

REEL SUSPECTS

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PRINTER FRIENDLY

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CIVIL WAR

A film by Rodrigue JEAN
120 min, CANADA, 2014
Colour, 2:35, HD & DCP

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Alex is a young addict who sells his body in Montreal. He's flanked by Bruno, Simon, Jeanne, Eric and Velma, all of them caught in the same spiral of compulsion. Hostage to society's market logic, they are the fallen angels of a dark and violent time.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Alex's days are completely organized around doing drugs or getting the money to buy them through hustling, running errands for dealers, or committing petty crimes (most often muggings of potential johns). He shuffles from one dingy, depressing apartment to the next, sometimes on his own, sometimes in the company of fellow addicts from whom he hopes to cop a fix — though he frequently ends up getting ripped off himself.

These shooting-up sessions usually involve sex as part of the package, but the sex itself seems less a matter of pleasure than a brief coming up for air before plunging back into the depths of the fix. In the hermetically sealed existence that Alex and his associates have made for themselves, the outside world is alien terrain: when Alex is forced to leave an apartment and walk down the street, he might as well be walking on the moon.

Alex, a young addict who still nurtures a few dreams, sells his body in Montréal's Centre-Sud district. He's flanked by Bruno, Simon, Jeanne, Éric and Velma, all of them caught in the same spiral of compulsion. Marginalized by society yet hostage to its market logic, they are the fallen angels of a dark and violent time. Ghosts stripped of past and future, they roam, buffeted by the whims of the eternal now — a journey they undertake in defiant solitude punctuated by bouts of fevered consumption.

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Yet their beauty somehow survives, rebellious amid the ruins. From one fix to the next, desire becomes a life raft, a port in the storm as their bodies, exultant, seek to avenge the humiliation to which they are condemned. Orphans of a wild tribe, they live and love, restless vagrants in the shadows of society's comfort and indifference. To paraphrase Jean Genet, *Love in The Time Of Civil War* gives a voice to the unexpressed.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

He studied in biology, sociology and letters then became dancer and choreographer in the 80'. When he decided to turn towards the Cinema Industry, he directed some documentaries as "Hommes à louer" (2007) and feature films as "Full Blast" (1999), "Yellowknife (2001) and "Lost Song" that won the award for the best Canadian feature film in 2008 at the Toronto Film Festival.

CAST BIOGRAPHY

ALEXANDRE LANDRY

He starts with theatre with a role in the Michel-marc Bouchard's play "Tom à la ferme". His first apparition in a movie is the role of Martin in the 2008's film "Gabrielle" by Louise Archambault.

CAST & CREW

Cast : Alexandre Landry, Jean-Simon Leduc, Simon Lefebvre, Catherine-Audrey Lachapelle, Ana Christina Alva, Eric Robinoux.

Director: Rodrigue Jean

Scriptwriter: Ron Ladd

Cinematographers: Mathieu Laverdière, Etienne Roussy

Production Designer:

Sound: Sylvain Bellemare

Music (composer):

Editor: Mathieu Bouchard-Malo

TORONTO IFF PRESENTATION

Lauded Quebec filmmaker Rodrigue Jean (*Lost Song*) takes a fearless, unflinching look at the reality of addiction in this tough-minded docudrama set in the bleak milieu of hustlers and junkies in Montreal.

In his first feature fiction film since *Lost Song* (which won the Best Canadian Feature prize at the Festival in 2008), Rodrigue Jean returns to the milieu of his 2008 documentary *Men for Sale* to examine the bleak lives of hustlers and junkies in Montreal. The courageous and gut-wrenching *Love in the Time of Civil War* focuses on Alex (Alexandre Landry, a 2014 TIFF Rising Star, previously seen in

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the 2013 Festival hit *Gabrielle*), an addict who spends his days pursuing the one thing that matters in his life: oblivion.

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Boldly devoid of psychology or backstory, *Love in the Time of Civil War* observes its fallen world with an unblinking gaze that gives the assorted acts of betrayal (both those committed by and against its protagonist) an eerie emotional weight. A fearless and unrelenting account of addiction, it is a powerful addition to the oeuvre of one of Canada's most intriguing film artists.

Rodrigue Jean is originally from New Brunswick and based in Montreal. His short films include *La Déroute* (89) and *La Voix des rivières* (95). His debut feature *Full Blast* (99) received a Special Jury Citation for best Canadian first feature at the Festival. His other films include *Yellowknife*(02), which played the Festival, *Lost Song* (08), which won best Canadian feature at the Festival, and the documentary feature *Men for Sale* (08). *Love in the Time of Civil War* (14) is his latest film.