Hellman's *Road to Nowhere* in 2010, starring Fabio Testi. He reminded us of Sean Connery, and was wearing a white suit that reminded us of Dirk Bogarde in Visconti's *Death in Venice*. That's when we said to ourselves: "But why not create a universe mixing James Bond with *Death in Venice*, two antithetical cinemas, and see what happens?" Over the years, the exhibitions we've seen, the world we live in, the places we know, etc., have nourished this universe... Finally, Christophe Honoré's staging of the opera *La Tosca* and his unconventional approach to a great classic finally gave us the impetus to write.

For those who are not at all familiar with some of the European films or comics some of the source material is based on, can you explain what is most interesting and specific about them?

The world of superheroes and James Bond is mainly known through the American prism. But all these figures also existed in Italy in the 60s: on the one hand, with *Eurospy*, which were cheap, pop, European James Bond knock-offs; on the other, with *Fumetti neri*, adult comic strips such as *Diabolik*, where the villains are situated in a grey zone far from the "good / evil" approach... Its these thoughts that brought a certain freshness to approaching this universe today for us and allowed us to explore some thematics like nostalgia, the passage of time, the socio-cultural shifts in between, etc.

These popular pop films often borrowed details from *Op Art* (the art of optical illusion). As one of the themes of *Reflection in a Dead Diamond* is Illusion, we also found it appropriate to develop this theme visually by integrating elements from *Op Art* (just as we had done with *Art Nouveau* in *L'étrange couleur des larmes de ton corps (The Strange Color of Your Body's Tears)* and with *New Realism* in *Laissez bronzer les cadavres (Let the Corpses Tan)*).



with Hélène Cattet & Bruno Forzani

You have explored wildly different genres in your filmmaking career, yet have a specific language that is uniquely your own that is consistent in your work. Is there an explicit intention in not taking a "straight forward" approach?

We've adopted a "less straight forward" approach than a classic superhero or James Bond film, because these are archetypes known the world over, so we can afford to deviate a little and offer something different. We're looking for that thrill of the first viewing of a "straight forward" narrative film, while at the same time offering an extra dimension where there's a grey zone of doubt that allows the viewer to revisit the film several times and find new things with each viewing. We opted for 'stereoscopic writing', typical of Satoshi Kon (Millennium Actress, Perfect Blue), as it gives an illusion of narrative 3D by developing the story with different thematic strata. The principle was to write this story with different layers of themes and narratives to create an emboss effect that plays on the perception of the character and the spectator, thus allowing to organically shape the world inside the mind of the protagonist along with his loss of orientation within it. The narrative hence becomes a multifaceted "diamond" with its multiple grids of kaleidoscopic interpretations.

How did you decide to cast Fabio Testi in the lead role, as the older John D.?

Fabio inspired us to write the script after seeing Monte Hellman's film, and the fact that he had worked on both "auteur" (De Sica's II giardino dei Finzi-Contini, Zulawski's That Most Important Thing: Love...) and exploitation films (Castellari's Big Racket, Dallamano's What have you done to Solange?) enabled us to create the alchemy of "opposite" cinemas that we were looking for.



What about Yannick Renier, who plays the young John?

The role of the young John was the hardest to find. As much as it's a type of character in which you can imagine an Anglo-Saxon actor, it's more complicated in the French-speaking world. We met Yannick after he shot a film in which he lost weight to play a sick person. We felt that in terms of acting he matched what we were looking for, but physically he was too weak. He told us to trust him, and he put on 10 kilos of muscle in 4 months: a metamorphosis that was truly impressive!



INTERVIEW

with Hélène Cattet & Bruno Forzani

What inspired your other casting decisions, Maria de Medeiros and others, for you makes some of the cast members special?

For the role of Serpentik we were looking for someone who could both embody the character and do all the stunts. In 2002, we discovered contemporary dance with the show *Blush* by the Belgian troupe Ultima Vez. One dancer in particular fascinated us, but we had no idea who she was. During the preparation of the film, while shopping at the supermarket, we came across Wim Vandekeybus, the choreographer of Ultima Vez. We approached him and described the famous *Blush* dancer we were desperately looking for, and he showed us a photo on his phone: it was Thi-Mai Nguyen, and we'd found our Serpentik!

As for Maria de Meideros, we were looking for a striking, timeless actress who could travel between the film's two narrative eras and instill a sense of disquiet. Pierre Foulon, the film's producer, knew her, and as soon as we saw recent photos of her, we knew she was the person we were looking for.







HÉLÈNE CATTET & BRUNO FORZANI

Hélène Cattet and Bruno Forzani live in Brussels and have been working together since 2000.

After writing and directing several self-produced shorts, they moved on to feature films with AMER in 2009 and L'ETRANGE COULEUR DES LARMES DE TON CORPS (THE STRANGE COLOR OF YOUR BODY'S TEARS) in 2013, a diptych about desire. That year they also took part in the American anthology film ABC'S OF DEATH which brought together 26 emerging Genre directors.

In 2017, they shot LAISSEZ BRONZER LES CADAVRES (LET THE CORPSES TAN), based on a 'Black Series' book from editor Gallimard, written by Jean-Patrick Manchette & Jean-Pierre Bastid.

REFLET DANS UN DIAMANT MORT (REFLECTION IN A DEAD DIAMOND) is their fourth feature film.



REFLECTION IN A DEAD DIAMOND

Berlinale In Competition



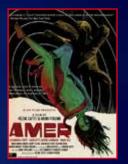
LET THE CORPSES TAN

Toronto Film Festival London Film Festival Locarno Film Festival Rotterdam Film Festival



THE STRANGE COLOUR OF YOUR BODY'S TEARS

2013
Toronto Film Festival
London Film Festival
Locarno Film Festival
Sitges Film Festival



AMER 2009

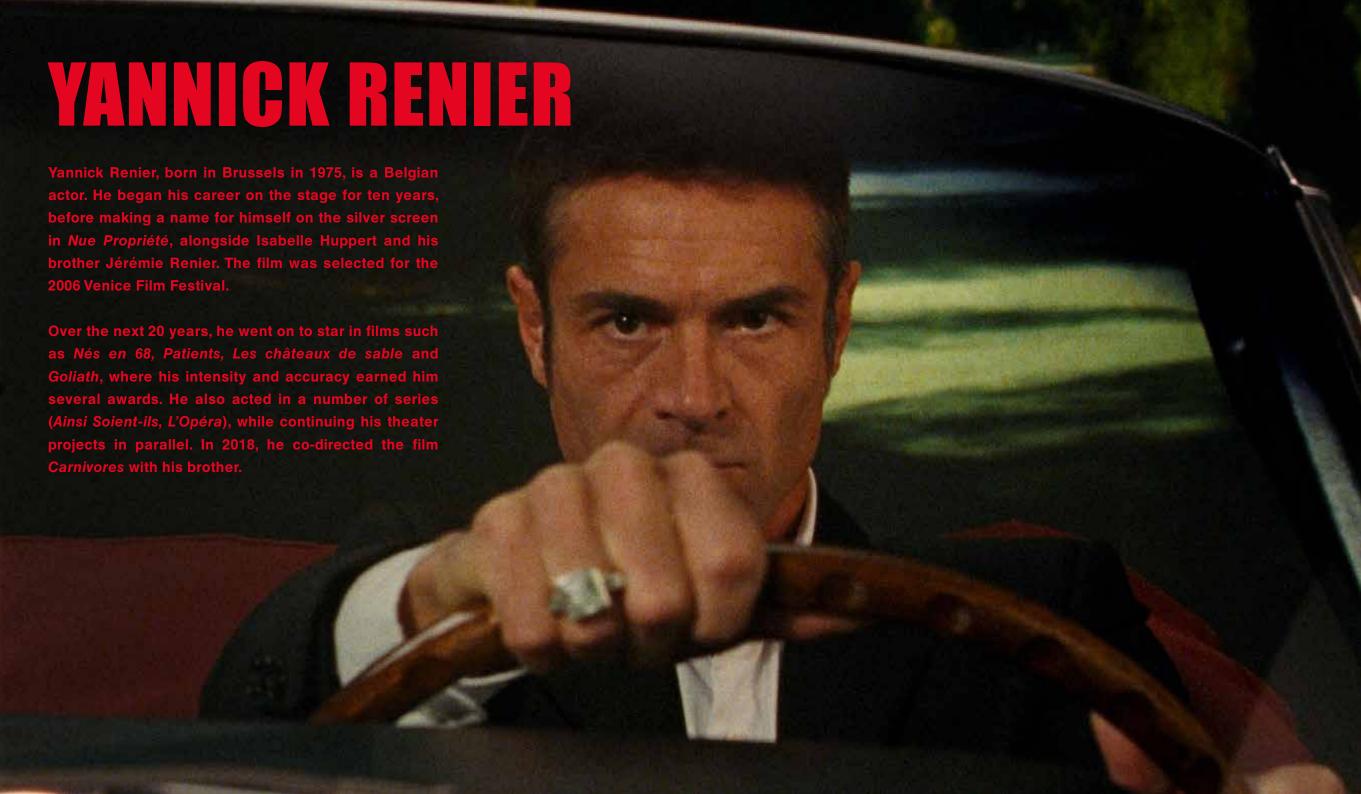
Copenhagen Film Festival
(New Talent Grand Prix)
Gérardmer Film Festival
(Special Mention)
Sitges Film Festival
(New Vision Award)
SXSW Film Festival
Rotterdam Film Festival
New York Film Festival





From 1955, Fabio Testi's home town Peschiera del Garda was also home to Bertolazzi Film, a motion picture studio which specialised in the production of colourful pirate movies. Lake Garda was merrily used as the ersatz Caribbean. At Bertolazzi, young Fabio began his career first as an extra, then as a stunt man and body double. As a stunt man, he appeared in the classic westerns The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966) and (as one of Henry Fonda's minions in Once Upon a Time in the West (1968). He started getting small film roles from 1967 and this helped to finance his architectural studies. After graduating, he made commercials for Coca Cola and proceeded to further studies at Verona's Academy of Fine Arts to improve his acting. For several years, he appeared in genre films, often lesser spaghetti westerns like One Damned Day at Dawn... Django Meets Sartana! (1970). As a bona fide action hero, his athletic prowess and imposing physique became a definite asset. Nonetheless, still dissatisfied with the roles he was getting, Testi attended diction classes in Cambridge to improve his English and went to London for acting lessons.

Upon his return to Italy, he finally made his breakthrough after being picked by Vittorio De Sicain the Oscar-winning historical drama *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* (1970). In the wake of the picture's success, Testi has alternated between performing in art films by directors like Claude Chabrol and Andrzej Zulawski, and genre films of the giallo (*What Have You Done to Solange?* (1972)) or poliziotteschi/crime variety (*Camorra* (1972), *Revolver* (1973), *I guappi* (1974)). Over the years he has acted alongside international stars like Oliver Reed, Anthony Quinn, Robert Mitchum (in *The Ambassador* (1984)), Eli Wallach and David Hemmings. By the mid-1980's, Testi was seen more often in television productions. In the 90's, he also turned his attention towards the theatre with a role in a stage adaptation of Federico Fellini's *La Strada*.





Award-winning Koen De Bouw is one of the leading actors in Belgium. He studied theatre at the prestigious Antwerp Studio Herman Teirlinck and made his film debut in 1988. Since then he played leading parts in more than 30 Belgian and international films as well as a similar number of television series, several of them internationally awarded.

His other film credits include starring in Van Looy's 2008 international cult hit Loft. Koen stars opposite Matt Bomer and Kelsey Grammer in the series The Last Tycoon, created by Billy Ray. In Belgium he can also be seen as Jasper Teerlinck, the enigmatic lead of the hit #1 rated Belgian television series Professor T., running for 3 seasons in Belgium, with remakes in France and Germany. Koen's recent projects include the series Red Light and Styx, as well as the feature films Torpedo and Nowhere. In 2020, he gained acclaim for his role in the Oscar-nominated film The Man Who Sold His Skin. Currently, you can watch him in Tim Mielants' feature film WIL, Julie Keeps Quiet, and the series Largo Winch.





Maria de Medeiros, born in Lisbon, is an international actress and director. She began her career working with Portuguese directors such as Jo o César Monteiro and Manoel de Oliveira. At the Venice Film Festival, she was awarded the Coppa Volpi for Best Actress for Teresa Villaverde's Two Brothers, My Sister. Her work gained worldwide recognition thanks to her role as Anaïs Nin in Philip Kaufman's Henry and June, followed by her role in Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction. She has worked with Bigas Luna in Spain, Antonietta de Lillo, Marco Puccioni and Abel Ferrara in Italy, Guy Maddin in Canada, Ishtar Yacin in Mexico and Miguel Faria in Brazil, among others.

Her first feature film as director, Capitaines d'Avril, was selected for the Cannes Film Festival and won several international awards. She went on to direct two feature-length documentaries, Je t'aime, moi non plus - Artistes et critiques and Repare bem -Les yeux de Bacuri. This film won the Jury Prize, Critics' Prize and Don Quixote Prize at the Gramado Festival.

Entre deux inconnus, her filmed correspondence with philosopher Stéphane Zagdanski, was shown in September 2016 at Galerie **Eric Dupont in Paris.**

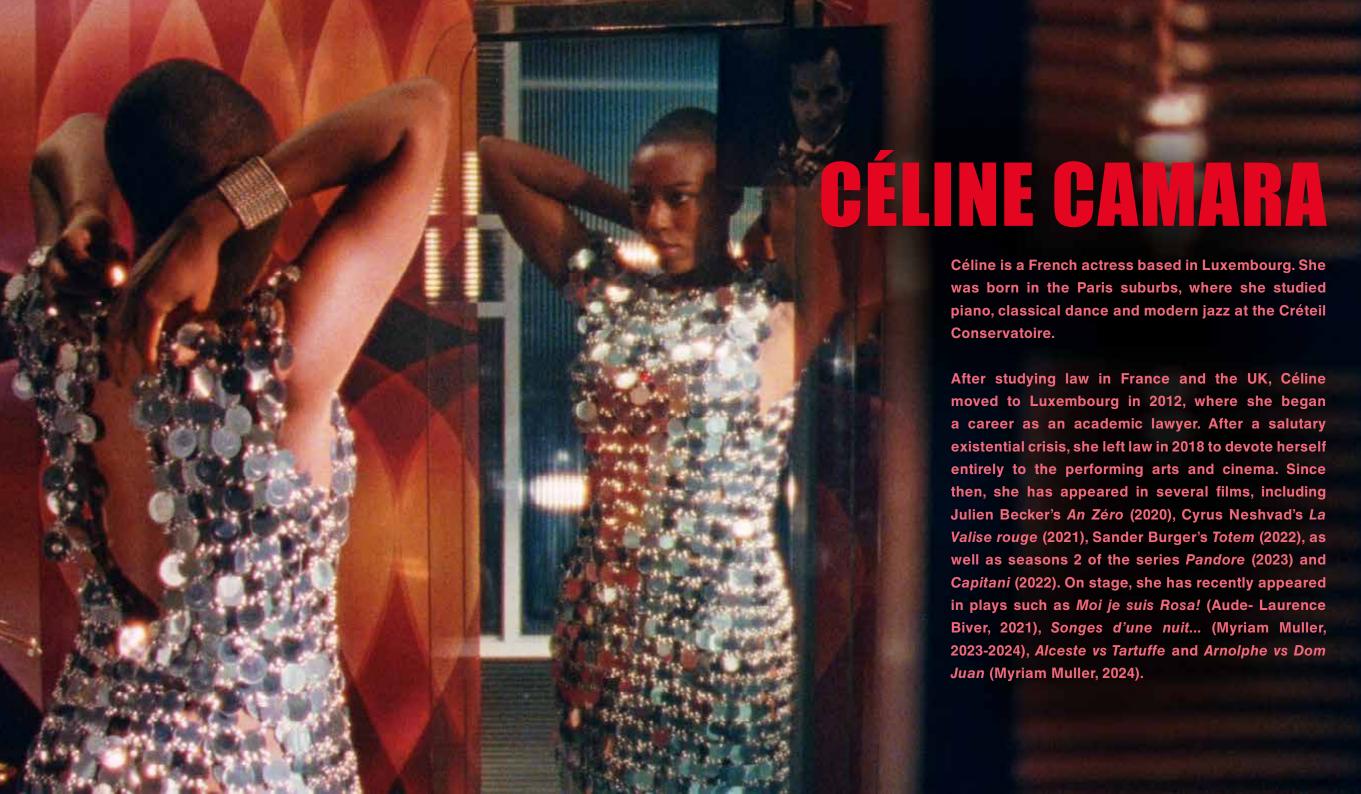
In Rio de Janeiro, she directed nos enfants, her 2nd feature, adapted from the play of the same name by Laura Castro, which she had performed on stage in Brazil.

While working on both sides of the camera, she has pursued her theatrical activity, most recently with Bob Wilson in Since I've been me - Pessoa, and made forays into music as a singer and composer.

THIMAINGUYEN



Thi mai Nguyen is a French-Vietnamese dancer, director and actress. She has toured the world as a performer in productions by Wim Vandekeybus, James Thiérrée, Vania Vaneau, Damien Jalet, among others. In 2018 she received The Maeterlinck Prize For Critics for her first show ETNA. This was followed by PRÉMISSE and STAND BY. Her plays are programmed in Europe, Asia and Latin America. She has appeared in the films BLUSH, HERE AFTER by Wim Vandekeybus and MISTER NOBODY by Jaco van Dormael. She choreographed the films LA VÉRITÉ by Kore-eda Hirokazu and TOUTES POUR UNE by Houda Benyamina. She studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, where she graduated magna cum laude. At the age of 17, she won second prize in the Paris dance competition at the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées. She studied at P.A.R.T.S and the SAE institute in Brussels. Thi mai studied meisner technique with Larry Silverberg and Scott Williams.



EMANUELE BARISON

Comic Book Illustrator



Born in Pordenone (Italy) in 1963, Emanuele Barison started working in comics in the 80's for Walt Disney where he illustrated the adventures of Mickey and Donald.

In the early 2000s he became one of the great cartoonists of the Italian fumetti, whose color drawings of Diabolik inspired us for Reflection in a Dead Diamond. The Italian fumetti is monthly and sells hundreds of thousands of copies at the newsstand. Emanuele Barison is one of the reference illustrators of Diabolik, but also of other heroes such as Zagor or Tex. Since 2010, his work has been exported internationally with the series De Silence et de Sang for Éditions Glénat and Orféa for Éditions Dargaud.

LA WALLY

GIRL FROM SALINA

MORTE SOSPETTA DI UNA MINORENNE 12

William Cition



declasing stata

LO STRANO VIZIO DELLA SIGNORA WARDH - SEQ. 25

CANI ARRABBIATI - TITOLI

VENTIQUATTROMILA BACI

CALIBRO 35 - MILANO CALIBRO 9 (BOUCHET FUNK)



CREW

Directors/Screenwriters

Producer

Co-Produced by

Director of Photography

Production Designer

Costumes

SFX

Image Editing

Sound Editing

Mixing

Color Grading

Hélène Cattet & Bruno Forzani

Pierre Foulon

Gilles Chanial

Simona Pelliccioli

François Cognard

Bart Van Langendonck

Dominique Marzotto

Lionel Guedj

Manu Dacosse

Laurie Colson

Jackye Fauconnier

Oriane De Neve

Bernard Beets

Dan Bruylandt

Matthieu Cox

Peter Bernaers

Production Company

Co-Production Companies

Kozak Films

Les Films Fauves

Dandy Projects

Tobina Film

Savage Film

To Be Continued

In Co-Production with RTBF (Télévision belge)

ARTE France Cinéma

VOO and Be tv

Proximus

BNP Paribas Fortis Film Finance

With the support of CENTRE DU CINEMA ET DE L'AUDIOVISUEL DE LA

FEDERATION WALLONIE-BRUXELLES

LOTERIE NATIONALE

FONDS AUDIOVISUEL DE FLANDRE (VAF)

Tax Shelter du Gouvernement Fédéral Belge

FILM FUND LUXEMBOURG

MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA - Direzione Generale

Cinema e Audiovisivo

PR FESR de la Liguria

CINE+

With the participation of LA REGION DE BRUXELLES-CAPITALE

WALLIMAGE (Wallonie)

REGION DES PAYS DE LA LOIRE, en partenariat avec le CNC

FEATURE FILMS - PRODUCTION

REFLECTION IN A DEAD DIAMOND

by Hélène CATTET and Bruno FORZANI Release: Spring / Summer 2025 In Competition Berlinale (2025)

WALLIFORNIA DREAMIN

by Julien HENRY, written by Daphné HUYNH and Lucy MATTOT In financing, with the development support of Wallimpact and Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles **Shooting: Autumn 2025**

L'ENTAILLE

Adaptation of the graphic novel by Antoine MAILLARD **Script Development**

PASSING GAME

by Jérôme VANDEWATTYNE, adapted from the play by Steve TESICH **Script Development**

FEATURE FILMS - IN CO-PRODUCTION SHORT FILMS - PRODUCTION

AU RYTHME DU COEUR

by Rémi FRECHETTE Co-Production: POSSIBLES MEDIA (CA) **Shooting: Summer/Fall 2025**

i Wi

by Yuki KAWAMURA

Co-Production: LES FILMS FAUVES (LU), GOOD FORTUNE FILMS (FR), FLAG Inc (JP) **Shooting: Autumn 2025**

MIRACLE

by Sasha WOLFF

Co-Production: LES FILMS FAUVES (LU), TIMSHEL PRODUCTIONS (FR) **Shooting: TBC**

TÊTE TORDUE

by Pascal MARC Co-Production: TOMSA FILMS (FR) **Shooting: Summer 2025**

SERIES - PRODUCTION

OPENFIELD

by Samuel PALLADINO and Thomas JUNGBLUT In Late Development - Belgian Series Fund **Shooting: Spring 2026**

LAURA

by Caroline PREVINAIRE and Catherine HOFFMAN In Co-Production with APC Studio (FR) and RTBF (BE) In Phase 1 of Script Development

ASTRONYMOUS

by Anouchka WALEWYK **Script Development**

ASSOIFFE

by Lisa SALLUSTIO Co-Production (2023): PUNCHLINE CINEMA (FR), NEW SHOES PRODUCTIONS (FR) Release Date: 2024

CŒUR GRAS

by Alice KHOL

With the support of Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles Co-Production: TO BE CONTINUED Productions (FR), Canal+ (FR)

Release Date: 2025

ORTIE

by Toni HILGERSSON With the support of Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles Co-Production: RTBF, GOMAZIO (BE) Release Date: 2025



Kozak Films is an emerging production company based in Brussels. Founded in 2019 by Pierre Foulon, the company draws on his extensive experience as a production manager and executive producer, spanning over two decades. His first feature production, "Reflection in a Dead Diamond" by Hélène Cattet and Bruno Forzani, showcases his ambition to blend exceptional talent with a bold and innovative approach to filmmaking. Kozak Films is dedicated to developing and producing unique audiovisual works, with a particular focus on promoting Belgian auteur cinema on the European and international stages. The company is open to international co-productions to further its mission of bringing diverse and compelling stories to global audiences.

