



Technical Information

Working Title: Sous la Glace / Beneath the Ice

Director: Zeno Graton

Screenplay: Zeno Graton

Nationality: Belgium

Genre: Drama & Love

Format: 16 mm

Production Company: Tarantula Productions

www.tarantula.be

Producer: Valérie Bournonville

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Director's Biography and Filmography

Zeno Graton was born in Brussels. He studied cinematography at INSAS (Brussels). His graduation film, **Seagulls**, received the Bayard d'Or at FIFF festival (Namur) and the Next Generation Award of the BSFF (Brussels) and was selected to more than 50 international festivals. He has also worked with several theatre companies as a video artist. In 2015, he directed **Jay amongst Men**. The film was nominated in the Best Short Film category at the *Magritte du Cinéma belge*, selected to Clermont Ferrand, and aired on Arte, RTBF, and VRT. He is currently developing his first feature film, **Beneath the Ice**, at the Cinefondation Residence.

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



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Note d'intention

Le choix d'implanter cette histoire dans un centre de détention à régime ouvert, dont l'apparence est celle d'un internat à la campagne, s'est rapidement imposé afin que le dispositif qui cadre ces jeunes soit aussi trouble, aussi invisible, aussi légitimé que les mécanismes de contrôle et d'évaluation qui nous régissent au quotidien. Lors de mon immersion sur place, effectuée pendant un mois à l'été 2016, j'ai aimé m'émerveiller de l'impossibilité de poser des barrières autour de jeunes dont la vitalité, la sensualité, l'humour, le désir d'absolu se déploient trop bruyamment, trop visiblement.

À l'adolescence, notre paysage intérieur est à façonner, à construire. La guidance contemporaine, disciplinaire, comportementaliste, rétrécit les aspirations singulières et tend à mettre un accent unique

sur la productivité. Ces valeurs, érigées en morale collective, transforment les jeunes en atomes individualistes, programment leur vie en terme d'entreprise et sacrifient en eux ce qui déborde d'un projet global utilitariste. Cette guidance normalisatrice et rétrécissante, conditionnant la liberté de Joseph, va être bouleversée par la résurrection d'un père, incarnant pour Joseph l'espoir d'une forme de vie désirable.

Sous la Glace questionne ce lien de filiation, de dépendance, de guidance et plus largement, d'autorité. De qui sommes-nous les fils, réellement ? À qui obéit-on ? À quoi obéit-on ? Qu'est-ce qui nous émancipe, en réalité ? Qu'est-ce qui nous fait tenir debout ?

Synopsis

Joseph, 15 ans, est placé dans un centre ouvert pour jeunes délinquants. Un week-end, lors d'une sortie, Joseph vole un téléphone portable dans un grand magasin et se heurte à un agent de sécurité généreux, qui le laisse partir. L'agent de sécurité est en réalité le père de Joseph, Tom, qu'il n'a plus vu depuis des années. Joseph, bouleversé par cette rencontre, va tenter de réintégrer la vie de Tom. Au risque de sacrifier sa réinsertion et de blesser ceux qui l'aiment.

Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Joseph is sent to an open juvenile detention center. During an outing he steals a cell phone from a department store but a generous security guard lets him off the hook. The guard is in fact his father, Tom, and Joseph has not seen him for years. Joseph, shaken by the encounter, will attempt to find his way back into Tom's life, even if it means sacrificing his reinsertion and hurting those who love him.

Statement of Intent

Choosing to establish this story in an open detention facility, who appears to be nothing more than a countryside boarding school, quickly emerged as a way of implementing a regulatory system around the youth who could be as blurred, as invisible, and as legitimate as the control mechanisms that govern us on a daily basis. During my month-long summer of 2016 immersion in a detention center, I loved witnessing the impossibility of setting boundaries for the youth whose vitality, sensuality, sense of humor, and thirst for an absolute were so loud, so visible that they could not be contained.

During adolescence, our inner landscape has yet to take shape, to be built. Contemporary guidance, disciplinary and behavioristic, smothers and narrows down singular aspirations and tends to only

emphasize productivity. These values, established as a group ethic, transform youngsters into individualistic atoms; they set up a life program with business-like terms and perspectives, and sacrifice anything that does not fit into the utilitarian project. Imprisoned by this form of normalizing and narrowing guidance, Joseph's life is turned upside down by the reappearance of his father who embodies a hope for a desirable new way of life.

Beneath the Ice questions this father/son relationship, and in a broader perspective, the relationship to authority, to the dependency and guidance that comes along with it.

Who are we truly the sons of? To whom do we obey? To what do we obey? How can we really free ourselves? What keeps us standing?

