

**La Fabrique 2 & Be-Films**  
present

# THE PACK

**(LA MEUTE)**



**OFFICIAL SELECTION**  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

**SEANCE SPECIALE**

Running time: 85'

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## SYNOPSIS

Charlotte is alone on a road trip. On an isolated side road, she picks up Max, a hitchhiker, who disappears in the bathroom of a truck-stop restaurant a few miles later. Puzzled, Charlotte comes back at night to look for him but gets caught by La Spack, a singular woman in charge of an odd pack. Charlotte quickly realizes....she's next on the menu.

## INTRODUCTION

*The Pack* is a French-Belgium film with an uncommon tone. Thanks to its originality and surrealism, this project attracted famous actors who were not used to making genre films. Unlike French genre films produced or written in France over the past few years, *The Pack* is not showing torture and doesn't want to hurt the audience. *The Pack* embarks the audience in a travel in a post industrial world where regular and logical marks will be completely useless. The building model for the film is the one of a modern Western.

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER OF INTENT

"I love genre films since childhood. At that time, this term didn't mean only horror movies, but various type of films, such as action, fantastic, science fiction, thriller and adventure ones.

To sum things up, let's say that I really appreciate cinema when it is smart and popular, and this is what I tried to achieve while filming THE PACK.

I do say "tried", because it was a real try. I wanted to go back towards an atmospheric fantastic cinema that gets away, as much as possible, from the wave of films of torture that erupts on our screens today. That type of cinema is really unbearable for me.

My real references are rather Franju's cinema, or Tourneur's one and even Carpenter's.

The lighting choices were dictated a lot by the locations we chose to shoot. The slag heap had a particular ambiance (its wind, its dry ground...). Therefore, I wanted the night sequences to offer a very purified atmosphere and look, with a very contrasting light. Laurent Barès, the director of photography, allowed the shadows to do their job but he did not hesitate to magnify the moments that needed to be "fairy tale" like, in a dark kind of way.

The mining background of the film allowed me to surround it in a reality that I knew. Using my past (the closing of the Lorraine mines in the 80ties and 90ties) and a French region tradition, I tried to offer something new by avoiding as much as I could, copying the American big brother, John Carpenter.

Starting from there, many things followed, even the idea of having monsters (these golems born from the muck and the blood of the underground dead miners) who can only live in the ground of the slag heap. These heaps of waste are the last relics of the old times.

I did this film because I believe that it is still possible to make a good genre film in France AND because it is an excellent way to struggle against a certain hierarchical organization of culture...."

**Franck RICHARD - *Director***

## SET DESIGN

The director Franck Richard took all his team, over many nights, to shoot at the top of a slag heap near Mons in Belgium.

Nothing stopped the shooting on the top of this slag heap, neither the tempest, nor the horse that almost drowned pulling La Spack's cart.

The other challenge in making this film was the construction of the farm. The chosen location was built entirely on an arid and empty ground, which comes naturally out of the sky by an effect of twilight.

Belgian duo Florence VERCHEVAL and Eugénie COLLET were in charge of designing the sets.

*"The barn, with its big woodwork on the ceiling, had a graphic interest.*

*We repainted everything and revised windows to make a sieved light. Then, we constructed the hall, the door... a sort of tunnel that represents anxiety and leads to the "circle", the machine to be force-fed, imagined by Franck Richard and the designer TANXXX... It had to be as if we were arriving in an allegory. The result is rather theatrical, it is almost like an opera".*



Storyboard by TANXXX

Another important visual element of the movie is that red is the colour of blood and only that. There is no red on screen (object, setting, clothes) unless it is blood.

Working on an ambience in the bluish, greenish and grey tones, accentuates the red colour of blood.

*"The idea of the red colour was Franck's idea. Blood was the most important thing for him. And the best way for it to show, was to work on a monochrome picture, without any red in the costumes nor in the sets. The result is quite satisfying".*

**Florence VERCHEVAL & Eugénie COLLET - set designers**

## THE MUSIC

For the director Franck Richard, music is as important as cinema in life. Therefore music has always been a key element of his cinematic projects.

“For this film, I have always had in mind a soundtrack made with a strong industrial stench. So it seemed natural to me to entrust the task (encouraged by the artist TANXXX with whom I worked on the storyboard) to Chris Spencer (Unsane) and Ari Benjamin Meyers (Einstürzende Neubauten).

Chris and I share the same passion for the simplicity and effectiveness of John Carpenter’s film music. I needed this kind of music to make some sequences of my film successful” says Franck Richard.

So the soundtrack was written and recorded by Ari Benjamin MEYERS and Chris SPENCER, founder of the rock and “noisy” group **UNSAFE**.

**UNSAFE** was created in 1988 and its members were Chris SPENCER (guitar, voice), Peter SHORE (bass, voice) et Vinny Signorelli (drums). This famous New Yorker group places its influence into rock groups such as The Melvins, AC/DC, The Stooges, Flipper ou Car Alarms.

Their discography contains 7 albums :

- 2007 Visqueen
- 2005 Blood Run
- 1998 Occupational Hazard
- 1997 Amrep Christmas
- 1996 Scattered, Smothered & Covered
- 1994 Total Destruction
- 1992 Unsane

On the soundtrack, there are also additional songs from the independent rock French scene, such as the Marvin group, Café Flesh and Warehouse project. The director Franck Richard explains his choices :

“I am fed up with hearing people saying there’s no rock music in France. So I wanted the soundtrack of the film to include titles from the French gifted independent rock scene as well.”

## THE CAST

**Yolande MOREAU** - La Spack

**César 2005 for the Best Actress and the best First film - WHEN THE SEA RISES**

**César 2008 for the Best Actress - SÉRAPHINE**

Yolande Moreau took acting courses at the Jacques Lecoq school, and started her career by doing shows for children.

In 1982, she wrote a one-woman-show (« *Sale affaire, du sexe et du crime* ») and she was quickly noticed by Agnès Varda, who then invited her in the world of cinema. First in 1984 in the short movie « 7 p., cuis., s. de b., ... à saisir », and a year later, with « Vagabond ».

Thanks to her sweet madness and her poetry, in 1989 she became one of the main figures of the TV comedy show *Les Deschiens*. Later on, many French directors solicited her for uncommon roles, especially in the 1995 film HAPPINESS IS IN THE FIELD and THE THREE BROTHERS, and of course in 2000 with AMÉLIE FROM MONTMARTRE.

In 2004, the actress, Yolande Moreau started a new career as a director. With the collaboration of Gilles Porte, she directed QUAND LA MER MONTE, which seduced the public and the press, winning the César for Best First Film , the Prix Delluc and the Best Actress César for Yolande as well.

Three years later, her talent as an actress was once again rewarded for SÉRAPHINE (2008 ), a film in which she brought a remarkable emotion.

### Selective Filmography :

2010	MAMMUTH, <i>Gustave Kervern &amp; Benoît Delépine</i> GAINSBOURG, <i>Joann Sfar</i>
2009	MICMACS, <i>Jean-Pierre Jeunet</i>
2008	LOUISE-MICHEL, <i>Gustave Kervern &amp; Benoît Delépine</i> SÉRAPHINE, <i>Martin Provost</i>
2007	THE LAST MISTRESS, <i>Catherine Breillat</i>
2006	PARIS, I LOVE YOU, <i>in the short film directed by Sylvain Chomet</i>
2005	THE AX, <i>Costa-Gavras</i>
2004	WHEN THE SEA RISES, <i>Yolande Moreau &amp; Gilles Porte</i>
2001	AMÉLIE FROM MONTMARTRE, <i>Jean-Pierre Jeunet</i>
1995	HAPPINESS IS IN THE FIELD, <i>Etienne Chatiliez</i> THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF, <i>Jean-Paul Rappeneau</i>
1993	GERMINAL, <i>Claude Berri</i>
1985	VAGABOND, <i>Agnès Varda</i>

## **Émilie DEQUENNE - Charlotte**

***Best Actress - Cannes Films Festival 1999 - ROSETTA***

At a very young age, Emilie Dequenne was already on stage.

At 16 years old, right after her A levels, she went on studying political sciences without letting down her love for theater.

Two years later, she replied to a newspaper ad from a production that was looking for a young actress for a feature film. It was for ROSETTA, the film directed by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne for which she became the leading character on screen, facing off 2000 other aspiring young girls.

For her remarkable performance, she was awarded the Best Actress Award in the 1999 Cannes Film Festival.

Her career began there... and since then, she played in :

2010	I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, <i>Laurent Vinas-Raymond</i>
2009	THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN, <i>André Téchiné</i>
2006	LE GRAND MEAULNES, <i>Jean-Daniel Verhaeghe</i> LA VIE D'ARTISTE, <i>Marc Fitoussi</i>
2005	FISSURES, <i>Alante Kavaïté</i>
2004	THE LIGHT, <i>Philippe Lioret</i>
2001	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF, <i>Christophe Gans</i> A HOUSEKEEPER, <i>Claude Berri</i>

## **Benjamin BIOLAY - Max**

***Nominated for the Best Actor in a Supporting Role César 2009 - STELLA***

Benjamin is a talented musician, composer and singer. He first put a foot in cinema in 2004, with the Arnaud Viard film CLARA AND ME, for which he composed the soundtrack. Two years later, he made his first steps as an actor in the feature film DIDINE and for Arte TV in SANG FROID, a film directed by Sylvie Verheyde.

His work with director Sylvie Verheyde didn't stop there. They teamed again in 2007 to make STELLA. Thanks to this film, Benjamin was nominated for the best actor in a supporting role César.

A year later, Biolay came back to TV for Canal +, with the short movie C'EST POUR QUAND .

In 2009, Benjamin appeared in the TV film PETITE FILLE by Laëtitia Masson.

In 2010, he composed the soundtrack of the film THE QUEEN OF HEARTS.

2008	STELLA, <i>Sylvie Verheyde</i>
2007	C'EST POUR QUAND?, <i>Katia Lewkowicz</i>
2006	DIDINE, <i>Vincent Dietschy</i>

## Philippe NAHON - Chinaski

Philippe began acting in 1961 in Jean-Pierre Melville DOULOS.

Thanks to his physical appearance and talent, Philippe Nahon has been portraying on screen uncommon characters since his early career.

Philippe is frequently offered roles by the new generation of French filmmakers. He played in THE HATE by Mathieu Kassovitz, CARNE and I STAND ALONE by Gaspar Noé, SWITCHBLADE ROMANCE by Alexandre Aja or THE ORDEAL by Fabrice du Welz.

### Selective Filmography :

2010	MAMMUTH, <i>Gustave Kervern &amp; Benoît Delépine</i> THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF ADÈLE BLANC-SEC, <i>Luc Besson</i>
2008	HUMANS, <i>Pierre-Olivier Thévenin &amp; Jacques-Olivier Molon</i> ELDORADO, <i>Bouli Lanners</i> THE LAST DEADLY MISSION, <i>Olivier Marchal</i>
2005	MICHOU D'AUBER, <i>Thomas Gilou</i>
1998	THE OCTOPUS, <i>Guillaume Nicloux</i>
1996	A SELF-MADE HERO, <i>Jacques Audiard</i>

## Georges LINI - Biker

Stage director and theatre actor above all, George Lini received many awards over the years, mixing different styles in his numerous productions. This is why cinema and television have also always been interested in him.

### Théâtre

2010-2011	ROMEO & JULIET, Shakespeare, staging, Théâtre des Galeries. LE PROJET HLH, Nicolas Fretel, staging, Théâtre de Poche.
2008-2009	MARCIA HESSE, Fabrice Melquiot, staging, L'Atelier 210. <b><i>Nominated for the "Prix du Théâtre pour la mise en scène"</i></b>
2006-2007	INCENDIES, Wajdi Mouawad, staging, Zone Urbaine Théâtre. <b><i>Prix du Meilleur Spectacle aux Prix de la Critique</i></b>
2005-2006	LA CUISINE D'ELVIS, Lee Hall, staging, Zone Urbaine Théâtre. <b><i>Prix de la Mise en Scène aux Prix de la Critique</i></b> L'OUEST SOLITAIRE, Martin Mc Donagh, staging, Zone Urbaine Théâtre. <b><i>Prix de la Mise en Scène aux Prix de la Critique</i></b>

### Cinéma

2005	LE POULAIN, <i>Olivier &amp; Yves Ringer</i>
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## BEHIND THE CAMERA

### **Franck RICHARD - *director and script-writer***

Born in Nancy in the North eastern part of France, Franck Richard started writing for cinema, after several experiences in the world of music and on film sets as a technician.

THE PACK is his first feature film.

2008-2009	JVN.com <i>Editor, cameraman on many video games programs</i>
2004-2005	VELVET Magazine (rock magazine, live from Comédie ! TV) <i>Cameraman, director: filming more than a hundred of concerts and interviews for the DVD that comes with the magazine.</i>
July 2003	INSTINCT (SWC video, directed by Emmanuel Fleury) <i>Cameraman, assistant director</i>
April 2002	ARTE (various shows), <i>Cameraman, director</i>
October 2001	LA GROSSE ÉMISSION, <i>Cameraman</i>

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### **Laurent BARÈS - *director of photography***

2008	FRONTIERS, <i>Xavier Gens</i>
2007	HITMAN, <i>Xavier Gens</i> INSIDE, <i>Julien Maury &amp; Alexandre Bustillo</i>
2002	WE NEED A VACATION, <i>Didier Bivel</i>
1997	JUST FOR LAUGHS, <i>Lucas Belvaux</i>

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### **Florence VERCHEVAL & Eugénie COLLET - *set designers***

2009	RAPT, <i>Lucas Belvaux</i>
2007	FACE CACHÉE, <i>Bernard Campan</i>
2006	DIKKENEK, <i>Olivier Van Hoofstadt</i>
1995	THE BLUE VILLA, <i>Alain Robbe-Grillet &amp; Dimitri de Clercq</i>

## CAST

LA SPACK  
CHARLOTTE HUTTER  
MAX  
CHINASKI  
COMPLET-VESTON  
TOFU  
BIKER 1  
BIKER 2  
BIKER 3  
PECKER  
MONSTER 2  
MONSTER 3  
MONSTER 4  
JEAN JEAN

Yolande MOREAU  
Emilie DEQUENNE  
Benjamin BIOLAY  
Philippe NAHON  
Matthias SCHOENAERTS  
Jan FONTEYN  
Georges LINI  
Philippe RESIMONT  
Brice FOURNIER  
Nicolas LEROY  
Mathieu BOUTELIGIER  
François DOMS  
Benoît VIVIEN  
Eric GODON

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## CREW

Production  
Co-Production  
Producers  
Co-producer  
Director  
Scriptwriter  
Director of photography  
Director Assistant  
Line Producer  
Production Manager  
Continuity girl  
Set designers  
Costume designer  
Makeup  
Special Effects Makeup  
Hair Stylist  
Casting in Belgium  
Editing  
Sound designer  
Music  
B rolls

LA FABRIQUE 2  
Be-FILMS  
Vérane FRÉDIANI & Franck RIBIÈRE  
Christophe LOUIS  
Franck RICHARD  
Franck RICHARD  
Laurent BARÈS  
Delphine DAULL  
Hélène LAMBOTTE  
Frédéric WINDELS  
Elisabeth ALEXANDRIS  
Eugénie COLLET & Florence VERCHEVAL  
Catherine MARCHAND  
Rachel BEECKMANS  
Olivier AFONSO  
Nathalie VAN HEN  
Patrick HELLA & Gerda DIDDENS  
Olivier GAJAN  
Marc ENGELS  
Chris SPENCER & Ari Benjamin MEYERS  
Brice Coustillet

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**SOFICA SOFICINEMA 4**

**and TOUSCOPROD**