

**Dendy Films & Sharmill Films present**

***L'Invite***

***(The Dinner Guest)***

A film by Laurent Bouhnik

Starring

**Daniel Auteuil  
Valerie Lemercier  
Thierry Lhermitte**

**Production Notes**

Running Time: 90mins

Rating: TBC

Contact details

## **L'Invite**

### **Cast**

<b>Daniel Auteuil</b>	Gerard
<b>Valerie Lemercier</b>	Colette
<b>Thierry Lhermitte</b>	Alexandre
<b>Hippolyte Girardot</b>	Potignac
<b>Artus de Penguern</b>	Bonnot
<b>Pascale Dinizani</b>	Fournier
<b>Mar Sodupe</b>	Sophia
<b>Marianne Viard</b>	La secretaire
<b>Ludovic Berthillot</b>	Rudy
<b>Michel Gondoin</b>	Mick Gondouin
<b>Yan Dron</b>	Motorcycle policeman
<b>Philippe Du Janerand</b>	The candidate Fortineau

## **L'Invite**

### **Production credits**

Director	<b>Laurent Bouhnik</b>
Written by	<b>David Pharao</b> (novel and play)
Produced by	
Executive Producer	<b>Luc Besson</b>
Line Producer	<b>Didier Hoarau</b>
Producer	<b>Maurice Illouz</b>
Executive Producer	<b>Pierre-Ange Le Pogam</b>
Cinematographer	<b>Jean-Paul Agostini</b>
Film editors	<b>Herve de Luze</b> <b>Frederic Thoraval</b>
Production designer	<b>Jacques Bufnoir</b>
Costume designer	<b>Joana George-Rossi</b>
Make Up designer	<b>Laurent Bozzi</b>
Production Manager	<b>Gauthier Lamothe</b>
Sound	<b>Lucien Balibar</b>
Casting	<b>Anne Barbier</b>
Music	<b>Alexandre Mahout</b>

## **L'Invite**

### **Synopsis**

Fifty years old, three years of unemployment, his indemnities in free fall, Gerard is at the end of his tether, when he is offered an unexpected post in Indonesia.

To best win his new employer's favors, Gerard invites him home for dinner. Big mistake! Panic-stricken at the idea of not being able to live up to expectations, his wife Colette begs the neighbour, Alexander for help.

A guru in communications Alexander takes up the challenge and gives the couple a complete makeover in twenty-four hours; apartment, decoration, lifestyle, general culture and everything else.

A chain reaction of blunders and the unexpected follow, with nerves on edge and in a state of high anxiety, our couple, finally open their door... to the guest.

## **L'Invite**

### **Director Laurent Bouhnik**

At a time when I wanted to make a movie for laughs, in the general sense, I was struck by the script of *L'invite*. I found the text particularly intelligent and immediately wanted to direct it, notably because it dealt with touching characters within a funny story.

For me, who comes from a darker world and writes only of torturous matters, this script is an ideal occasion to talk of a serious topic in a lighter manner and therefore touch a larger audience.

Because the theme of this comedy is extremely serious and in my opinion, it is making a movie about humiliation; in our society, what amount of humiliation should we withstand, for us to live? We are very distant from the simple "cream pies" or "slapstick" comedy.

To process this story I intend getting inspiration from a double reference. The Anglo-Saxon comedy for its sense of rhythm and rich musical universe, and the Italian comedy for an image at the edge of realism and the imaginary. As an example, I am particularly sensitive in achieving the emotional moments as in "Four marriages and a funeral" but also the image a little excessive of "Affreux sales et méchants" (Ugly dirty and mean).

If you know my filmography, you will notice in fact that Zonzon, even then exploited in an inversed and fleeting manner, the eruption of moments of laughter in a dramatic universe. Visually, the blend of realism and imagery is also present, so much so that many real prisoners believed the prison in the movie was real, in fact it was totally imaginary.

I will therefore give great importance to decoration and costumes. You need to see Pedro Almodovars' or Tim Burton's movies to understand to what extent costumes and decorations can reflect the psychology of a character. I was therefore seeking to bring out of this apartment the sensation of a « seventies» universe that was never modernized, a sensation accentuated by the costumes, seeking a true accord between the artistic elements and the acting of the comedians.

## ***L'Invite***

### **Director's motivations cont...**

Finally, I am well aware, considering the nature of the original text, of the need to avoid falling into a filmed theatre and forgetting the uniqueness of the place. For that, I am counting on the rhythm and variety of angle shots. There is no question of filming this comedy in classical planned sequences, on the contrary, one must vary the scenes and avoid any inaction in the movies dynamics.

I hope therefore that you'll not satisfy yourself with the image to which my work has been associated with until now and that you will be sensitive to my arguments.

In waiting a positive reply on your behalf, please accept my sincere and respectful greetings.

Laurent Bouhnik

## **L'Invite**

### **Thierry Lhermitte (Alexandre)**

#### **Job Interview**

**Name:** Thierry

**Surname:** Lhermitte

#### **What drove you to apply for this role?**

I felt it would be a great opportunity to have a good time in the company of very talented actors with a very pleasant script.

#### **What do you think you will bring to this movie?**

My perfect diction.

#### **What is your training?**

No Diploma just in house training.

#### **What other experience have you in the field of comedy?**

25 years defending texts of variable quality.

#### **What do you know about the director of this movie?**

He wears a cap.

#### **Your greatest quality for this role?**

I know my text very well

#### **Your weakness?**

I have difficulty pronouncing the x's.

#### **What experience has most marked your career?**

My interpretation prize in Bulgaria, Levdev for best actor in 1985 for Miroslav Pasticcio.

## **L'Invite**

**Thierry Lhermitte cont...**

### **Do you like teamwork?**

I love teams.

### **Do you know how to say no?**

Every time the occasion comes up.

### **Could you define yourself in a few words?**

I am a very precious and punctual collaborator.

### **What are your salary expectations?**

Indexed on the cocoa market.

### **How do you see yourself professionally in 5 years?**

I wish for an honorable end of career with a progressively reduced activity so as to enable me to enroll in a third age club.

### **Selected filmography**

2007	<i>Tous sans exception</i> <i>The Key (La Clef)</i> <i>L'Invite</i>
2006	<i>Comme tout le monde (Like Everybody)</i>
2005	<i>Friends forever ( Bronzes 3:amis pour la vie)</i>
2004	<i>L'Americain</i>
2003	<i>Ripoux 3</i> <i>Le Divorce</i>
2002	<i>A Private Affair</i>
2001	<i>Le Placard</i>
1998	<i>Le Diner de cons</i>

## **L'Invite**

### **Valerie Lemerrier (Colette)**

#### **Job interview**

**Name:** Valerie

**Surname:** Lemerrier

#### **What drove you to apply for this role?**

I was lucky to have seen the play in a theatre and had a wonderful time. I had a great laugh. I find this story especially well written and very touching. On reading the script I said to myself that it would be amusing to play the part of Colette overwhelmed by the events; it is a character role I had not played before.

#### **What do you think you will bring to this movie?**

Fantasy and a chance of doing my "Catherine Frot"! I believe I have the necessary flexibility to jump over trains without mentioning my spin dry capacities. I should also mention the advantage I have in the size of my dishwashing gloves, medium the perfect size.

#### **What is your training?**

Two years of drying puddles, a number of courses so as not to know how to cook, two other years spent learning how not to have any dress sense, and a six month course on the river seine where I learned how to breed fish. I didn't need to learn about the French variety, that's one of my hobbies.

#### **What other experience have you in the field of comedy?**

*Royal Palace and Orchestra Seats.*

#### **What do you know about the director of this movie?**

I met him in Mexico whilst he was bungee jumping at the occasion of the Acapulco festival, an experience he has in fact reproduced in his film. I was very surprised it was Laurent who was chosen to direct "L'invité" which is very distant from his usual universe, but it was amusing to confront his experience with the tone of the movie. He loves actors, which is very important for our excessive egos.

## **L'Invite**

**Valerie Lemerrier cont...**

### **Your greatest quality for this role?**

Entertain the team. I also learned my text very well with the help of a highlighting pen.

### **Your weakness?**

Being on the set on time.

### **What experience has most marked your career?**

The stage, especially the appearance at the "Olympia"

### **Do you know how to say no?**

It is hard for me; I would rather tend in not answering. However, it will happen... I would like to be able to refuse desserts and candy, the rest will surely come.

### **Could you define yourself in a few words?**

One meter seventy

63 kilos

Size 39 ½

Size M in rubber gloves

Live in the 15 Th district

Flexible (except for timetable)

Big head (at least 59), besides, that is the only thing I cannot reduce.

### **What are your salary expectations?**

None, only my husbands' salary counts.

### **How do you see yourself professionally in 5 years?**

With hats size S and a few less centimeters. Professionally speaking I find myself too tall; it would suit me better to shrink a little for the movies. At the theatre there is no scale on size, everything looks normal. I would also like to continue climbing the comedy ranks; that is my only goal in life.

## ***L'Invite***

**Valerie Lemerrier cont...**

### **Selected filmography**

#### **Actor**

2007	<i>L'Invite</i>
2005	<i>Family Hero (Le Heros de la famille)</i> <i>Orchestra Seats</i> <i>Palais Royal</i>
2004	<i>The Secret Adventures of Gustave Klopp (Narco)</i>
2002	<i>Friday Night (Vendredi Soir)</i>
1999	<i>From Behind (Le Derriere)</i>
1998	<i>Les Visiteurs 2</i>

#### **Writer**

*Palais Royal (2005)*  
*Le Derriere ( From Behind) (1999)*

#### **Director**

*Palais Royal (2005)*  
*Le Derriere (1999)*  
*Quadrille (1997)*

## **L'Invite**

### **Daniel Auteuil (Gérard)**

#### **Job Interview**

**Name:** Daniel

**Surname:** Auteuil

#### **What drove you to apply for this role?**

The opportunity to spend some time with my working colleagues Valérie and Thierry was more than enough.

#### **What do you think you will bring to this movie?**

My enthusiasm.

#### **What other experience have you in the field of comedy?**

Zonzon

#### **Your greatest quality for this role?**

My enthusiasm

#### **Your weakness?**

My good humor

#### **Do you like teamwork?**

Yes very much.

#### **Do you know how to say no?**

Yes

#### **Could you define yourself in a few words?**

Available, patient, consistent and... enthusiast.

#### **What are your salary expectations?**

Reasonable.

## L'Invite

Daniel Auteuil cont...

### How do you see yourself professionally in 5 years?

Fit.

### Selected Filmography

2007	<i>L'Invite</i> <i>Conversations with My Gardener</i>
2006	<i>Napoleon and Me</i> <i>My Best Friend</i> <i>The Valet</i>
2005	<i>Hidden (Cache)</i>
2004	<i>36 Quai des Orfevres</i>
2003	<i>Apres Vous</i>
2001	<i>Le Placard</i>
2000	<i>Marquis de Sade</i> <i>La Veuve de Saint-Pierre</i>
1999	<i>The Girl on the Bridge</i>
1997	<i>Lucie Aubrac</i> <i>Le Bossu</i>
1996	<i>The Eighth Day</i>
1989	<i>Romauld et Juliette</i>
1986	<i>Manon des Sources</i>