



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
LA RÉSIDENCE

BASTION

A FILM BY DIAN WEYS

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Technical Information

Title: Bastion
Screenplay: Dian Weys
Genre: Social Thriller
Duration: 90 min
Nationality: South Africa
Shooting Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Language: Afrikaans, English & isiXhosa
Producers: Anaïs Bertrand, Emilie Dubois, Le Roux Fourie
Production Company: Electronic Roof Films
Co-production: Insolence Productions

Dian Weys

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Director's Information

Filmmaker Dian Weys was born in South Africa in 1991. He holds an MA in Film Studies cum laude from the University of Cape Town and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Groningen (Netherlands).

His first three short films screened at over a hundred international film festivals, including Clermont-Ferrand, Palm Springs ShortFest, Message to Man, Tampere, and ZINEBI Bilbao.

Bergie (2022) won the Tanit d'Argent for Best Short Film at the Carthage Film Festival.

His latest short film, **Vultures** (2025), was selected in the Official Short Film Competition at the 78th Festival du Film de Cannes, where it won the Unifrance Short Film Grand Prix.

Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected 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 Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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© front: Pierre de Villiers, inside: David Harrison, GroundUp

Synopsis

Roslyn Adams is a law enforcement officer leading the court-ordered eviction of over fifty homeless people living in the moat separating the old colonial Castle of Good Hope from the modern city of Cape Town. For her, a successful eviction would realise her ambitions for a promotion as well as her desire to treat the unhoused with dignity and respect. However, when she finds a dead body among the makeshift structures, strict protocols chain her to the scene and withhold her from taking part in the eviction's first crucial moments. Unable to exert her usual control over her large team, minor mistakes escalate into severe catastrophes that threaten the entire operation. Roslyn has to act, and it will propel her to a radical choice of self-sacrifice.

Statement of Intent

Bastion is a film that invites the audience on a real-time journey of becoming witnesses. They will be drawn into an event that they cannot look away from. In contrast to observers, spectators, or voyeurs, witnesses experience the tremor of eternity echoing in all human beings, in all places, and at all times. With homelessness proliferating across the Western world, what are our responsibilities to those in need? How should we live in our cannibalistic capitalist societies? Roslyn sets out with a plan, but is quickly confronted with the limits of instrumentalised compassion. When she swerves into a different direction, we will experience what happens when losing oneself for another: hope.

Synopsis

Roslyn Adams, agente des forces de l'ordre, est chargée de mener l'expulsion de plus de cinquante sans-abris vivant dans les douves qui séparent l'ancien château colonial de Bonne-Espérance de la ville moderne du Cap. Pour elle, l'expulsion sera réussie si elle lui permet d'obtenir la promotion qu'elle désire, et si les sans-abris sont traités avec dignité et respect pendant l'opération. Lorsqu'elle découvre un cadavre dans l'une des structures de fortune, un protocole strict la retient sur place et l'empêche de participer aux premiers moments cruciaux de l'expulsion. Incapable d'exercer son autorité habituelle sur son équipe, des erreurs mineures dégénèrent en catastrophes et menacent l'ensemble de l'opération. Roslyn doit agir, ce qui la poussera à faire le choix radical de se sacrifier.

Note d'intention

Bastion est un film qui invite le public à devenir témoin d'un voyage en temps réel. Il sera entraîné dans une suite d'événements dont il ne pourra détourner le regard. Contrairement aux observateurs, aux spectateurs ou aux voyeurs, les témoins ressentent le frémissement de l'éternité qui résonne en tout être humain, en tous lieux et en tout temps. Alors que le sans-abrisme se répand dans le monde occidental, quelles sont nos responsabilités envers ceux qui sont dans le besoin ? Comment devons-nous vivre dans nos sociétés capitalistes cannibales ? Roslyn se lance avec un plan, mais se heurte rapidement aux limites de la compassion instrumentalisée. Lorsqu'elle change de direction, nous découvrons ce qui se passe lorsque l'on se perd pour un autre : l'espoir.