



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

The UK's largest rural film festival

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Louise-Michel (15)

Directors: Benoit Delepine, Gustave de Kervern

Starring: Yolande Moreau, Bouli Lanners, Benoit Poelvoorde

Belgium, 2008, 1 hour 34 minutes, Flemish with English subtitles

Both having spent the previous ten years writing and performing on TV, separately, as stand-up comedians, Benoit Delepine and Gustave Kervern met some eight years ago on the set of *Grolandsat*, an independent show shot on DV. They used this as a testing ground to develop a new narrative style, writing short inserts that became increasingly elaborate. Whilst working on the comic series *Toc, toc, toc*, they met acclaimed French director Maurice Pialat, who talked them into making films, and the resultant first effort was *Don Quixote and the Revolution*, a road-movie short featuring an anarchist biker and a pizza delivery boy on a moped. Their first feature film, *Aaltra* (2003), mixed actors and non-professionals, hidden camera and staged shots as well as both written and improvised dialogue.

“Our aim is to create a hilarious jet-black comedy. We want a film with a free style, edited and framed in a simple, yet original, manner. We want our protagonists to be likeable yet radical. We want a social western where the best of people can become villains and where the villains are criminals on a never-seen-before level. From our previous films, we wish to maintain the sense of rhythm and original framing, the omnipresence of sound, even in periods of long silence. Dialogue will be kept to a minimum but the words will pack a punch and the actors will ad-lib in their interaction. We want to include quirky music with an extreme tone, but which maintains a level of credibility throughout. Our film will be more concerned with the human story and less with the aesthetics.

We want our crew to be small yet flexible, to capture all the unplanned moments with a lot of intensity. We want the film to capture the essence of the countries in which it's set. We want washed-out colours to be prominent throughout, like the Northern sky. We want the rough and direct sound of the film to impact on the audience, without exception. We want a film that affects the audience. If it is successful, all the better!”

Benoit Delepine, Gustave de Kervern

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