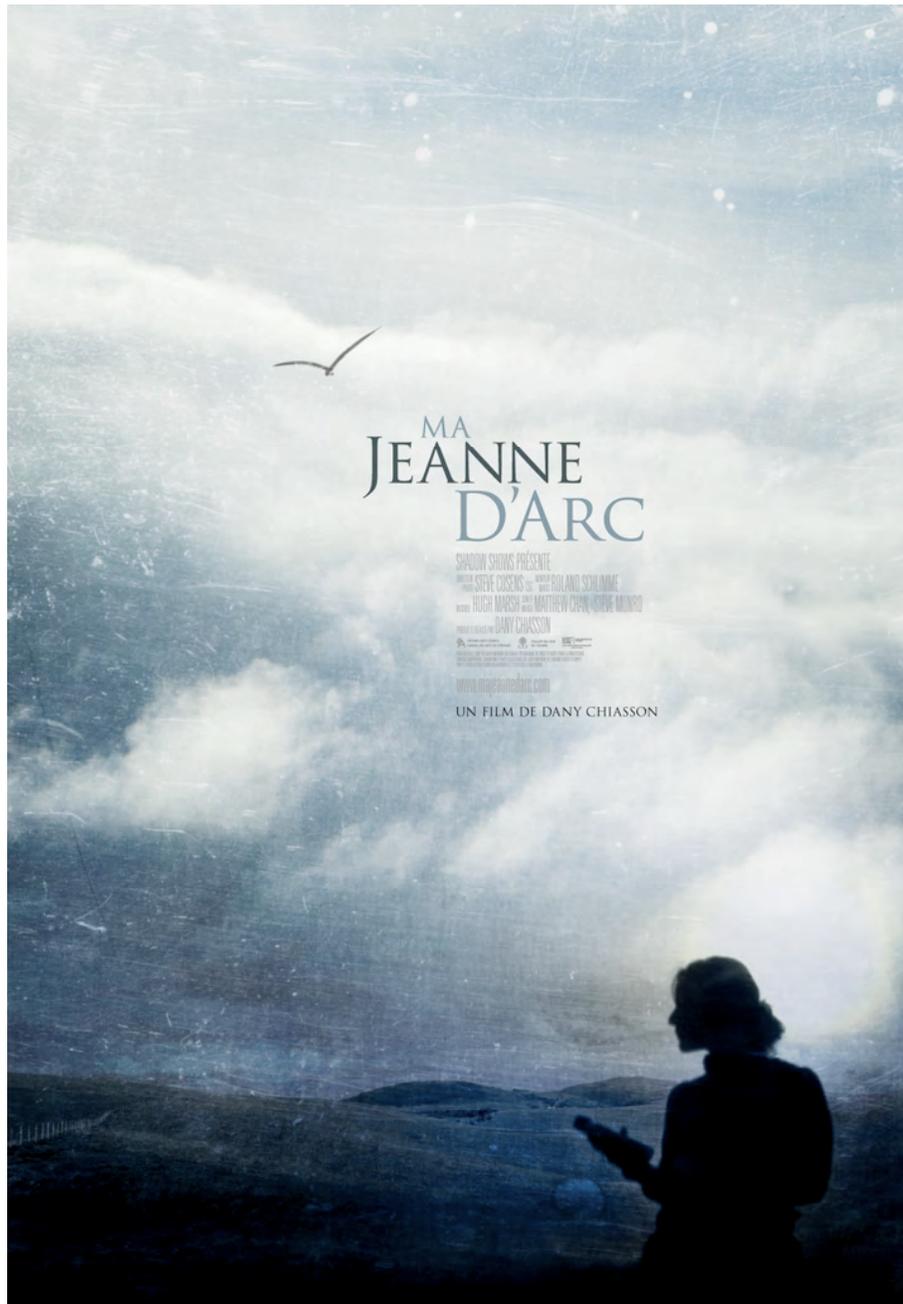


MY JOAN OF ARC

PRESS DOCUMENT



SHADOW SHOWS PRESENTS
CINEMATOGRAPHER STEVE COSENS C.S.C. EDITED BY ROLAND SCHLIMME
MUSIC HUGH MARSH SOUND & MIX MATTHEW CHAN, STEVE MUNRO
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY DANY CHIASSON

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CANADIAN FILM OR VIDEO PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT
AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO – THE ONTARIO FILM AND TELEVISION TAX CREDIT



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO



OFFICE NATIONAL DU FILM
DU CANADA
Aide au cinéma indépendant (Canada) ACIC
www.onf.ca/nfc

WWW.MAJEANNEDARC.COM

WWW.MYJOANOFARC.COM

MA JEANNE D'ARC

MY JOAN OF ARC

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY – 78 Minutes - FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES) - CANADA 2010

SYNOPSIS

French-Canadian Director Dany Chiasson's personal journey breathes new life into the myth of Joan of Arc. Driven by the memory of her grandmother, Chiasson travels by horseback across France, retracing the medieval icon's first 11-day ride over enemy land to meet the uncrowned King. Along the way, the filmmaker meets local people who animate the myth of the saint and help her to find a skylark. While the film explores the space between earth and sky, past and present, Chiasson uncovers the true nature of a search for heroism, faith, and for the sound of an elusive songbird.

DANY CHIASSON (producer / director) – SHORT BIO

Dany Chiasson was born on Iles de la Madeleine, Quebec. In 1986, she received a certificate in Cinematographic Studies at Laval University followed by a diploma from the Lee Strasberg Theatre School, Los Angeles. Aiming at producing and directing, she continued her "film school" on various film sets as an actor (Guest star in the Tarzan TV series) and as a Camera assistant on more than 20 films and TV series. In 1999, she received her first Canada Council Grant to make a short film and she's been writing, directing and producing exclusively since then. Her short films 29 MAI 1431...LE MATIN (2000) and PANTOMIME (2003) were well received in prestigious film festivals such as Clermont-Ferrand, France, and were sold to International Television. She also produced and directed various short films for Kid CBC. Her latest credits are *Executive Producer* on THIS MOVIE IS BROKEN (Rhombus Media / Shadow Shows 2010), TRIGGER (New Real Films / Shadow Shows 2010) and HARD CORE LOGO II (Foundation Features / Shadow Shows 2010). MA JEANNE D'ARC (2010) is her first independent feature documentary film.

INTERVIEW WITH **DANY CHIASSON** - DIRECTOR

When did you become interested in Joan of Arc?

As a little girl I went to church every Sunday with my grandmother. While we walked, rain or shine, twenty minutes back and forth, my grandmother told me stories of Saints and the meaning of Sainthood. Her favorite saint was Joan of Arc. Through Joan of Arc's story, I learned about devotion, courage, going beyond our limits, France, the medieval times, women, The Catholic Church, the big schism, royalty...all that was fascinating to me. I wanted to meet Joan of Arc, I wanted to hang out with her. Years later I continued to research Joan and her time in books and in movies. But the more I read, the more she became a mystery.

Now that you traveled on her footsteps, do you feel that you finally know her?

I can tell you that I am at peace with the mystery of her, but claiming to "know her" would be a big statement. Jean Anouilh, the author of a play on Joan called "L'Allouette" (The Lark) once said; "You cannot explain Joan, no more than you can explain a flower". I'll steal that as my answer to you.

How do you explain all the books about Joan of Arc?

Most of them are history books that tell facts about Joan of Arc's time, the Hundred Year War and some lines from her trial. However, there's not a lot of exploration of Joan herself, her motivations, her secrets, her fears. We wish she had kept a diary but she could barely write her own name. Perhaps it's the mystery of her that made her one of the most popular figures in history. Do you know that there are over 35 films on Joan of Arc? Fiction films that is. My film is not fiction but a documentary. It's a personal journey and the myth of Joan of Arc is the platform, the springboard...the calling.

Is that why you called your film MY Joan of Arc?

In a way, yes, but the film goes well beyond the myth. "My" includes my grandmother, the heritage of Joan that she gave me and then my journey in finding my own cinematic voice and inspiration while riding along Joan's footsteps. It sounds complicated, but it's not. One thing I'd like to mention is that I didn't intend to tell the story of Joan of Arc. Well, some facts to understand her and her mission yes, but my priority was to set out on a quest to rip open the very rigid, and complex icon and see what was inside.

Continued...

How do you “rip open an icon”?

Well, how do you rip open a fruit? Do you remember the first time you ripped open a pomegranate? First you know that it's edible so it makes you curious. You lift a chunk of the peel and you see the bright red seeds. You poke one and the juice comes out. You taste it and you want to like it. You do. Exciting. Then you open it more, and more and you find out that the whole fruit is filled with the same red, juicy seeds. It's complex too, very complex but you don't need to understand it, you are satisfied with it's taste and beauty. And then you find out it's actually very good for you. So you make it part of your diet. It becomes part of you. That's how you rip open an Icon. It's an adventure. Does that make any sense to you? (laugh)

What was the most inspiring part of your journey?

Domremy-la-Pucelle, where Joan of Arc was born. The Village where she grew up, where she played and prayed. It's a magical place. I could go there right now and write my next film in three weeks. The peace in Domremy brings you back to the most primitive side of you, the anima. In a way, it kind of set the tone for the journey.

What is your next film?

A fiction film, a love story between a father and a daughter, all shot in winter time on Iles de la Madeleine. A story that is very close to my heart. It has everything in it; love, heritage, hardship, frozen ocean, slow cooked stews, long picket fences, old people, young people, horses... everything. Are you going to ask about my team?

Yes, tell me about your team?

The best in the west! Steve Cosens, cinematographer, composes images like a blind poet who sees the world for the first time. Roland Schlimme, editor, is a genius at squeezing the dramatic juice out of poetic images, and Hugh Marsh, composer and accomplished violinist, is an alchemist of sound. I'm grateful that he elevated the film with his most secret ingredient he calls “a ghost note”. Steve Cosens, Roland Schlimme, Hugh Marsh and I, we made this film together. Thanks for asking.

Final question; Do you think Joan of Arc is relevant today?

Geneviève Bujold once said “Joan of Arc is all about Faith”. And I agree with her in the sense that Faith gives you courage. So yes, in that way, Joan of Arc is very much of our time because we always need a good kick in the butt, a good leap of faith to enrich our lives and to make the world a better place; faith in ourselves, faith in our children, faith in our governments, faith in nature, faith in mankind...

Are you a faithful person?

I must be, I'm a mother...and I absolutely love pomegranate!

MA JEANNE D'ARC
MY JOAN OF ARC

Réalisatrice- Productrice / *Director - Producer*
DANY CHIASSON

Guide de la Chevauchée / *Guide (France)*
JEAN-MICHEL MILLECAMPS

Productrices Associées / *Associate Producers*
ALISON DUKE
SARA SCHMIDT

Chargée de Production / *Production Coordinator (France)*
JOANNE BELLUCO

Recherche / *Research*
GABRIELLE LEBLANC

Consultante au Scénario / *Story Consultant*
KAREN SHENFELD

Directeur photo / *Cinematographer*
STEVE COSENS

Monteur / *Edited by*
ROLAND SCHLIMME

Son / *Sound by*
STEVE MUNRO
MATTHEW CHAN

Directeur photo/Cinematographer (*Iles de la Madeleine*)
JOHN PRICE

Montage En-Ligne & Coloriste / *On-Line Editor & Colourist*
KERRI LOCKE

Preneur de son / *Sound Recordist (France)*
MICHEL GALINDO

Musique / *Music by*
HUGH MARSH

Musiciens / Musicians:

BEN GROSSMAN
Hurdy Gurdy & Percussion

HUGH MARSH
Electric violin, Baritone violin & Piano

ROB PILTCH
Processed Guitar

MICHAEL WHITE
Trumpet

MA JEANNE D'ARC

MY JOAN OF ARC



CONTACT INFO:

SHADOW SHOWS INC.
632 COLLEGE STREET, 3RD FLOOR
TORONTO, ONTARIO M6G 1B4

T. 416.929.9004

DANY CHIASSON

e.: dany@shadowshows.com

c.: 647.389.9004

WWW.MYJOANOFARC.COM

WWW.MAJEANNEDARC.COM