

MY SEX LIFE

... OR HOW I GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT

A FILM BY ARNAUD DESPLECHIN

A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE

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SYNOPSIS

Arnaud Desplechin's second full-length feature premiered in competition at Cannes in 1996 and won Mathieu Amalric the César for Best Newcomer for his role as Paul, the film's fiercely intellectual woman-loving (anti) hero. MY SEX LIFE features an ensemble cast of France's most promising young actors and actresses, most of whom have worked with Desplechin on his earlier work. On the surface, a modern tale of twenty-something Parisian romance, the film's originality, humour and insight lie in the depth of the superb characterisation that Desplechin and his fine cast give to the principal characters. Desplechin has been hailed as a writer/director at the forefront of a new generation of French filmmakers.

Paul (Mathieu Amalric) is twenty-nine years old. He is an assistant professor at a university in Paris. Paul became a teacher reluctantly. Consequently, he hasn't finished his doctorate which would make him a full professor. In this indecisive state, with a modest salary, he lives a sort of half-life, waiting to begin what he might call "his life as a man."

Paul lives with his cousin Bob (Thibault de Montalembert), and has been seeing the same girl, Esther (Emmanuelle Devos), for ten years. They don't really get along, indeed, they have been on the verge of splitting up for ten years. Two years ago, Paul had an affair with another girl. His best friend's girlfriend. Since Paul considers it unthinkable to steal his best friend's girlfriend, the state of his romantic life remains in much the same state as his professional one.

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CAST

(in order of appearance)

Mathieu Amalric Paul
Emmanuelle Devos Esther
Emmanuel Salinger Nathan
Marianne Denicourt Sylvia
Thibault de Montalembert Bob
Chiara Mastroianni Patricia
Denis Podalydès Jean-Jacques
Jeanne Balibar Valérie
Fabrice Desplechin Ivan
Hélène Lapiower Le Mérou
Michel Vuillermoz Frédéric Rabier
Roland Amstutz Chernov

with the participation of

Marion Cotillard Student Ivan
Solemn Jarniou Pascale
Philippe Duclos Spiritaul guide
Elisabeth Maby "Tatie"
Paule Annen Madame Chernov
Anne-Katerine Normant Esther's friend
Vincent Nemeth Friend
David Gabison Representative of the Diocese

and

Jonathan Reyes, Florence Ricard, Djemila Racine,
Paolo Sergio Ribeiro, Erwan La Youdec,
Pierre-Emmanuel Dupire

as the children

Arnaud Desplechin

(Screenwriter/Director)

Born in 1960 in Roubaix, Arnaud Desplechin graduated from the French film school IDHEC in 1984 and went on to work as the cameraman on films by Eric Rochant and Nico Papatakis. He made his first film, the short feature *La Vie Des Morts* (The Life of the Dead) in 1991 and made a name for himself with his prize-winning feature debut *La Sentinelle* the following year.

Filmography

As Director of Photography

Présence Féminine (Eric Rochant) (short)

La Photo (Nico Papatakis)

As Director

La Vie des Morts (1991, 52 mins)

Winner of the Jean Vigo prize for best short film

Presented Critics' Week, Cannes

La Sentinelle (1992)

Official selection, Cannes 1992

Winner of 1992 César for Best Newcomer—Emmanuel Salinger

Presented at the New York Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival

My Sex Life (or How I Got Into An Argument...) (1996)

Official selection, Cannes 1996

Winner of 1996 César for Best Newcomer—Mathieu Amalric

Presented at the New York Film Festival

THE ACTORS

Mathieu Amalric

(Paul)

- 1984 Les Favoris de la Lune (Otar Iosseliani)
- 1990 Sans Rires (short film) (as Director)
- 1992 Les Yeux aux Plafonds (short film) (as Director)
Lettre Pour L (as First Assistant Director)
- 1995 Diary of a Seducer (Danièle Dubroux)
- 1996 My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)
Winner César, Best Newcomer

Emmanuelle Devos

(Esther)

- 1990 La Vie des Morts (Arnaud Desplechin)
- 1992 La sentinelle (Arnaud Desplechin)
- 1993 Les patriotes (Eric Rochant)
- 1994 Oublie-moi (Noemie Lvovsky)
- 1996 AnnaOz (Eric Rochant)
- 1996 My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

Emmanuel Salinger

(Nathan)

- 1990 La Vie des Morts (Arnaud Desplechin)
- 1992 La Sentinelle (Arnaud Desplechin)
Winner César, Best Newcomer
- 1993 Des feux mal éteints (Serge Moati)
- 1994 Grande petite (Sophie Fillières)
Queen Margot (Patrice Chéreau)
Oublie-moi (Noemie Lvovsky)
- 1995 Les cent et une nuit (Agnès Varda)
Les enfants de l'Automne (Christian de Chalonge)
- 1996 My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

Marianne Denicourt

(Sylvia)

- 1986 Hotel de France (Patrice Chereau)
- 1987 L'Amoureuse (Jacques Doillon)
- 1988 La Lectrice (Michel Deville)
- 1989 Les Aventures de Catherine C (Pierre Jouve)
- 1990 La Vie des Morts (Arnaud Desplechin)
La Belle Noiseuse (Jacques Rivette)
- 1992 La Sentinelle (Arnaud Desplechin)
L'Instinct de l'Ange (Richard Dembo)
- 1994 Péchés Mortels (Patrick Dewolf)
Haut-Bas-Fragile (Jacques Rivette)
- 1995 Les Enfants de l'Automne (Christian de Chalonge)
Passage à l'Acte (Francis Girod)
- 1996 Le Jour et la Nuit (Bernard Henri-Lévy)
My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

Jeanne Balibar

(Valérie)

- 1995 Un Dimanche à Paris (Hervé Duhamel)
- 1996 Dieu Seul me Voit (Bruno Podalydès)
- My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

Chiara Mastroianni

(Patricia)

- 1993 Ma Saison Préférée (André Téchiné)
- A la Belle Étoile (Antoine Desrosières)
- 1994 Ready to Wear (Robert Altman)
- All Men are Mortal (Arte de Yong)
- N'Oublie pas que tu vas Mourir (Xavier Beauvois)
- 1995 Diary of a Seducer (Danièle Dubroux)
- Three Lives and Only One Death (Raoul Ruiz)
- 1996 Caméléone (Benoit Cohen)
- 1996 My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)
- 1997 Nowhere (Gregg Araki)

Thibault De Montalembert

(Bob)

- 1986 Hotel de France (PatriceChereau)
- 1987 L'Amoureuse (Jacques Doillon)
- 1990 La Vie des Morts (Arnaud Desplechin)
- 1992 Indochine (Régis Wargnier)
- La Sentinelle (Arnaud Desplechin)
- 1993 La Petite Apocalypse (Costa-Gavras)
- 1996 Love etc. (Marion Vernoux)
- My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

Denis Podalydès

(Jean-Jacques)

- 1989 Xenia (Patrice Vivancos)
- 1992 Versailles Rive Gauche (Bruno Podalydès)
- 1993 Pas Très Catholique (Tonie Marshall)
- Voila (Bruno Podalydès)
- 1995 Diary of a Seducer (Danièle Dubroux)
- L'Echappée Belle (Etienne Dahène)
- 1996 Dieu Seul me Voit (Bruno Podalydès)
- My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

Fabrice Desplechin

(Ivan)

- 1992 La Sentinelle (Arnaud Desplechin)
- 1993 Des Feux mal Eteints (Serge Moati)
- 1995 Encore (Pascal Bonitzer)
- 1996 My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

Michel Vuillermoz

(Frédéric Rabier)

- 1989 Cyrano de Bergerac (Jean-Paul Rappeneau)
- 1991 Versailles Rive Gauche (Bruno Podalydès)
- 1994 La vie de Mariane (Benoit Jacquot)
- 1995 Des Nouvelles de Bon Dieu (Didier le Pêcheur)
- 1996 Dieu Seul me Voit (Bruno Podalydès)
- Bernie (Albert Dupontel)
- My Sex Life (Arnaud Desplechin)

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Original title: Comment Je Me Suis Disputé... ("Ma Vie Sexuelle")

Directed by
Arnaud Desplechin

Screenplay
Arnaud Desplechin, Emmanuel Bourdieu

Original score
Krishna Lévy

Photography
Eric Gautier A.F.C., Stéphane Fontaine, Dominique Perrier-Royer

Production design
Antoine Platteau

Sound
Laurent Poirier, Jean-Pierre Laforce (mix)
Michel Casang, Didier Lizé (music)

Director's assistants
Aude Cathelin, Agnès de Sacy (script), Bénédicte Darblay,
Alexandre Nazarlan, Elsa Pharaon

Make-up & Hair
Bernard Floch, Isabelle Lagay, Jeanne Milon, Nurith Barkan

Costumes
Claire Gérard-Hirne, Delphine Hayat

Décor
Françoise Rabut, Jean-Marc Fiess, Guillaume Watrinet, Cecilia Hanrot,
Jean-Claude Berkham, Gary Marin, Denis Dorgeix, Muriel Durieux,
Katharina Gault, Bruno Charow, Nicolas Clérice

Editing
François Gédigier, Laurence Briaud, Mathilde Muyard (sound)
Béatrice Herminie, Mathilde Grosjean

Producers
Pascal Caucheteux, Gregoire Sorlet

France • 1996 • 178 mins

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