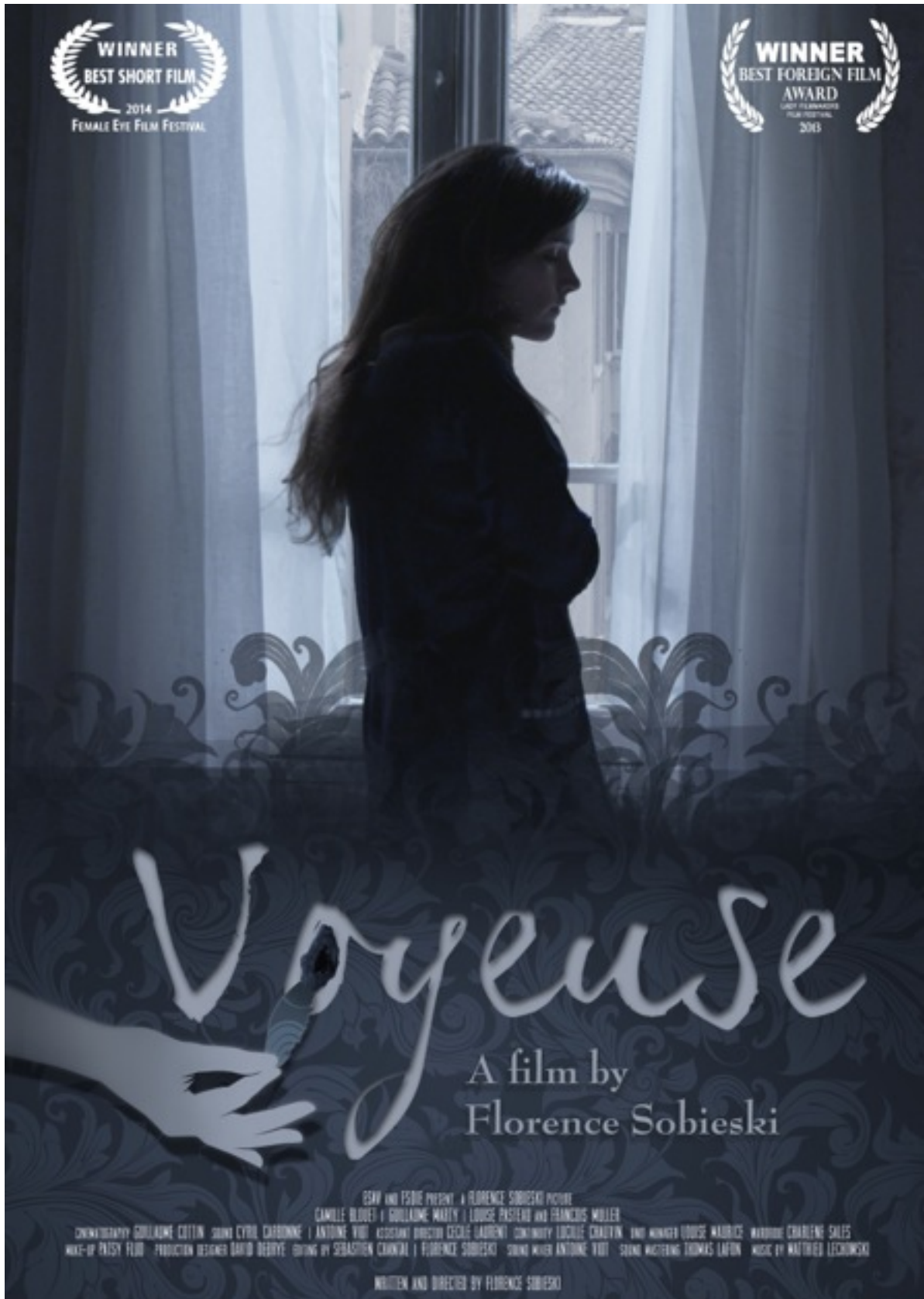


PRESSKIT

Voyeuse, a short film by **Florence Sobieski**



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SYNOPSIS

Courtyards and voyeurism have often been combined in films. But what if the voyeur was a she?

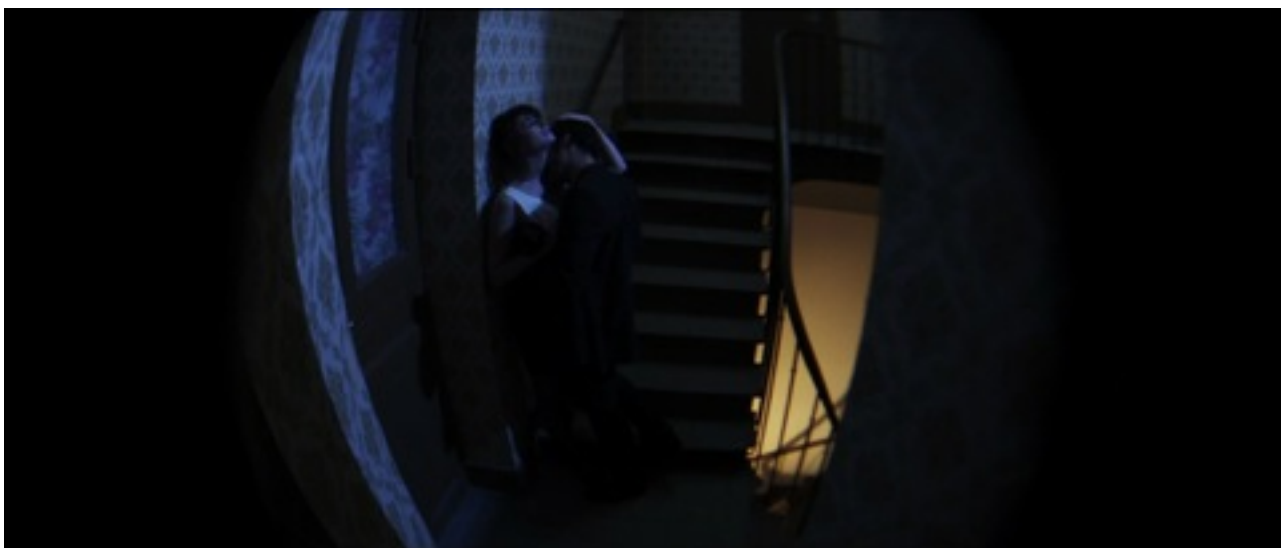
Esther, a young and solitary woman, starts spying on Antoine, her new next-door neighbor. As another young woman moves in with him, Esther's growing obsession over the couple paradoxically leads her to confront her uneasy relationship to her own body.

'Voyeuse' is a short film that looks into a too often taboo-ridden female sexuality, showing it with just as many gray areas as its male counterpart and many inner struggles.

PRODUCTION STILLS



Camille Blouet as Esther, photography by Alexander Myszki



Louise Pasteau as Estelle, Guillaume Marty as Antoine, photography by Alexander Myszki



Camille Blouet as Esther, photography by Alexander Myszki

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Through "Voyeuse", I wanted to tell a story of female desire and challenge the deep-rooted prejudice that voyeurism can only be male. This is precisely the idea that I decided to toy with when I chose the title "Voyeuse", the French feminine declension of the noun "voyeur" and a word so little used that it practically is a neologism.

As for me, male and female sexual desires are much closer than western societies would like us to believe. Female desire is often portrayed as connected to feelings, as much more virtuous than its male counterpart. To be frank, I think it is essentially much more monitored. While it is widely admitted that men have strong primitive urges, physiologically rooted in them, women showing equally pressing needs will inevitably attract derogatory labels on them. Still, biologically speaking, women too have hormonal rushes, only theirs are maybe more cyclic.

Through this film, I had no intention to deny that there can be differences between men and women -and from diversity also comes enrichment. I only think that we should always more emphasize what we have in common. And I also wished to set male and female desires on equal footing. The control of primal urges is certainly a pillar of society, but I do believe that admitting their existence is a crucial step towards understanding our inner nature and acquiring the ability to find one's personal balance and identity. Yet, many woman are still, to this day, hold back by inherited moral chains so that it might seem safer and easier for them to let themselves be guided by male desire and never truly acknowledge their own sexuality and needs.

This is exactly what Esther, Voyeuse's main character, is struggling with: a young woman having clearly been raised with strict traditional values, she is going on thirty without having ever been through a proper adolescent crisis. But when a new next-door neighbor moves in, she is soon overcome by her attraction for him and embarks on the long-delayed discovery journey of her own sensuality and animality.

In the making of this film, I tried to explore these themes both openly and subtly, and avoid any kind of vulgarity. I also considered that a complete mutual trust between the main actress and I was a vital prerequisite and I was very grateful that the casting sessions allowed me to meet Camille Blouet, with whom I was of the same mind about the whole project.

CREDITS

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Camille Blouet	as Esther
Manon Bonnet	as voice actress
Guillaume Marty	as Antoine
François Muller	as the Voyeur/voice actor
Louise Pasteau	as Estelle

Written, produced and directed by

[Florence Sobieski](#)

Music by

[Matthieu Lechowski](#)

[Frédéric Pérol \(alternate score\)](#)

Cinematography by

[Alexander Myszki](#) (as Guillaume Cottin)

Film Editing by

[Sébastien](#)

[Chantal](#)

Production Design by

[David Debrye](#)

Art Direction by

[Charlène Sales](#)

Set Decoration by

[Charlène Sales](#)

[Clara Sobieski](#)

Makeup Department

[Patsy Fluo](#) makeup department head

Production Management

[Baptiste](#)
[Aurélien](#) assistant unit manager

[Louise Maurice](#) unit production manager

Assistant Director

[Cécile Laurent](#) 1st assistant director

Sound Department

[Olivier Birot](#) boom operator

[Silvia Cabanillas](#) additional sound recording

[Cyril Carbonne](#) sound mixer / sound recordist

[Rémy Castillo](#) boom operator

[Thomas Lafon](#) sound editor / sound mixer

[Lucile Lhermitte](#) sound recordist

[Antoine Viot](#) sound editor / sound mixer / sound recordist

Camera and Electrical Department

[Sarah Ardouin-
Eyraud](#) assistant camera

[France Bérut](#) electrician / grip

[Stephen Coquin](#) gaffer

[Anne Giraudon](#) electrician / grip

[Thibaud Ottaviani](#) still photographer

[Thomas Pantalacci](#) assistant camera

[Julien Rancoule](#) key grip

[Aurélien Saly](#) still photographer

[Julien Sans](#) still photographer

[Kévin Seignan](#) additional grip / electrician

Costume and Wardrobe Department

[Charlène Sales](#)

wardrobe supervisor

Other crew

[Baptiste Aurélien](#)

production coordinator

[Lucille Chauvin](#)

script supervisor

BIOGRAPHIES

Florence Sobieski, Writer and Director

Florence Sobieski is a French director/assistant director who was born in France in 1986. She studied and worked in Lyon, Toulouse, New York and Paris. She works both on French and American film productions and speaks English fluently.

As a director, she made several short films, many of which are fictional. In terms of aesthetics, she favours simplicity and elegance. In terms of subject, she likes to focus on female characters struggling with their identities.

In addition, one of her main interests is on directing the actors. Both as a director and an occasional actress, she never gets tired of exploring this art, through classes, personal research and on-set practice.

In May 2011, her movie "Waiting", shot in NYC in Fall 2010, went to the Short Film Corner in Cannes. There, it found a multiplatform British distributor, Shorts International, and is now available on iTunes and Amazon.

Florence Sobieski's very latest work, the short film "Voyeuse", has just been finalized. It tells the story of a solitary young woman who fantasizes about her new neighbour, thus tackling the issue of a taboo-ridden female sexuality.

Voyeuse has recently been screened at the 2013 Lady Filmmaker Film Festival in Beverly Hills, where it received the Best Foreign Film Award.

These days, Florence is developing a feature film script for a thriller taking place in the world of truck drivers.

As an assistant director, she already worked on a dozen of short films and always enjoys sharpening the organizational and interpersonal skills that such a job requires.

Alexander Myszki, Cinematographer

Alexander Myszki is a young French cinematographer, DIT/Colorist and technical specialist. The child of a Polish mother and a French father, he was born in Warsaw, Poland, and grew up in France. He fluently speaks English, French and Polish. His father being a landscape and portrait photographer, Alexander learned photography and lighting as a young boy and grew into liking visual arts very early.

Alexander Myszki studied filmmaking at the ESAV (Ecole Supérieure d'Audiovisuel), a French film school in Toulouse, for four years. There, he was granted a Master's degree in Cinematography with high honors. He also studied at the SVA (School of Visual Arts) in New York, in the Film & Video department. In 2011, he returned to New York to intern at OffHollywood, a 3D and postproduction company, and later at Abel Cine Tech, an established camera rental company.

Alexander worked as a gaffer on a feature film, and as an electrician, a DIT or an AC on short films, documentaries and music videos. As a cinematographer, he lensed around 30 short films.

When not shooting, he gathers news on most recent technology and equipment, participates in various professional forums and blogs, and travels as much as possible.

"Voyeuse" is Alexander Myszki's third collaboration with director Florence Sobieski.

PRODUCTION NOTES

"Voyeuse's cinematography inspired by Crewdson's *Beneath the Roses*"

When director Florence Sobieski and cinematographer Alexander Myszki started to discuss the look for "Voyeuse", and especially its lighting, they both agreed on deriving inspiration from Gregory Crewdson's "Beneath the Roses", a subtly staged series of photographs mainly focussing on solitary night scenes set in old apartments or suburban streets and gardens, oftentime with lost-in-thought female protagonists.

The interior scenes, bathed in a mix of yellowish light from table lamps and blue moon beams penetrating through windows, were especially a source of inspiration.

Indeed, Florence Sobieski wanted a very lunar atmosphere for "Voyeuse": its main character, Esther, works night shifts and is very antisocial. A real night owl, she lives in a shadowy and dusty apartment, and keeps away from the daylight until the last third of the movie.

Once the decision on the look of the film was made, cinematographer Alexander Myszki tried to contact Gregory Crewdson's director of photography on "Beneath the Roses": Richard Sands, to whom he wrote an email and from whom he actually received an answer. They exchanged on lighting plots, and the differences between lighting for still frames and lighting for a movie. "Voyeuse"'s cinematography thus benefited from this generous insight!

"Lost Stairway"

On day 1 of the shoot, "Voyeuse" lost one of its main locations: the staircase of Esther's building, where three important scenes were to take place, as well as three spyhole shots. The crew was supposed to shoot there starting on day 5.

When the proprietor of the originally-chosen staircase cancelled the agreement for personal schedule reasons, the unfortunate location department was sent on a desperate hunt through the French city of Toulouse.

After three fruitless days of search, they fortunately ended up finding the perfect location: a staircase even better suited than the first one, with the perfect layout and the perfect shade of yellow old wallpaper. Even better, and ironically enough, this new location happened to be in a building only yards away from the studio where most of the movie was shot!

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SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

Le Cri de l'Oeil Film Festival, Aveyron, France European Premiere	July 2013
Lady Filmmakers Film Festival of Beverly Hills, CA North American Premiere	September 2013 Best Foreign Film Award
RxSM Self-Medicated Film Expo of Austin, TX	March 2014
Corrida Audiovisuelle Film Festival, Toulouse, France	April 2014
Female Eye Film Festival, Toronto, Canada	June 2014 Best Short Film Award
Aesthetica Short Film Festival, York, UK	November 2014
FICEG, Grenoble, France	Janvier 2015
Festival de Luchon, France	Février 2015 Audience Award

VOYEUSE on the INTERNET

Trailer: <http://vimeo.com/florencesobieski/voyeusetrailer>

Teaser: <http://vimeo.com/florencesobieski/voyeuseteaser>

ImDB page: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3058974>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/voyeuse.themovie>

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