

LIGHTNING

A LEGEND IN FOUR SEASONS

A FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MANUELA MORGAINÉ





LIGHTNING

A LEGEND IN FOUR SEASONS

MANUELA MORGAINE

ROTTERDAM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

(Bright Future) January 2013

Moscow International Film Festival (Media Forum) Russia, June 2013

Racing in International film festival T-mobile New Horizons, Wroclaw, Poland, July 2013

St. Petersburg International Festival (Beginning) Russia, September 2013

« Prize for the fruitful search of sources of the impossible »

Pune International Film Festival (Section « Global Cinema ») India, January 2014

Yashwant International Film Festival, India, January 2014

Detour on the road, Rome, Italie, décembre 2014

Overlook film festival, Rome, Italie, décembre 2014

DURATION

3 hours 50 minutes

Part 1 & Part 2

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

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PRESS REVIEW

Lightning's website: <http://www.foudre-lefilm.com/en/>


Teaser: <http://www.foudre-lefilm.com/en/presentation-et-ambitions/teaser-anglais/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Foudre/513113362040110>

<http://en.mezzaninefilms.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-19948116>

Translations: David Pickering

Arts: www.myfishisfresh.com 

SYNOPSIS



LIGHTNING

A legend in four seasons

Lightning, a legend in four seasons.

This panorama is a filmic zigzag that forks out like a bolt of lightning.

Its subject straddles several countries and centuries simultaneously. Its form is somewhere between documentary and legend.



BAAL

Autumn, 80' - *Chemistry / Alchemy*

Autumn follows a lightning hunter, associated with Baal, Syrian God of Lightning. A visionary, Baal screens 25 years of video archives of lightning and gives us the scientific key to unlocking this fabulous and devastating phenomenon.

Five of the lightning-struck reenact their ordeals at the very locations where they were struck, places to which most had never before returned. The voice of Baal is interpreted by singer and guitarist Rodolphe Burger.



THE LEGEND OF SYMEON

Spring, 37' - *Archeology*

Spring resuscitates Symeon the Stylite, a god maniac who lived atop a column for 40 years. Symeon was struck dead by a bolt of lightning in the desert of Cham near Palmyra, Syria. But he also digs for lost artifacts. He tells the true story of Aleppo

soap and its cauldron filled with myths. He tells how, every spring, lightning engenders an aphrodisiac truffle called Kama which goes by the name of "Allah's vegetable" in *The Arabian Nights*.



PATHOS MATHOS

Winter, 52' - *Anthropology*

Winter strives to analyze melancholy, the final stage of depression, and the ways in which it can be overcome. A psychiatrist personifies Saturn, the god and dark planet. He travels to Africa and Syria to find both his own roots and the source of certain ancestral practices: a ritual performed by women deep in Guinea

Bissau, spinning dervishes, and a torpedo fish which, in the ancient city of Aleppo, held the secret to wellness. At the same time, five melancholic patients, seen in slow-motion in the places that represent their existential angst, describe their long and unique journeys back to themselves and the light.



ATOMS

Summer, 52' - *Biology*

Summer, based on the text of Marivaux's *Dispute*, stages the earth-shattering meeting between two intense creatures, Azor and Eglé, who are stranded on the island of Sutra. On this island paradise, they eat Kama, the forbidden fruit and, though madly in love, are expelled. They are studied like atomic lab mice from the

time they first see light in the 18th century to today when they are plunged into darkness.

The branches Baal, Saturn, Symeon, the Melancholics and the Lightning-struck are finally united and join the battle-weary lovers at the nocturnal lightning ball.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



LIGHTNING

A legend in four seasons

“He who hides his madman dies voiceless.”
Henri Michaux, *Face aux verrous*

This film is electrified by the intensity of the Real. It is the fruit of nine years of field research. That is why the screenplay includes images, places, faces, and the words of those whose lives have become fiction. Only two actors, one man and one woman, appear throughout the film. Lightning is the stuff that legends* are made of.



Lightning opens with a prologue, closes with an epilogue, and unfolds in four parts, in four seasons, over a period of three centuries, from the 18th to the 21st Centuries. A reader shouldn't be overly concerned with what may seem incongruous about the weather in the film; or about its chronology, which jumps around some; or about the format, which shifts from film to video; or about the costumes which may belie the era; or about the way the characters speak; or about the places that lightning appears, as it is doted with the kind of ubiquity we all dream of possessing, sometimes branching out to several continents at once. In France, in Syria, in Guinea-Bissau, the sky is always there, immutable, despite variations in rituals, seasons and humors.

Lightning is unpredictable; it strikes in every sense of the word. This film is a continuous zigzag. The word comes from the German, and refers to the ebb and flow of love. It means voluntary, chosen movement. Every heavenly impact deposits a piece of the story and every era, every language, every rite, everything and everyone finds its connection to the whole. The film is shaped like a bolt of lightning. It is the opposite of a straight line with a beginning slowly evolving into an end. The end is present from the start and, what's more, the film could probably be shown backwards. If we tell ourselves that everything has blown to pieces even before it began, it may help us to understand the fragmentary nature of things. It is a legend to interpret the images by.

**Legend:*

A traditional story, that is more or less mythical.

The representation of facts or real characters, popularly regarded as true, but distorted or amplified by imagination.



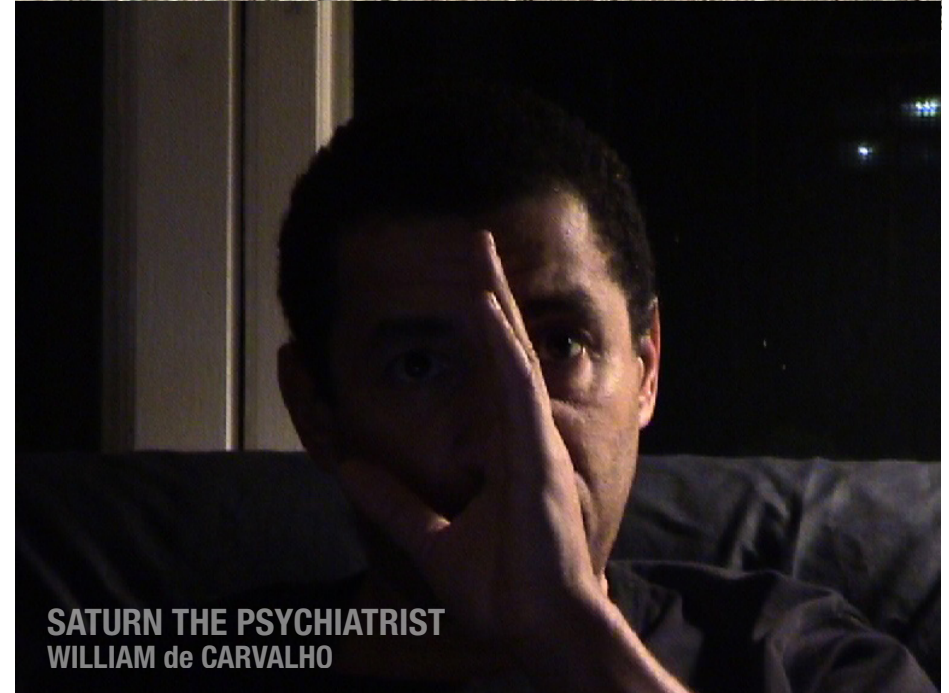
LIGHTNING-STRUCK
FLORENCE LANCIAL



SYMEON THE STYLITE
MICHAËL JASMIN



SYRIA 2007



SATURN THE PSYCHIATRIST
WILLIAM de CARVALHO

BIOGRAPHY



MANUELA MORGAINE

Born in 1962, she lives and works in Paris.
A writer, director and filmmaker, she is president of Envers Compagnie, a company devoted to the production of interdisciplinary works since 1991.

Prix de Rome for scenography, 1994.
Villa Médicis Hors les Murs Laureate, 2004.

www.enverscompagnie.com

STAGE DIRECTION / MUSIC

Dieu Grammairien

Théâtre de la Bastille, 1991

L'Analogue

Théâtre de la Bastille, 1994

Par les dents

Théâtre de la Bastille, 1997

Juliette Pose 97

With Anne de Broca, Ecole des Beaux Arts de Paris, 1997

Blanche Neige

Based on Walser, Centre Culturel Suisse, 2001

Maliétés

Bands from Greece and Turkey, at the Chai du Terral in Montpellier in 2003, at the Cabaret Sauvage in Paris in 2004.

L'art de la figue

An opera based on Francis Ponge and Johann Sebastian Bach, composed by Johannes Schöllhorn, at the Strasbourg Musica Festival and at the Lille Opera in 2006.

Handmade

A performance with 5 puppeteers and 5 musicians produced by the Union des Musiciens de Jazz and Thema, Le Grand Parquet, Paris, October 15, 2011.

Le Cabinet du docteur Cagnulari

A radio lab workshop co-written and directed with Christophe Cagnolari of the Ensemble ANITYA, broadcast on France Culture January 5th, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Le sommeil d'Ecume

With photos by Patrick Faigenbaum, Editions Creaphis.

Les metamorphoses

Based on Ovid, Editions Albin Michel. Le

Potager du Roi, Editions Gallimard.

Buvar et Ricochet

An encyclopedia of great writers for small readers, Editions Le Baron Perché (Livre jeunesse Award, 2007, Bologne)

Tohu Bohu

Directed by Thierry Roisin,

Le Journal de bois, directed by Jean-Pierre Larroche.

Zeurope

Directed by Natacha Kantor.

Wpsyché

Morbid ideations and blind spots, with Dr. William de Carvalho, Editions Al Dante.

Author of numerous **Radio Lab Workshops broadcast** on France Culture as well as **fairytale**s for children.



PERFORMANCE ART

In the form of projections on blocks of ice for the Paris Nuit Blanche, 2002 and 2003:

Blanche Neige Nuit Blanche

Parvis de la Gaieté Lyrique, Paris, 2002

Iceremony

Swedish Cultural Centre, Paris, 2003.

And for the event Paris-Ville Lumières:

Icelectric

Swedish Cultural Centre, Paris, December 2004.

Projections of lightning impacts on ice, foreshadowing the feature film Foudre (in coproduction with the EDF Foundation).

In the form of **Sound Pillows** during Javamour a concert-performance organized by Cyril Hernandez at La Java, Paris, June 20, 2010.

Rizoma

choreography Sharon Fridman -

Projects in movements -

A performance for 70 dancers July 2012 in Cour d'honneur des Invalides and on the Trocadero square during the festival Paris Quartiers d'été.

Trail of Tears

September and December 2013 in Galerie Maubert, Paris during screenings of the movie ON THE WILD SIDE.

Oracular Performance

during the artistic residency in Dar Al Ma'mûn (Marrakech, Morocco) in January 2014 and in Galerie Maubert, Paris in March 2014.



VOICE WORK

Musical theater pieces including those of Richard Dubelski and Georges Aperghis in the 1990s.

Documentary and fiction films:

Time Regained

By Raoul Ruiz, 2002.

The Origin of Christianity and The Apocalypse & Jésus and Islam

A series of documentaries by Gérard Mordillat et Jérôme Prieur, Arte, 2004 & 2008 & 2015.

For INA (French Radio and Television Archives) the Medmem Website, designed by Matthieu Serrière, 2010.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Orakl

An interactive ice installation

www.enverscompagnie.com orakl a door that talks to you. In production.

FILMOGRAPHY

AZOR
MAXIME NOURRISSAT





Posthums

A 16mm film in 1994.

Va

A 35mm film based on Casanova, with Yann Collette, at the MK2 Beaubourg cinema in Paris, and at the l'usine Lu in Nantes, between 1999 and 2001, during the festival Paris Cinéma in Paris at the MK2 Quai de Seine in 2003.

A L'ouest On the wild side

PlayFilm, Artistes&Associés, Envers Compagnie 2003. A 52' DV film.

If a Swallow does not make spring, which swallow?

A 94' DV film in coproduction with Artistes&Associés, 2007.

Pathos Mathos

A 59' DV film produced by Mezzanine Films with funding from the Centre National du Cinéma and the CNAP, 2007 (the wintertime of Lightning, a feature film in four seasons).

The Legend of Symeon

A 44' DV film produced by Mezzanine Films with funding from the CNAP, 2008 (the springtime of Lightning).

Apocalypse 2,2

A 20' DV film produced by Envers Compagnie, 2009.

Baal

An 87' DV film produced by Envers Compagnie & Mezzanine Films in 2009 (the autumn season of Lightning).

Manyara

A 30' DV film directed in Tanzania in 2011, produced by Envers Compagnie.

Atoms

A 45' DV film produced by Mezzanine Films and Envers Compagnie, 2011, (the summertime of Lightning).

Lightning

A 230' feature film produced by Envers Compagnie and Mezzanine Films, 2013.



CAST & CREW



NEVIL THE MERCHANT MARINE
FRANK SMITH



DJ BAAL
RODOLPHE BURGER

A Film Written and Directed by

Manuela Morgaine

Produced by

Mezzanine Films & Envers Compagnie

Starring (in order of appearance)

BAAL

Lightning Hunter, Played by the Voice of

Rodolphe Burger

The Lightning-struck

Samy Haffaf

Albert Rochette

Richard Arbez

Roland Bardel

Jean-Pierre Bardel

Florence Lancial

-

Saturn The Psychiatrist

William de Carvalho

Saturn as a Child

Ismaël Baretto de Carvalho

The Insane Man

Kamel Aage

The Melancholics

Death and the Maiden

Margot Crespon

The Madonna of the Sharks

Laurence Mailler

The Floating Woman

Nathalie Jailler

The Nostalgic man

The Great Horned Owl

Brice Thévenot

-

Symeon the stylite

Michaël Jasmin

With a Special Appearance by **Jean-Pierre Luminet**

Astrophysicist

Azor

Maxime Nourissat

Eglé

Margot Crespon

DJ Baal

Rodolphe Burger

Nevil The Merchant Marine

Frank Smith

Directors of Photography

Manuela Morgaine, Giovanni Laniado, Baal
Pauline Lormant, Pathos Mathos – The Legend of Symeon,
Hervé Labourdette, Atoms

Footage of The Lightning Hunt

Alex Hermant

Editing

Gordanna Othnin-Girard

Editing

Pathos Mathos - Pauline Lormant

Original Music & Sound Design

Philippe Langlois

Music

The Legend of Symeon, Emmanuel Hosseyn During

Sound Engineers

Giovanni Laniado, Baal, Fabien Paviot, Atoms

Sound Editing

Colette Constantini

Costumes

Atoms, Agnès Noden

Makeup

Atoms, Emilie Dupérier

Production Manager

Edyta Janczak-Hiriart, Pathos Mathos – The Legend of Symeon

A Film Produced by

Mathieu Bompont/Mezzanine Films &
Manuela Morgaine/Envers Compagnie

Production and Postproduction Manager

Baal – Atoms

Assistant Director

Atoms – The Club of the night, Marianne Nicole

Line Producer, Syria

Hala Alabdalla Yakoub

Assisted by

Hassan Khalefa

Special Effects

Matthieu Serrière

Color Grading

Jean-Baptiste Pouilloux, Christophe Bousquet

Mixing

Gilles Benardeau

Film Restoration and Re-mastering

Blaise Othnin-Girard

With the Voice of

Manuela Morgaine

LIGHTNING – a legend – France . 2013 . 3h50' . HDV/SD/HD

BLUE RAY/HDCAM/DCP . 4/3&16/9 . Sound 5.1 uncompressed . Color



THE MAKING OF LIGHTNING

This film was made between 2004 and 2013, through thick and thin, without the support of film and television institutions, except for a small contribution by the **CNC** in 2005 and the **CNAP** in 2007.

It is almost entirely self-produced by its director with the support of an adventurous producer, Mathieu Bompont of **MEZZANINE FILMS**.

The film was shot in five countries around the world including Guinea-Bissau, Syria, Libya and Tunisia, countries where, for the most part, it would be impossible to shoot today.

CNC

ECLAIR
LABORATOIRES

LA MACHINE
du Moulin Rouge

emp

tadé

FOUDRE
une légende en quatre saisons
automne BAAL visa d'exploitation 131 351
hiver PATHOS MATHOS visa d'exploitation 118 325
printemps LA LÉGENDE DE SYMÉON visa d'exploitation 121 897
été ATOMES visa d'exploitation 131 350

EES
TECHNIQUES

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FILMS

LIGHTNING

A FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
MANUELA MORGAINE

