



presents

## **Breathe**

**A film by Mélanie Laurent**

"Mélanie Laurent offers a compelling, superbly acted portrait of an adolescent friendship perched on the brink of obsession."

*-Variety*

"Outstanding...phenomenal performances"

*-Stephen Holden, The New York Times*



**France/ 2014 / Drama / French with English Subtitles  
91 min / 2.35:1 / Stereo and 5.1 Surround Sound**

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## Select Press For Breathe

"*Breathe*, the story of a passionate high school friendship between two girls of opposite temperament might be described as a curtain-raiser for *Blue Is the Warmest Color*.... Joséphine Japy and Lou de Laâge give phenomenal performances in this tale of a relationship that curdles into an anguished, increasingly vicious power struggle. Their emotions are so intense that watching *Breathe*, you may feel trapped inside the relationship that consumes them." – Stephen Holden, ***The New York Times***

"Mélanie Laurent is best known as an actress, but *Breathe*, her assured, potent second feature as a director, gives us good reason to pay attention to what she's doing behind the camera as well as in front of it....Laurent has such a deft touch — and is so delicately in tune with her two lead actresses — that she makes you believe you're seeing it all for the first time." – Stephanie Zacharek, ***Village Voice***

"An impressive second film that features intelligent writing and several knockout performances." - Boyd van Hoeij, ***The Hollywood Reporter***

"In her second outing as director (following 2011's *The Adopted*), actress Mélanie Laurent brings a sure, sensitive hand to tonally tricky material and draws superb work from relative newcomers Joséphine Japy (*Cloclo*) and Lou De Laâge (*Jappeloup*)...Laurent demonstrates a vivid sense memory for the circumscribed world of adolescence and its outsized feelings of jealousy and heartbreak and alienation (from family/friends/self)—feelings that flow through *Breathe* as though Laurent herself were there only yesterday." - Scott Foundas, ***Variety***

"*Breathe* offers ample evidence of the growing confidence and skill of Mélanie Laurent as a director. Her second feature is an assured, carefully calibrated adaptation of the bestselling novel by Anne-Sophie Brasme, published in 2001 when the author was just seventeen. It depicts turbulent adolescent emotions and insecurities with an understanding on a par with the films of Celine Sciamma and Katell Quillevere." - Allan Hunter, ***Screen Daily***

"Mélanie Laurent's gorgeous, twisted and confident *Breathe* is a natural second act to the early moments of Kechiche's time-spanning new classic [*Blue is the Warmest Color*], applying the same level of care and consideration to the hormonally driven closeness of yet another pair of wild teen girls." - Kate Erbland, ***Film School Rejects***

"Actress Melanie Laurent has made a mesmerizing French film based on Anne-Sophie Brasme's young adult novel. Charlie's self-destructive choices and actions will be familiar to anyone who has experienced the sting of betrayal by a friend, lover, or family member. As director, Laurent draws out astonishing performances from both Lou de Laâge and Joséphine Japy as two girls who find themselves caught up in a savage battle that neither desires but both enter willingly." – Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, ***Spirituality and Practice***

## **FULL SYNOPSIS**

A taut, nuanced story about the depths of female friendships and the dark side of teenage infatuations, *Breathe*, the sophomore directorial effort from Mélanie Laurent (*Inglorious Basterds*, *Beginners*), is an assured adaptation of the sensational French young adult novel of the same name. Charlie is seventeen and bored. Her estranged parents are too caught up in their own drama to pay too much attention to her. School holds no surprises either and Charlie grows tired of her staid friends. Enter Sarah, a hip new transfer student who brings with her an alluring air of boldness and danger. The two girls form an instant connection. Sarah brings the excitement Charlie so desperately seeks, and Charlie is a stable influence on the wild-child. Through shared secrets, love interests and holiday getaways, their relationship deepens to levels of unspoken intimacy. But with this intimacy comes jealousy and unrealistic expectations, and the teens soon find themselves on a trajectory toward an inevitable and extraordinary collapse, one so jarring neither could have ever seen it coming.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

A nuanced story of the depths and escalating passions found in female friendships, *Breathe* is Mélanie Laurent's (*Inglorious Basterds*, *Beginnings*) assured adaptation of the sensational French young-adult novel of the same name. Two young girls soon find their all-consuming friendship putting them on a trajectory toward an inevitable and extraordinary collapse.

## **LOGLINE**

A coming-of-age tale centered on the friendship of two young girls that quickly turns dark with jealousy and obsession.

## **ASSETS**

Trailer:

Coming Soon

Downloadable hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=418>

## Credits

### CAST

<b>Charlie</b>	Joséphine Japy
<b>Sarah</b>	Lou De Laâge
<b>Vanessa</b>	Isabelle Carré
<b>Laura</b>	Claire Keim
<b>Père Charlie</b>	Rasha Bukvic
<b>Mère Sarah</b>	Carole Franck
<b>Victoire</b>	Roxane Duran
<b>Gastine</b>	Thomas Solivères
<b>Delphine</b>	Camille Claris
<b>Lucas</b>	Louka Meliava
<b>Louise</b>	Louise Grinberg
<b>Isa</b>	Fanny Sidney



## **CREW**

**Director**  
**Producer**  
**Screenwriter**

**Based On a Novel by**  
**A Coproduction by**

**With Participation of**  
**In Association with**

**Production Director**  
**Director of Photography**  
**Chief Editor**  
**Sound Engineer**  
**Sound Editor**  
**Mixer**  
**Original Music**  
**Casting Director**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director**  
**Continuity Editor**  
**General Manager**  
**Production Designer**  
**Costume Designer**  
**Post-Production Manager**  
**Production Coordinator**  
**Still Photographer**

Mélanie Laurent  
Bruno Levy  
Mélanie Laurent  
Julien Lambroschini  
Anne-Sophie Brasme  
Movemovie  
Gaumont  
Mely Productions  
Canal+ and Cine+  
La Région Languedoc Roussillon  
*in partnership with*  
CNC and Manon 4  
Jacques Royer  
Arnaud Potier  
Guerric Catala  
Cyril Moisson  
Alexis Place  
Cyril Holtz  
Mark Chouarain  
Coralie Subert  
Luc Bricault  
Sylvie Koechlin  
Anne Ferignac  
Stanislas Reydellet  
Maïra Ramedhan-Levi  
Pauline Gilbert  
Julie Lescat  
Jérôme Plon  
Alice Dardun

## **Mélanie Laurent, Director**

Already well-known for her screen work in her native France, Mélanie Laurent became known world-wide through her 2009 portrayal of "Shosanna Dreyfus" in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*. Laurent shared the prestigious Screen Actors Guild Awards for Outstanding Performance by a Cast with her co-stars. Ms. Laurent has also been nominated for



*Filmmaker Mélanie Laurent*

an Empire Award and won Best Actress awards from the Online Film Critics Society, as well as the Austin Film Critics Association.

Her other film credits include Jennifer Devoldère's *Jusqu'à toi* and *Et Soudain Tout le Monde me Manque*, Jérôme Le Gris' *Requiem pour une tueuse*, Roselyne Bosch's *La raffle*; Radu Mihaileanu's *Le Concert*, Cédric Anger's *Le tueur*; Cédric Klapisch's *Paris*, Rachid Bouchareb's award-winning *Indigènes* (a.k.a. *Days of Glory*), Jacques Audiard's *The Beat That My Heart Skipped*, Michel Blanc's *Embrassez qui vous voudrez*, Frédéric Auburtin and Gérard Depardieu's *The Bridge*, Laurent Dussaux's television film *Route de nuit*, and Philippe Lioret's *Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas*, for which she won a César Award (France's Oscars equivalent) and a Lumiere Award. She has also been honored with the prestigious Prix Romy Schneider. More recently, Ms. Laurent has impressed English-speaking audiences in Mike Mill's *Beginners* (2011), with Ewan MacGregor and Christopher Plummer, and Dennis Villeneuve's *Enemy*, alongside Jake Gyllenhaal and Isabella Rossellini.

Ms. Laurent wrote and directed the short films *À ses pieds* and *De moins en moins*; the latter was shown at the Cannes International Film Festival. She directed and starred in her first feature *Les Adoptés*, also from her original screenplay, opposite Denis Menochet. *Breathe* is her second feature and premiered at Cannes' Critic's Week.

## **SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY**

2011 The Adopted

## ***Excerpts from Director's Interview***

### **Why did you want to adapt Anne Sophie Brasme's novel to the big screen?**

Because it's been stuck in my head. I read it when I was 17 and I always knew I wanted to turn it into a movie. It blew my mind. When it was time for me to think of a second movie to direct, I was having lunch with my producer Bruno Levy and he was asking me about what I wanted to do. I told him about this very complicated movie that was going to span 80 years. I saw by the look on his face that he wasn't thrilled by the idea. "Or," I told him, "There is this toxic friendship story that I've always had in mind." He looked at me: "That's it!"

### **How did you choose the actresses?**

I was completely under Joséphine's charm when I saw her in *Cloclo*. When I found out that she was only 17 and could act like that, I was stunned. She is everything I like to see in a movie. A glance and we dive in. I wrote the script looking at her picture. When we met, she reminded me of me when I met Phillipe Lioret for *Je Vais Bien Ne T'en Fait Pas*. She understood everything about the script. It couldn't be anyone else but her.

### **What about Lou de Laâge?**

I first saw her in *J'aime Regarder les Filles*. I thought she was gorgeous with that sort of staggering beauty. I found it interesting to take an angel to play the part of a devil. She is not a sociopath or manipulative at all. And as a director, I hate manipulation on set. I don't understand how one can work in a tyrannical environment. I am convinced that if you want to play hatred you have to love each other deeply. It was really important to have a delightful girl who would could get along very well with everyone and learn to play someone evil.

### **On set, what did you have to do to get what you wanted? Your actresses mentioned your softness...**

I never get angry! Neither with my actors or my crew. If the crew feels happy and if everyone wants to work without fear of making a mistake, then that's what really matters. Being a director is like being a mother. Everyone relies on you. You have to be there all the time.

### **What scene was the most difficult?**

The only scene that caused me anxiety when I wrote it was the scene in the trailer when the characters go through three feelings in less than one minute. The "drunk" scene, then the slap, and then the awkwardness. All this in a 32 square foot room. It was such a heavy scene. It was the most important one to capture. We did it the second day of shooting. I knew precisely what I wanted. I told my actresses: "there

will only be one take, so give all you have." Just before the scene, the three of us had a shot of vodka. And they did it! We were four hours ahead of the schedule.

### **What about Josephine's scene when she goes into hysterics and cries?**

Josephine is just like me. She is such an emotional girl—I didn't want to exhaust her. I went to see a sound engineer and asked him if we could get her an earpiece so I could direct her from another room. We made everyone leave the room. It was magical. I was screaming at her and then I was telling her "and now you fall apart, you break and I break with you." I was crying as well. "Stick to my breathing," I told her. At the end I said, "I love you, everything is fine. In three seconds you are going to look at the camera." I noticed a tear in the corner of her eye and it fell right at that moment. I am emotional just talking about it.

### **Why do you feel the need to make movies?**

Because I only feel like myself when I direct. I always feel an empty meaningless void when shooting comes to an end because I feel like what I did mattered. I've worked with many directors who brought me to where I am today.

## **FESTIVALS AND AWARDS**

### OFFICIAL SELECTION:

Cannes Film Festival

Toronto International Film Festival

Oldenburg Film Festival

Films by the Sea Film Festival

Athens Film Festival

Hamptons International Film Festival

Philadelphia International Film Festival

Stockholm International Film Festival

AFI Fest

Rendez-Vous with French Cinema, New York City



### **About Film Movement**

Launched in 2002, Film Movement is a full-service North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films, based in New York City. Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts from 50 countries on six continents, including top prize winners from Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, Tribeca and other prestigious festivals. Film Movement releases its films through numerous distribution channels, including thousands of art-house cinemas, universities and libraries; home video; television outlets; Cable Video on Demand (including its very own branded cable VOD platform—Film Festival on Demand—available in over 40 million US homes); In-flight Entertainment; and broadband outlets. For more information, please visit [www.filmmovement.com](http://www.filmmovement.com).

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