

EUROPACORP PRESENTS

JAMEL DEBBOUZE

RIE RASMUSSEN



ANGELA

A F I L M B Y
LUC BESSON

GILBERT MELKI SERGE RIABOUKINE

MUSIC ANJA GARBAREK CINEMATOGRAPHER THIERRY ARBOGAST PRODUCTION DESIGNER JACQUES BUFNOIR PRODUCTION DIRECTOR DIDIER HOARAU 2nd PRODUCTION ASSISTANT JAMES CANAL
A EUROPACORP PRODUCTION IN COPRODUCTION WITH TFI FILMS PRODUCTION AND APIPOULAI PROD IN COLLABORATION WITH CANAL+ IN ASSOCIATION WITH SOFICA EUROPACORP

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Angel-A

By "Vomitron_G, from the Doomed Megalopolis of Blasphemous Technoids," 11 January 2006, on IMDB.

The last time Luc Besson directed a movie was back in 1999. The last six years he occupied himself with his production-company, EuropaCorp, and by writing a lot of screenplays. Now he's back with his 9th feature film, *ANGEL-A*.

This time no gunfights, car-chases or explosions. Nope, this time the man brings us, of all things, a romantic comedy. The movie is completely shot in Paris and seems to be one of the most secret projects of French cinema. Honestly, I can't see why, except maybe for a nice plot-twist which is presented to us halfway through the movie and not, as usual, near the end.

The plot (don't worry, no spoilers): André is a regular swindler. He lies and cheats all the time and owes money to almost every criminal in Paris. After being beaten and threatened for the umpteenth time, he decides to kill himself by jumping off a bridge. On the verge of committing this act of despair, while standing on a bridge, he looks to the left and sees a girl about to do the same thing. When she jumps, he jumps after her and saves her from drowning. She's so thankful that she offers to do anything he wants while constantly remaining at his side. Suprisedly, she turns out to be a real life-saver by finding a lot of dubious ways to earn money and pay off André's debts. After a while André wants to know why she's doing all these things for him and is curious about her past...

In real life, Jamel Debbouze lost the use of his right arm in an accident in 1990. This is why his character in the film keeps his hand in his pocket throughout.

Eden Court Cinema
Tuesday, 30 June 2015
at 7.15pm

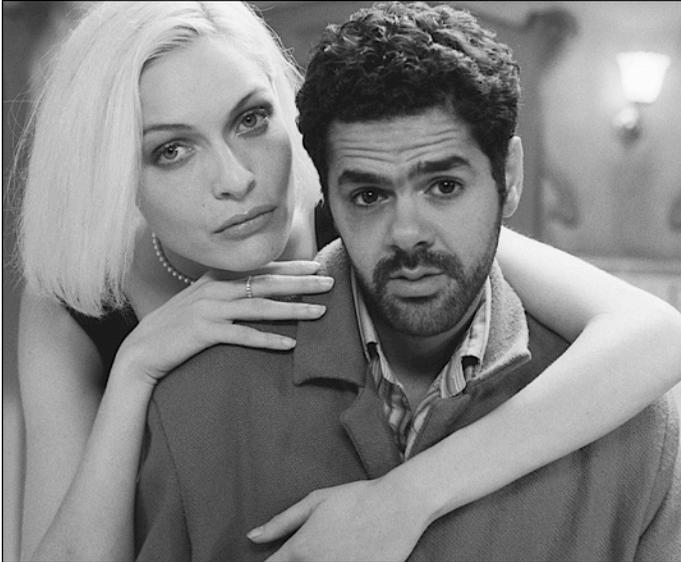
Romantic comedy,
France, B&W, 86 mins

Director:
Luc Besson

Cast:
Jamel Debbouze, Rie Rasmussen, Gilbert Melki, Serge Riaboukine.

Jamel Debbouze (you might know him as the slightly retarded grocer's assistant in *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain*) is particularly good as the

nervous André. The Danish Rie Rasmussen, a sexy blond goddess with legs that go all the way, takes a little more time to convince as Angela. However, there is a certain chemistry between the two of them. The other characters are merely caricatured portraits of criminals and gangsters.

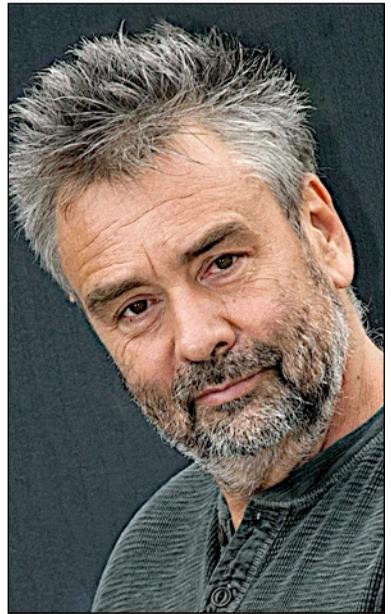


The story is rather straightforward and relies a lot on funny situations and dialogues. A lot of talking is being done and I must say most of the lines are well-written. Near the end of the movie, unfortunately, Luc Besson goes way over-the-top, making the movie lose a lot of credibility. But then again, it just might be possible that the end could be interpreted in two different ways. And that makes me suspect that Besson likes to play it safe by trying to please as many viewers as possible.

Anyway, a very important reason to watch this movie is the atmospheric black & white-photography by cinematographer Thierry Arbogast, who also worked on Besson's previous films. Paris, during autumn, is beautifully transferred to the screen with well-balanced lighting. The movie also has some impressive shots of 'la Tour Eiffel', a cathedral in 'le XVe arrondissement' and the many bridges to be found in Paris.

Most likely *ANGEL-A* will have as many defenders as adversaries, not necessarily to be divided in Besson-fans and not-fans respectively. But both parties will have to admit Besson had the guts to try something different. So let the box-office decide.

Luc Besson spent the first years of his life following his parents, scuba diving instructors, around the world. His early life was entirely aquatic. He already showed amazing creativity as a youth, writing early drafts of *The Big Blue* (1988) and *The Fifth Element* (1997), as an adolescent bored in school. He planned on becoming a marine biologist specializing in dolphins until a diving accident at age 17 which rendered him unable to dive any longer. He moved back to Paris, where he was born, and only at age 18 did he first have an urban life or television. He realized that film was a medium which he could combine all his interests in various arts together, so he began taking odd jobs on various films. He moved to America for three years, then returned to France and formed *Les Films de Loups* - his own production company, which later changed its name to *Les Films de Dauphins*. He is now able to dive again.



Luc Besson once claimed that he would only ever direct a maximum of 10 films. *Angel-A* (2005) is his tenth movie. Obviously Besson has broken that promise - the 2013 release of *The Family* (2013) marked his 16th film.



**Eden Court Cinema
on Tuesday 14 July 2015
at 7.15pm**

**Our next screening...
High Noon**

Fred Zinneman

Continuing our
Members' Choices Season

As the townspeople turn their backs on him, Kane must stand and face his enemy alone. Winner

Inverness Film Fans (Infifa) meet fortnightly at Eden Court Cinema for screenings and post-film discussions.

For more information and to join us, free, go to:

www.invernessfilmfans.org

of four Oscars including Best Actor for Gary Cooper, Best Editing, Best Music, Best Original Song; "Do not forsake me O my Darling" and nominated for Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay, *High Noon* is one of the best loved and most celebrated Westerns of all time.



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