



Dying Alive

a film by Benoît Brière

with
Marcel Sabourin, Benoît Brière, Élise Guilbault and Dorothee Berryman

screenplay Jean-François Chicoine cinematography Mario Janelle art direction Ariane Brière and Nadine Brière
editor Geoff Klein composer Christian Thomas sound design Martin Cadieux-Rouillard mix Michel Lambert
production Jean-Martin Bisson, Paul Cadieux, Jean-François Chicoine and Benoît Brière

 Filmoption
International

Technical Information

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Shooting Format | 4K |
| Lenght | 35 minutes |
| Genre | Drama |
| Original Language | French |
| Subtitles | English |
| Pays producteur | Canada |



Synopsis

Montreal, a multigenerational house loaded with books, paintings and knick-knacks, so many memories revived on the evening of one last Christmas Eve. Luc, a retired pediatrician and teacher in his eighties, lives with his son François, a pediatrician like his father, and François' wife Esther. Suffering and physically diminished, the old man has now decided to end his life. In a corrosive and sensitive verbal joust, he asks his son to end his days in privacy. The son then takes him on an existential and circus-like journey through the streets of Montreal where the father is supposed to go to his final destination, a hospital where he will be confronted with his ultimate wish: the choice between the finality of medical aid to die or a return to square one, the small pleasures of what remains of his life, alive.



Crew

Director

Benoit Brière

Screenplay

Jean-François Chicoine

Production

Benoit Brière, Jean-François Chicoine,
Jean-Martin Bisson and Paul Cadieux

Director of Photography

Mario Janelle

Composer

Christian Thomas

Sound/ADR/Mix

Marc-Antoine Sauriol, Giuseppe Petrella,
Michel Lambert and Martin Cadieux-
Rouillard

Editor

Geoff Klein

Cast

Benoit Brière

François

Marcel Sabourin

Luc

Élise Guilbault

Esther

Dorothée Berryman

Pierrette

Stéphane Jacques

Security Guard

Benoît Brière – Director | Producer | François

A 1991 graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Benoît Brière is an actor, director, theater producer and co-artistic director in residence at the Théâtre du vieux Terrebonne since 2007. Famous for having performed more than 90 different roles in Bell Canada commercials for 14 years, his talent has been rewarded on several occasions: Prix Gascon-Roux for the role of Sganarelle in *Don Juan*; Masques for *La Locandiera* and *Don Juan* as well as three Gêmeaux Awards for acting and hosting (Quebec Television Award). Film credits include *Oscar et la dame en rose*, *La Grande Séduction*, *L'Âge des ténèbres*, *La Chute de l'Empire Américain*, *Joyeux Calvaire*, *Le sens de l'humour*, *L'Enfant prodige*, *C'est pas moi c'est l'autre...* At the theater: *Tartuffe*, *En attendant Godot*, *Don Juan*, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*, *Les Fourberies de Scapin*, *La Locandiera*, *Le Barbier de Séville*, *L'Hôtel du libre-échange*, *Bousille et les justes*, *Nez à nez*, *Hosanna*, *The Baroness and the Pig*, *Le Boss est mort...*

As a producer and actor: *Ténor recherché*, *La cage aux folles*, *La puce à l'oreille*, *Le combat des chefs*, *Les Trois Ténors*, *Oscar*, *Broue*. As a Stage Director : *Silence en coulisses*, *La monnaie de la pièce*, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*, as well as three opéras : *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *Gianni Schicchi*. The short film *Dying Alive* is his first foray into filmmaking.





Marcel Sabourin – Luc

Marcel Sabourin, a multi-faceted actor, made his debut in 1951 with *La Roulotte*. Over the course of his illustrious career, he has been cast in some of the most endearing characters in our television landscape, notably in *La ribouldingue*, *S.O.S. J'écoute* and *L'Amour avec un grand A*. He also seen in *Les Parent*, *Les Sioui-bacon*, *Toute la vérité* and *Lâcher prise*. In 2016, he participated in the web series *La Bête à Papa*. A leading actor in Quebec cinema, he has more than 65 films in his repertoire, including *Deux femmes en or*, *Le temps d'une chasse*, *Jésus de Montréal* and the unforgettable *J.A. Martin, photographe*, which he co-wrote with Jean Beaudin and which won the Ecumenical Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. He also co-wrote several works including *Cordelia* by Jean Beaudin and the TV series *Willie* with Claude Paquette and Jean Beaudin. In 2020, he played the role of Jo Milo in the film *La Cordonnière* (F. Bouvier). As a playwright, Marcel Sabourin has collaborated twice with Gilles Vigneault. He also wrote several songs for Robert Charlebois. He wrote the narration for *J'ai la mémoire qui tourne*, broadcast on Historia. One of the pioneer coaches of the Ligue Nationale d'Improvisation (LNI), he has been teaching improvisation for the past fifty years, writing scripts for the cinema and animating for radio. His career has been punctuated by prizes, honors and awards for all his work.

Élise Guilbault - Esther

Known for being authentic from the moment she steps on stage or says a line, Élise Guilbault is highly regarded by her peers and by the public at large. She works with the same dedication whether it be on stage, television and film. In the theater, she has appeared in recent years in *Nager en surface* (Théâtre de l'Opsis), *Une journée particulière* (Compagnie Jean Duceppe), *Albertine, en cinq temps* (Espace GO), *Le roi se meurt* (Espace GO) and *L'abdication* (Théâtre de Quat'Sous), *Toxique ou l'incident dans l'autobus* (Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui), among others. On the small screen, in addition to playing the title role in the series *Emma* (MetroStar 2003), she has appeared in

Grande Ourse, *Deux frères* (MetroStar 2002), *Les Bâtisseurs d'eau* (Prix Gémeaux 1997) *Le cœur à ses raisons*, *Annie et ses hommes*, *Les hauts et les bas de Sophie Paquin* (Gémeaux 2010). She was cast in the role of Réjanne Gagné in the soap opera *Yamaska* broadcast on TVA, which earned her the Gémeaux for Best Female Lead in a Soap Opera (2010). Élise also narrated the audio book *Réjanne-Yamaska*. In 2012, she was offered the role of Françoise in the series *En thérapie* as well as Angie Caron in the soap opera *30 Vies* by Fabienne Larouche. In 2014, she made her first experience as a host for a documentary series for the TV5 program *Loin d'être bête*, which she continued in 2015. Also in 2015, she began her participation in *Unité 9*. In 2016 and 2017, she was part of the cast of the TV series *Cheval Serpent*. In 2019, Élise was in the series' *La faille* and *Mon fils*. At the cinema, her performances include *Cap Tourmente* (M. Langlois), *Secret de banlieue* (L. Choquette) and *La femme qui boit* (B. Émond- Jutra Award and Genie Award 2002). She played Dr. Jeanne Dion in the first and last films of Bernard Émond's trilogy; *La Neuvaine* (Jutra for Best Actress in 2006) and *La Donation* for which she was nominated for the Jutra (2010) for Best Actress. Bernard Émond called upon her talent again to play the lead role in his film *Pour vivre ici*. In 2020, Élise plays the role of Victoire Dufresne, in the feature film *La Cordonnière* (F. Bouvier).



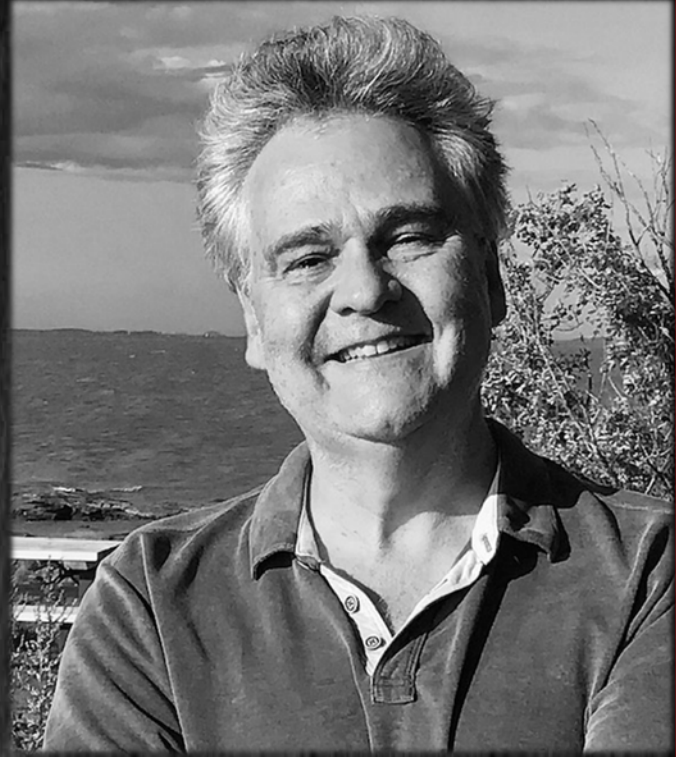
Dorothée Berryman - Pierrette

Actress, singer and host, Dorothée Berryman has given us memorable performances throughout her career. As an actress, we can only mention *Des dames de coeur*, *Le Déclin de l'empire américain*, *Les Invasions barbares* and more recently, *Cabotins*, a film that earned her the Jutra for Best Supporting Actress in 2011. Considered one of the most beautiful voices in Quebec, Dorothée Berryman participates as a narrator in many documentary films and has been the "voice" of the Montreal High Lights Festival since its inception. In 2012, Dorothée Berryman's third album was released. Surrounded by experienced jazzmen, she delivered what critics have described as "the work of an accomplished singer" or "a joyful aphrodisiac cocktail"! Fall 2013 marked her return to theater after a 12-year absence as she played the role of Gina in Steve Galluccio's new play, *The St. Leonard Chronicles*, at the Centaur Theatre with 59 sold out performances. Then the young director Yan Rompé entrusted her with a major role in the repertoire: Amanda from Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, performed at the Prospéro Theatre in January 2014. Moving with ease and grace from acting to singing to hosting, Dorothée Berryman is part of this generation of self-taught and multidisciplinary artists, who lead their career with excellence on several fronts.



Jean-François Chicoine – Screenplay and Producer

Jean-François Chicoine is a pediatrician at the CHU Sainte-Justine in Montreal where he has been practicing for 35 years, all while initiating various international health projects in several orphanages around the world. Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Montreal, Scientific Director of *Le monde est ailleurs*, distinguished lecturer in Quebec and the



French-speaking world, recipient of numerous distinctions, he is the author of several books, publications, essays, documentaries and litigations for children in the fields of attachment, schooling, adolescence and family. Passionate about the interface between culture and science, his career as an educator, author and media host is combined with film writing. In 2021, he co-wrote and hosted the TV documentary series *Une semaine sur deux*, and co-produced *Dying Alive*, which he had written 4 years earlier.

Jean-Martin Bisson – Producer

Jean-Martin Bisson has been a television producer and creator for over 15 years. He recently completed his work as content producer for *Big Brother Célébrités* and the series *Chefs de Bois*. He was also behind the concept and launch of *Flight 920* in several countries and collaborated as content producer and designer on 6 seasons of *Occupation Double*, *Star Académie 5*, Céline Dion's special *Sans attendre* and *Loft Story 2, 3, 4*. In 2016, he held the position of Vice President of Creation and Development at Productions Déferlantes. He is currently president of Productions Toboggan.

Paul Cadieux – Producer

Paul Cadieux was immersed in the world of cinema at a very young age. His father, Fernand Cadieux, was one of the founders of the Montreal International Film Festival. After working as a projectionist, distributor and producer, he was employed by CBC followed by Télé Québec. In 1979, he and his wife founded Filmoption International, a film and documentary distribution company. In 1987, he founded Megafun, his production company, and Studios Saint-Antoine for post-production. *Les Triplettes de Belleville*, *GAZA*, *Advocate* and *Capitalism* are among his notable successes.

Mario Janelle – Director of Photography

Faithful enthusiast of film photography since his early childhood, Mario Janelle started very early to combine natural light, framing and emotional qualities via image. Taken in charge by an uncle who is a musicologist, he absorbed many influences from the great masters of photography and visual arts, but also from outstanding filmmakers. As a young street photographer with a passion for the darkroom, photography naturally led him to the seventh art. After university studies in cinema, he dedicated himself to cinematography, both in documentary and fiction. Passionate about international projects, he regularly travels to the most remote corners of different continents, without neglecting the polar zones, tirelessly searching of exciting subjects. He has contributed to the quality of films such as *Bon Cop Bad Cop*, *Silk*, *Winnie*, *Chasse-Galerie la légende* and *Dying Alive*.





Christian Thomas – Composer

Composer, orchestrator, arranger and pianist for 35 years, Christian Thomas has worked extensively in theater as an arranger, stage music designer and musical director (*Le bourgeois gentilhomme, Les deux jumeaux vénitiens, Irma la douce, Enfant insignifiant, Pierre, Jean, Jacques...*). Christian Thomas has been working for two years on the musical adaptation of *Messe solennelle pour une pleine lune d'été* by Michel Tremblay.

Geoff Klein – Editor

In 2017, Geoff Klein was nominated for Best Editor at the Canadian Screen Awards for his work on CBC's ground-breaking television show *Interrupt This Program*, which follows the lives of artists in oppressed, war-torn countries.

Klein's road to the CSA's started in 2010 when he was hired to edit the indie feature film *Long Gone Day*, a poignant drama that chronicles the last days of a young rock star dealing with depression and drug abuse. The following year, Klein edited the award-winning feature film *Pinup Dolls on Ice*, which he also co-directed with Melissa Mira. Klein's editing work on the film earned him the Best Editor Award at the ShockFest Film Festival in Los Angeles. By 2013, Klein was editing various docu-series for the likes of Discovery Channel and the History Channel, which led him to edit an episode for the acclaimed series *FrontLine* for PBS in 2018.

In 2019, Klein jumped back into the realm of fiction with Jeremy Torrie's *The Corruption of Divine Providence*, which was nominated for Best Feature at the Whistler Film Festival, and then followed that up in 2020 with the slow-burn *Woodland Grey*, followed by the endearing *Pink Lake* by Emily Gan and Daniel Schachter.

Dying Alive

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