

### CAST

Judith : Karin Viard  
Julien : Eric Caravaca  
Saint-Clair : Jacques Weber  
Simon : Gilles Cohen

### CREW

Director : Catherine Corsini  
Screenplay and dialogues : Catherine Corsini, Benoît Graffin & Cédric Kahn  
Photography : Hélène Louvart, Guillaume Schiffman, AFC  
Editing : Simon Jacquet  
Music : Grégoire Hetzel  
Producers : Fabienne Vonier (PYRAMIDE PRODUCTIONS)  
Michel Seydoux (CAMERA ONE)  
In association with Vincent Malle (VMP)

In association with SOFICA SOFICINEMA 2 and COFINOVA 2  
with the participation of Canal + and Ciné Cinéma  
with the support of PROCIREP and l'ANGOA-AGICOA

France - 90 mn - 35 mm - 1 : 1,85 - color - Dolby Digital - Drama

### CATHERINE CORSINI

Catherine Corsini attended the teaching of Antoine Vitez and Michel Bouquet at the Conservatoire d'art dramatique in Paris during 3 years. After a few roles and assistantship in theater, she turned to writing and directing, thanks namely to her meeting with IDHEC students. She directed several short films, all award-winning. *Poker* is her first feature film. Then, in 1991, her TV film *Interdit d'amour* with Nathalie Richard and Maxime Leroux met with great success. In 1998, with *The New Eve*, a generation comedy, she broke with the drama of her first films. Two years later, she directed *Replay* with Emmanuelle Béart and Pascale Bussières. The film was selected to Cannes Film Festival in the official competition. In 2006, for her seventh feature film, *Ambitious*, she directed again Karin Viard and Eric Caravaca.

### Feature Films

- 2006** : **AMBITIOUS** with Karin Viard, Eric Caravaca, Jacques Weber, Gilles Cohen  
Rome International Film Festival 2006 - Official selection
- 2003** : **THE VERY MERRY WIDOWS** with Jane Birkin and Emilie Dequenne
- 2000** : **REPLAY** with Emmanuelle Béart and Pascale Bussières  
Cannes International Film Festival 2001 - Official selection
- 1998** : **THE NEW EVE** with Karin Viard, Pierre-Loup Rajot, Catherine Frot, Sergi Lopez  
Berlin International Film Festival
- 1995** : **YOUTH WITHOUT GOD** with Marc Barbé, Roland Amstutz, Samuel Dupuy  
Cannes International Film Festival 1996 - "Cinéma en France"
- 1993** : **LOVERS** with Nathalie Richard, Pascal Cervo  
Cannes International Film Festival 1994 - "Cinéma en France"
- 1987** : **POKER** with Caroline Cellier, Pierre Arditi

### FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESS IN ROME

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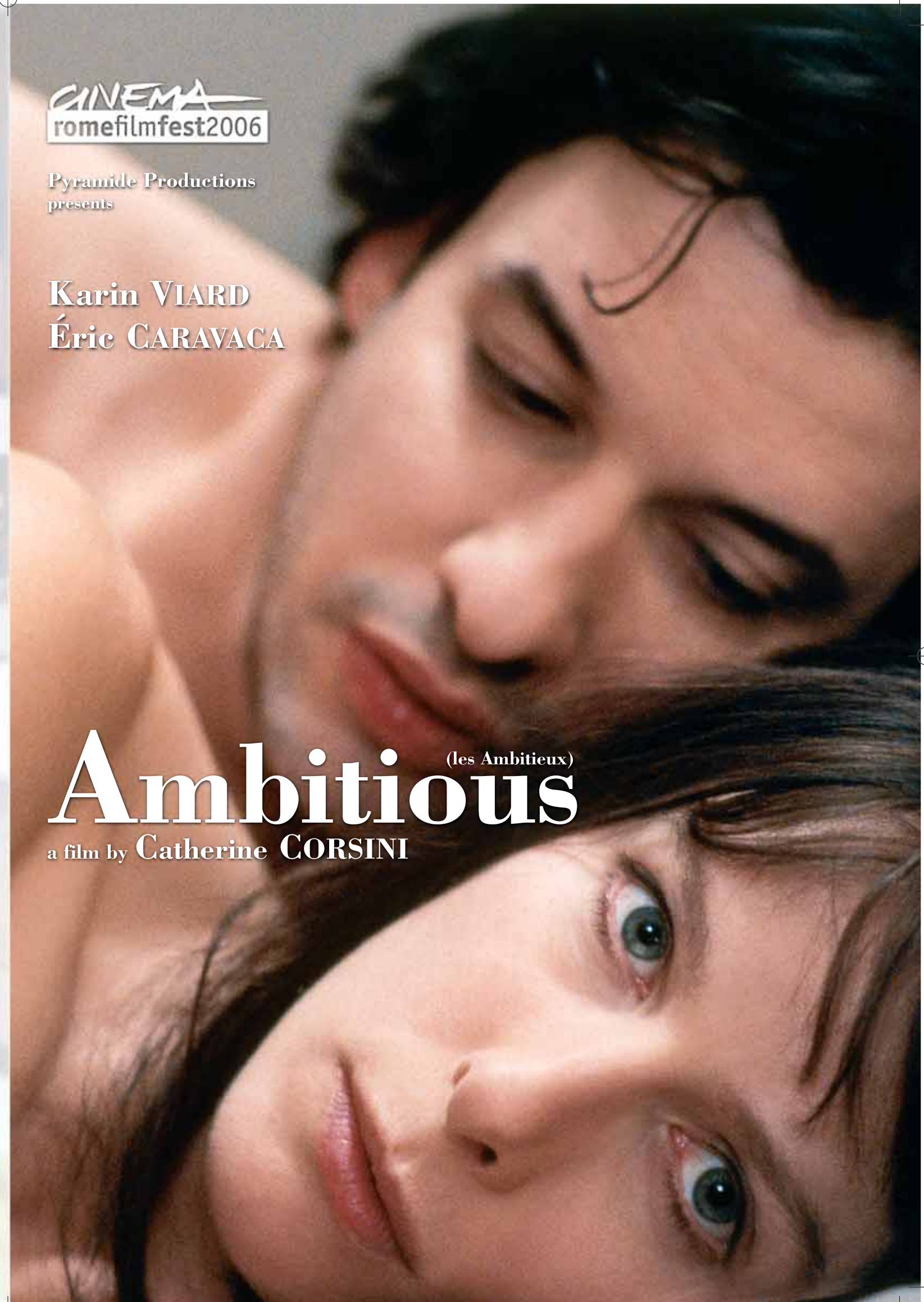


Pyramide Productions  
presents

Karin VIARD  
Éric CARAVACA

# Ambitious (Les Ambitieux)

a film by Catherine CORSINI



## SYNOPSIS

Julien is a young author whose dream is to be published. Thanks to a subterfuge, he manages to get an appointment with a fearsome publisher, Judith Zahn. She doesn't think Julien is talented but nevertheless finds him to her taste. He lets her seduce him and becomes her lover.

One night, out of curiosity, he looks through her belongings. He discovers a fascinating story; that of Judith's father, a revolutionary who died fighting with the guerrilla movement in the 70's. Julien decides to write a book about it, but without telling Judith. When Julien shows her his manuscript, Judith feels robbed and betrayed. She forbids him to publish it and breaks up with him.

Julien ignores her. The book is a huge success. Furious, Judith tricks him to bring him down. She succeeds, but does not savour her revenge quite as she had hoped to.

## SYNOPSIS

*Julien est un jeune auteur qui rêve d'être édité. Il réussit à obtenir un rendez-vous avec une éditrice redoutable Judith Zahn. Celle-ci ne lui reconnaît aucun talent mais le trouve à son goût. Il se laisse séduire et devient son amant.*

*Un soir, par curiosité, il fouille dans ses affaires et découvre une histoire qui le passionne, l'histoire du père de Judith, révolutionnaire des années 70 mort au combat en Amérique du Sud. Julien décide d'en faire un livre sans rien en dire à Judith. Quand il lui montre le manuscrit, elle se sent volée, trahie... Elle lui interdit de le publier et rompt avec lui.*

*Il passe outre. Le livre est un énorme succès. Furieuse, Judith se sert d'un stratagème pour faire tomber Julien. Mais sa vengeance accomplie, elle ne la savoure pas comme elle l'espérait...*

## SINOSI

Julien è un giovane autore che sogna di essere pubblicato. Riesce ad ottenere un appuntamento con una temibile editrice, Judith Zahn. Lei lo considera completamente privo di talento ma lo trova di suo gusto. Lui si lascia sedurre e diventa il suo amante.

Una sera, per curiosità, lui fruga tra i documenti di lei e scopre una storia che lo appassiona, la storia del padre di Judith, rivoluzionario durante gli anni 70, morto combattendo a fianco della guerriglia in America del sud. Julien decide di farne un libro senza dire nulla a Judith. Quando le mostra il manoscritto lei si sente derubata, tradita, gli vieta di pubblicarlo e lo lascia.

Lui continua. Il libro ha un enorme successo. Furiosa, Judith si serve di un stratagemma per sabotare Julien. Il suo piano riesce ma la vendetta non ha il sapore che lei sperava...

## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

Judith, Julien, two iron-willed, contradictory characters size each other up, mutually attract and repel. Driven by his desire for success, he lies to her, while gazing into her eyes. Wishing to remain the strongest, she never totally bares her soul. They engage in battle, lay traps for each other, both thinking they have duped the other. But when making light of it comes to a close, she finds herself in tears. I like comedies. I like melodramas. I was dying to work with Karin Viard again, but I wanted to offer her a role that fitted her like a glove and to explore avenues other than those we had already travelled together in *The New Eve*. I set out to make a genuine film about a couple... A couple of actors, a couple of lovers. I wanted it to be a latter-day comedy imbued with both lightness and depth, yet with serious undertones on the themes of power, legitimacy and commitment. To do that, both the characters and the actors had to agree to drop the mask and to reveal a part of their inner truth, their deeper self. Day after day, Karin Viard and Eric Caravaca proved to me their profound attachment to the project and the film owes them a lot. Thanks to them the characters metamorphose to tug at our heart strings when not making us laugh

## NOTE D'INTENTION

*Judith, Julien, deux personnages aux caractères bien trempés, contradictoires, se jaugent, s'attirent, se repoussent. Emporté par son envie de réussite, il lui ment les yeux dans les yeux. Désireuse de rester la plus forte, elle ne se dévoile jamais complètement. Ils se livrent bataille, se piègent, croient se jouer l'un de l'autre. Mais quand ils finissent d'en rire voilà qu'elle pleure. J'aime les comédies. J'aime les mélodrames. J'avais très envie de retrouver Karin Viard, mais je voulais lui proposer un rôle qui lui aille comme un gant et qui explore d'autres voies que celles que nous avons parcourues ensemble dans *La Nouvelle Eve*. J'ai cherché à faire un vrai film de couple. Couple d'acteurs, couple d'amoureux. J'ai voulu une comédie contemporaine qui ait à la fois de la légèreté mais aussi de la profondeur et de la gravité sur les thèmes du pouvoir, de la légitimité, de l'engagement. Il fallait pour cela que les personnages et les acteurs acceptent de tomber les masques et arrivent à dévoiler une part de leur vérité, de leur moi intime. Karin Viard et Eric Caravaca m'ont prouvé tous les jours leur profond attachement à ce projet et le film leur doit beaucoup. Grâce à eux les personnages se transforment et nous émeuvent quand ils ne nous font pas rire.*

## NOTE DELL' AUTORE

Judith, Julien, due personaggi dal carattere difficile, contraddittorio, si studiano, si attirano, si respingono. Trasportato per la sua voglia di successo, lui le mente occhi negli occhi. Desiderosa di restare la più forte, lei non si scopre mai completamente. Si danno battaglia, si tendono trappole, credono prendersi gioco l'uno dell'altra. Ma quando smettono di riderne ecco che lei piange. Amo gli attori. Amo i melodrammi. Avevo molta voglia di lavorare ancora con Karin Viard ma volevo proporle un ruolo che le andasse come un guanto e che esplorasse strade diverse da quelle che avevamo già percorso insieme nel *"La Nouvelle Eve"*. Ho cercato di fare un vero film di coppia. Coppia d'attori, coppia d'innamorati. Ho voluto una commedia contemporanea, che avesse leggerezza e allo stesso tempo spessore e serietà nell'affrontare i temi del potere, della legittimità, dell'impegno politico. Per ottenere ciò era necessario che gli attori accettassero di abbandonare le maschere e riuscissero a svelare una parte della loro verità, del loro intimo se. Karin Viard e Eric Caravaca mi hanno provato ogni giorno il loro profondo attaccamento a questo progetto e il film gli deve molto. Grazie a loro i personaggi si trasformano e quando non ci fanno ridere ci commuovono.

