

SOPHIE DESMARAIS

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN COURCHESNE GENEVIÈVE BOIVIN-ROUSSY HÉLÈNE FLORENT MICHELINE LANCTÔT EVE DURANCEAU

SARAH PRÉFÈRE LA COURSE

SARAH PREFERS TO RUN



SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
UN CERTAIN REGARD
FESTIVAL DE CANNES



A film by
CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

Produced by
FANNY-LAURE MALO

LES FILMS SÉVILLE present a LA BOÎTE À FANNY production "SARAH PREFERS TO RUN" with SOPHIE DESMARAIS JEAN-SÉBASTIEN COURCHESNE GENEVIÈVE BOIVIN-ROUSSY EVE DURANCEAU BENOÎT GOUIN PIERRE-LUC LAFONTAINE
with HÉLÈNE FLORENT and MICHELINE LANCTÔT director of photography JESSICA LEE GAGNÉ production designer BRUNO-PIERRE HOULE sound FRANÇOIS GRENON JEAN-FRANÇOIS SAUVÉ LUC BOUDRIAS editor MICHEL ARCAND
assistant director CATHERINE KIROUAC production manager NICOLAS DE MONTIGNY executive producers RENÉ MALO CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD production FANNY-LAURE MALO screenplay CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

With the financial participation of

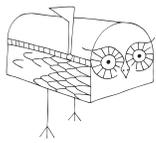
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LA BOÎTE À FANNY



Present

SARAH PRÉFÈRE LA COURSE (SARAH PREFERS TO RUN)

a film by
CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

produced by
FANNY-LAURE MALO

World premiere
Cannes Official Selection, 2013
Un Certain Regard

SYNOPSIS

Sarah is a gifted young middle-distance runner. Her life changes when she's offered admission to Quebec's best university athletics program, in Montreal – far from her suburban Quebec City home. Sarah doesn't have her mother's financial support for the move, or any support at all: her mother worries that leaving will be bad for Sarah's health and life. But Sarah is stubborn, and moves to Montreal anyway, with her friend Antoine. Though barely out of their teens, they get married because they want the best scholarships and loans. Marriage turns out to be completely different from what the naïve 20-year-olds expected. Sarah doesn't want to hurt anyone with the choices she makes, it's just that she loves running more than anything else.



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Sarah préfère la course looks at the pursuit of a goal, and explores the anxieties of a young athlete who lives to run. Unlike most sports films, the story is not concerned with showing how big her dream is, or dwelling on her positive results. Rather, it shows the sacrifices and consequences that come with the dream, both for the athlete and the people close to her. In this film, the dream is beautiful and intoxicating, but also destructive and selfish – like the protagonist. Sarah learns about life on fast-forward. She learns, like many people her age, to make choices and live with the consequences.

Sarah does not fit with the usual preconceptions about femininity, whether in terms of her clothing, social life or reserved personality. Antoine, the friend with whom she moves to Montreal, also reveals an interesting side of masculinity: he is more focused on his emotions and more demonstrative than we are conditioned to expect. They are “Sarah” and “Antoine” first and foremost, and “a woman” and “a man” incidentally. By deciding to marry, they force themselves into a conventional heterosexual family mould at a very young age. Even though they tell themselves it’s only for money, the word “marriage” is still significant. The film explores the symbolic notion of marriage and its power over individuals and their feelings.

A WORD FROM CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

WRITER AND DIRECTOR



Photo credit: Justine Latour
Agent : Claude girard, claudegirard.ca

La Boîte à Fanny inc. is a film production company founded by Fanny-Laure Malo in 2011, with the mission of supporting bold, inspiring projects and participating actively in their development and completion.

Over the last two years, La Boîte à Fanny has produced a half-dozen short films, including *Chef de meute* by Chloé Robichaud, an Official Selection at Cannes in 2012, and *la trilogie du Canard* by Stéphane Foenkinos, a suite of three short films co-produced with France and starring Pierre Lapointe, Émilie Simon and Monia Chokri.

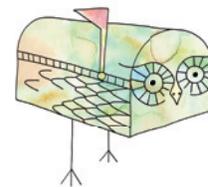
Sarah préfère la course is the first feature film produced by La Boîte à Fanny.

Dare.

Innovate.

Inspire people around the world by making sensitive, honest, accessible films.

LA BOÎTE À FANNY



DIRECTOR

CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

Director and Writer

At 25, Chloé Robichaud has an impressive track record and a most promising future. In 2013, the writer and director made the Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival for the second year in a row with her first feature, *Sarah préfère la course*. The film, starring Sophie Desmarais and Jean-Sébastien Courchesne, explores the compromises a young athlete must make in order to achieve her goal. Robichaud enjoys all facets of filmmaking, which is why she writes her films from treatment to script as well as directing and often editing them. In 2012, her short film *Chef de meute* was screened at Cannes, where it was nominated for the Palme d'or for short films. It was also nominated for a Jutra Award and a Canadian Screen Award and was named to Canada's Top Ten as well as being shown at numerous international festivals. Chloé Robichaud was born in Quebec City and lives and works in Montreal. She holds an honours bachelor's degree in film production from Concordia University in Montreal and received a diploma in direction from the Institut national de l'image et du son (INIS) in 2010. She is currently writing her next film, *Pays*, which explores the lives of women politicians. It is scheduled for production in 2014.



Photo credit: Justine Latour
Agent: Claude Girard, claudegirard.ca

PRODUCTION

FANNY-LAURE MALO

Producer Fanny-Laure Malo holds a bachelor's degree in film production from Concordia University and a diploma in production from the Institut national de l'image et du son (INIS). She founded La Boîte à Fanny in 2011.

Since opening the production house, Fanny has produced a half-dozen short films, including *Chef de meute* (directed by Chloé Robichaud, official competition Cannes 2012; Jutra and Canadian Screen Awards nominations), *Daytona* (directed by François Jaros, who won the award for direction at the Rendez-vous du cinéma Québécois) and *la trilogie du Canard* (French co-production directed by Stéphane Foenkinos). *Sarah préfère la course* is her first feature and third time working with director Chloé Robichaud.

Fanny is currently completing several short films and has three features in development: *Pays* (Chloé Robichaud's next film), *Geneviève* (a Canada-France co-production directed by Stéphane Foenkinos) and *Free the Children* (the story of the early years of the eponymous organization founded by Craig Kielburger).



Photo credit: Justine Latour

CAST

SOPHIE DESMARAIS

Sarah

A 2007 graduate of the theatre program at Collège Lionel-Groulx, Sophie Desmarais already has an impressive list of credits. On film, she landed a series of roles in feature films, including *Le grand départ*, *Les grandes chaleurs*, *Funkytown* and *Curling* and, more recently, *Décharge*, the latest film by Benoit Pilon. In addition to *Sarah préfère la course*, Sophie will soon appear in two new feature films: *Chasse au Godard d'Abbittibbi* (Éric Morin), and *Le Démantèlement* (Sébastien Pilote – also premiering in Cannes this year, in Critics Week).

Her television credits include the series *La Galère*, *Roxy* and *Yamaska* and appearances on the youth programs *Stan et ses stars* and *Une grenade avec ça?* She also appeared in the online series *En audition avec Simon* and *Enquête romantique*.

She has given many well-received performances in theatre, in plays such as *Les muses orphelines*, *Qu'est-ce qui reste de Marie-Stella*, *L'Avare* (directed by Serge Postigo) and *Norway.Today*. In 2010, she won the Olivier Reichenbach award for up-and-coming actors for her portrayal of Héro in the play *Beaucoup de bruit pour rien*, directed by René-Richard Cyr. At TNM, she played the gentle Agnès in *L'école des femmes* and will appear in *Yukonstyle* at théâtre d'Aujourd'hui in April 2013.



Photo credit: Maxyme G. Delisle
Duchesne Agence Artistique, agenceduchesne.com

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN COURCHESNE

Antoine

A graduate of the acting program at École Supérieure de Théâtre (2007), Jean-Sébastien Courchesne's first love is theatre. He has co-founded two companies (Création les Indigestes and Théâtre de l'Ingérence) and has participated in a dozen theatrical productions as an actor, writer or director. After several appearances on television, in 2010 he launched his film career by appearing in a dozen short films. *Jo pour Jonathan* by Maxime Giroux (2010) was his first appearance in a feature, opening the door to more projects. In 2012, he acted in *Sarah préfère la course* by Chloé Robichaud (with whom he worked on *Moi non plus* (2010) and *Chef de Meute* (2012)), *Diego star* by Frédérick Pelletier and *La ferme des humains* by Onur Karaman.



Photo credit: Maxime Tremblay
Agence Ginette Achim, agenceginetteachim.com

GENEVIÈVE BOIVIN-ROUSSY

Zoey

Geneviève Boivin-Roussy graduated from the acting program at Cégep Lionel-Groulx in 2009 and has been showing off her tremendous talent ever since. A driven artist who expresses herself in many ways, she is a founding member of the Les Garçonnes company, where she explores various media including performing arts, media arts, visual arts, music and literature. She also directed the play *Adieu Beauté* in 2010, staged at Théâtre de l'Esquisse. Recently, she appeared in the play *Don Juan Uncensored*, directed by Marc Beaupré.

Her film credits include the role of Sylvie in the latest film by the Fuica brothers, *La run*, and the upcoming *La maison du pêcheur* by Alain Chartrand, *Sarah préfère la course* by Chloé Robichaud and *Deux nuits* by Denys Arcand.

She also plays Gloria on the television series *O'*, directed by Éric Tessier, on TVA.



Photo credit: Maude Chauvin
Agence artistique M, agencem.com

HÉLÈNE FLORENT

Isabelle

Since graduating from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec in 2000, Hélène Florent has worked steadily in film, theatre and television.

Her openness, confidence and talent have earned her numerous awards and nominations including the **Artis** award in 2012 and 2011, a **Vancouver Film Critics Circle Award** (2011) and a prestigious **Satellites Awards** nomination (2012, with Judi Dench, Anne Hathaway and Amy Adams) for her performance in *Café de Flore* by Jean-Marc Vallée.

We have seen Hélène on film in a number of internationally successful works such as *Yellowknife* (2001, Rodrigue Jean), *Mémoires affectives* (2004, Francis Leclerc), *La vie avec mon père* (2004, Sébastien Rose), *Familia* (2004, Louise Archambault) and *Café de Flore* (2010, Jean-Marc Vallée).



Photo credit: Monic Richard
Agence Micheline St-Laurent, agenceartistique.com

MICHELINE LANCTÔT

McGill Coach

Micheline Lanctôt studied music and fine arts. For nearly seven years she enthusiastically immersed herself in the world of animated film while also working as a successful actress.

In 1980, her directorial debut, *L'homme à tout faire*, was selected for the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes, and won a Silver Medal at the San Sebastian Film Festival. Her second feature, *Sonatine*, won a Silver Lion at Venice in 1984.

Since then she has written 20 scripts, directed 11 feature films, published two novels and translated three novels, while continuing to work as a film and television actress. She has also garnered many more awards, including the award for Best Film at the Rendez-vous du Cinéma Québécois for *Deux actrices* (1993), the Géméau for best actress for her performance in the television series *Le Pollock* (1999), and a Géméau for best supporting actress for the series *Belle-Baie* (2006). *Pour l'amour de Dieu*, which she directed in 2011, won the award for best actress at the Angoulême Festival, the Magelis Award for Cinematography and a Jury Prize at the Shanghai Film Festival.

Micheline Lanctôt received the Albert Tessier award in 2000 and is a recipient of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award.



Photo credit: Bertrand Carrière

EVE DURANCEAU

Fanny

Soon after graduating from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal in 2000, Eve Duranceau launched her television career with a role in the hit series *Fortier*. She later appeared in *Grande Ourse*, *Les Bougons*, *Les sœurs Elliot*, *Tactik*, *Providence*, *Toute la vérité*, *Trauma* and, most prominently, *Le Négociateur*.

In theatre, she has toured France and Quebec since 2010 in *Éclats et autres libertés* (Théâtre Le clou, director Benoît Vermeulen).

Eve's film credits include André Turpin's *Time Warp*, Sébastien Rose's *Le Banquet* and Denis Villeneuve's *Polytechnique*. She had her first leading role in *Elle veut le chaos* by Denis Côté. Eve also appeared in *Le bonheur des autres* by Jean-Philippe Pearson and Chloé Robichaud's first feature, *Sarah préfère la course*.

In 2012, Eve played the title role in the short film *Chef de meute* by Chloé Robichaud, selected for the official competition at the Cannes Film Festival.



Photo credit: Maude Chauvin
Agence artistique M, agencem.com

PRODUCTION DETAILS

A film by
CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

Produced by
FANNY-LAURE MALO

Written by
CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

Art director
BRUNO-PIERRE HOULE

Cinematographer
JESSICA LEE GAGNÉ

Wardrobe
NOÉMI POULIN

Makeup
TAMMY-LOU PATE

Hair
AUDREY LAMPRON

Sound design and recording
JEAN-FRANÇOIS SAUVÉ
FRANÇOIS GRENON

Mixing
LUC BOUDRIAS

Editing
MICHEL ARCAND

Executive producers
RENÉ MALO
CHLOÉ ROBICHAUD

Production
LA BOÎTE À FANNY

Canadian Distribution
LES FILMS SÉVILLE

International sales
ENTERTAINMENT ONE
FILMS INTERNATIONAL

SARAH PRÉFÈRE LA COURSE

WITH

Sarah
SOPHIE DESMARAIS

Antoine
JEAN-SÉBASTIEN
COURCHESNE

Zoey
GENEVIÈVE BOIVIN-ROUSSY

Isabelle
HÉLÈNE FLORENT

Fanny
EVE DURANCEAU

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MICHELINE LANCTÔT

Sean
PIERRE-LUC LAFONTAINE

Richard
BENOÎT GOUIN

