

LA FEMME ET LE TGV nominated for Oscar at 89th Academy Awards

LA FEMME ET LE TGV, a short film starring **Jane Birkin**, has been nominated for Best Short Film (Live Action) at the 89th Academy Awards.

The production has already garnered many awards including Audience Awards at the Heartland Film festival, the Sapporo International Film Festival and the Shnit Film Festival, and the *Noves Visions* Award at the Sitges International Short Film Festival.

Leading UK acting coach and LA FEMME ET LE TGV's Associate Producer **Giles Foreman** was comprehensively involved in the project's development, casting and rehearsals through his drama studio GFC A Paris, and trained Lucien Guignard, one of the film's lead actors at his UK studio, GFC A London.

Inspired by true events, LA FEMME ET LE TGV tells the touching tale of a lonely woman and a train driver. Every morning and evening for many years, Elise Lafontaine has been waving at the express train that passes her house. One fateful day, she finds a letter from the train conductor in her garden and her lonely life is turned upside down. She engages in a promising correspondence through poetic and thoughtful letters where the two anonymous writers share their worlds with each other. But Elise's fairytale is cut short when the train line permanently detours for a shorter route to Paris. Not willing to do without her daily delight, Elise prompts a daring escape from her comfort zone and sets out to find the train conductor. LA FEMME ET LE TGV is inspired by true events and stars actress Jane Birkin in the leading role.



The film's Swiss director, **Timo von Guten**, describes the project's genesis: "The story of LA FEMME ET LE TGV is inspired by a news article about two people having a distant relationship through letters. From the beginning it was my goal to highlight the theme of modern and old generations in today's world. The issues of ageing, solitude and time are mostly integrated in my films in one way or another."

Giles Foreman believes that the film serves as an example of international, particularly pan-European, collaboration in the midst of creeping isolationism and increasing xenophobia: "In the current divisive, somewhat regressive political climate; through our small acting studios in London and Paris, it is wonderful to be able to supply the opposite - a place where no barriers exist, and we celebrate a common creative heritage that unites us all."

Foreman continues: "The team behind LA FEMME ET LE TGV brought together amazing creative individuals from Switzerland, Germany, France and the USA, to tell a beautiful, innocent story which shows that it never too late to fall in love and really live. The piece was partly developed, then cast and rehearsed at our Paris studio, and stars the amazing British expat Jane Birkin - who has famously lived in Paris for the greater part of her life."

The 79th Academy Awards take place on 26th February.

tgv-movie.com

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