

SÉBASTIEN
RICARD

ARNAUD
VACHON

RÉMY
GIRARD

ÉMILIE
BIBEAU

FRANÇOIS
PAPINEAU

FABIEN
CLOUTIER

GUY
THAUVETTE



LE CLUB VINLAND

UN FILM DE BENOIT PILON



PRODUIT PAR CHANTAL LAFLEUR

SCÉNARIO ET DIALOGUES DE NORMAND BERGERON, MARC ROBITAILLE ET BENOIT PILON

LES FILMS OPALE PRÉSENTE UNE PRODUCTION AVENIDA « LE CLUB VINLAND » AVEC SÉBASTIEN RICARD ARNAUD VACHON RÉMY GIRARD FRANÇOIS PAPINEAU

XAVIER HUARD FABIEN CLOUTIER ALEXANDRE PERREAULT ALEXIS GUAY XAVIER RIVARD-DESY ÉMILIE BIBEAU GUY THAUVETTE GUY SPRUNG

DISTRIBUÉ PAR DANIEL POISSON ADOCO ET PIERRE PAGEAU ADOCO MONTAGNE DE FRANÇOIS GAMACHE MONTAGNE DE RICHARD COMEAU COC MONTAGNE DE PATRICE BENGLE MONTAGNE DE LOUISE TREMBLAY
DIRECTEUR DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE FRANCESCO CHAMBERLAND MONTAGNE DE GILLES CORBEIL MONTAGNE DE OLIVIER CALVERT MONTAGNE DE BERNARD GARIÉPY STROBL ET STÉPHANE BERGERON MONTAGNE DE PIERRE LAPOINTE ET GUIDO DEL FABBRIO
MONTAGNE DE NORMAND BERGERON, MARC ROBITAILLE ET BENOIT PILON MONTAGNE DE BENOIT PILON MONTAGNE DE CHANTAL LAFLEUR



Press Release

INFORMATION

GENRE : Drama
ORIGINAL VERSION : French
ASPECT RATIO : 1.85
SOUND : 5.1
FILMING LOCATIONS : Montreal and surroundings, Charlevoix and Saint-Césaire

SHOOTING FORMAT : Pro Res 4444 in 3.2K
FINAL FORMAT : 2K
THEATRICAL RELEASE : Friday, August 6, 2021
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PRODUCTION

Productions Avenida (Chantal Lafleur)
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DISTRIBUTION

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All promotional material is available: <https://www.lesfilmsopale.com/leclubvinland>



SYNOPSIS

Vinland is the story of an exceptional educator in a boys' school in eastern Quebec in the late 1940s. Adored by his students but perceived as too disruptive by the superiors of his congregation, the charismatic Brother Jean is a progressive member of the church who represents the changes to come in the Quebec of the 1950s and 1960s. Wanting to solve an old mystery, motivate his students, and stop Émile-a troubled student-from dropping out, Brother Jean undertakes an archaeological dig to prove the existence of a Viking colony (Vinland) on the St. Lawrence coast. The endeavor will change the school and will leave its mark on the destinies of young Émile - and of Brother Jean himself.

ARTISTIC SHEET

BROTHER JEAN

SÉBASTIEN RICARD

ÉMILE

ARNAUD VACHON

BROTHER LÉON

RÉMY GIRARD

BROTHER CYPRIEN

FRANÇOIS PAPINEAU

BROTHER MATHIEU

XAVIER HUARD

BROTHER LUCIEN

FABIEN CLOUTIER

JÉRÔME

ALEXANDRE PERREAULT

CHOUINARD

ALEXIS GUAY

FRANÇOIS

XAVIER RIVARD

MARGUERITE

ÉMILIE BIBEAU

BROTHER ROSÉA

GUY THAUVETTE

TECHNICAL SHEET

DIRECTOR	BENOIT PILON
SCRIPT WRITERS	NORMAND BERGERON, MARC ROBITAILLE AND BENOIT PILON
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	FRANÇOIS GAMACHE
ART DIRECTOR	PATRICE BENGLE
COSTUMES	FRANCESCA CHAMBERLAND
MUSIC	PIERRE LAPOINTE AND GUIDO DEL FABBRO
EDITOR	RICHARD COMEAU
PRODUCER	CHANTAL LAFLEUR
DISTRIBUTOR	LES FILMS OPALE

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

We all have had an inspiring teacher in our journey whose passion has had an impact on our life choices. The role of these mentors is even more important when they exert their positive influence in a sclerotic and repressive society that they seek to evolve, often at the risk of their own comfort or safety.

It is this universal theme that touched me in this story full of hope and tenderness, camped in a post-war Quebec (1949) still under the control of the Catholic religion and traditions, but which sees the prospect of great upheaval on the horizon. It is not yet the Quiet Revolution, but the drivers of change are beginning to emerge here and there, even within religious communities. Among those beings of light who carry within them the will to open up to the world and to question certain dogmas, the figure of Brother Jean shines with his passion for the knowledge and education of young people. I immediately adhered to this fictional character who evokes historical figures such as Brother Marie-Victorin, the Abbot Proulx, and Brother Untel, but who also reminds each of us of a passionate educator who will have counted in our journey into adolescence, this crucial moment of our life where these guides trace an indelible imprint in our young brains. Substitute for a parental figure, Brother Jean is aware of the importance of his role and takes it seriously. He knows how to talk to young people, arouse their interest, awaken their curiosity and their passions. He believes in the potential of his students and wants to dream with them of a better, more open and more just future. But his unorthodox ways do disturb the leadership of the community and will cause tensions and reversals. To the delight of our future viewers! As soon as I read the first version of the script, I saw in this story the potential of a sensitive and touching mainstream film, with touches of humor, moments of suspense and tension, and a fallible human hero, who makes it all the more endearing.

I love that Brother Jean is a man of flesh and bones, sensitive to Marguerite's charm and determination, an endearing widow who lost hope of seeing her son Émile find happiness and the path to academic success. Marguerite's desire to keep her son in school is courageous for the time and Brother Jean is touched by her resoluteness. Despite her precarious situation and while she must work tirelessly to get out of poverty, Marguerite refuses to let Émile leave school to take a job.

Brother Jean's passion for Vinland, the Vikings and archaeology, which he managed to communicate to his young students, brings to the film an original color. For the time, it is a reassessment of preconceived ideas about the discovery of America that could seem totally eccentric. This is what Brother Cyprian and Brother Visitor (Roséa) think. Yet, the archaeological discoveries of Anse-aux-Meadows in Newfoundland in the early 1960s, come to give Brother Jean's intuition a certain scientific foundation. For the public today, this film is an opportunity to deal with a mysterious aspect of our history while staging odd, funny, or intriguing moments around this quest for the lost land of the Vikings in America. I wanted to treat the world of brothers and religious communities without complacency, but without drawing a dark and gloomy portrait either. Beings like Brother Jean represent light and movement in a static, rigid, and dark world. I chose to emphasize this positive and luminous aspect, without ignoring the abuses that characterized this environment and that time.

Therefore, I approached the making of the film by focusing on this dichotomy: at the heart of a dark and static world, Brother John is a being of light and movement. This principle, source of contrasts and oppositions, guided the aesthetic approach throughout the shooting and post-production. The aesthetic direction, the camera, the lighting, the sound treatment, all aspects of the film were treated from this approach. Upon contact with Brother Jean, the film lights up and comes to life, contrasting with scenes shot elsewhere in the college. For example, we shot almost all the scenes of Brother Jean with his students in steadicam, offering a fluidity absent from the scenes with the other brothers, in the offices or elsewhere, which are shot mostly in still frames. In terms of light, I asked the director of photography to approach the scenes of Brother Jean's classroom thinking of the painter Vermeer, and those in the office of the Brother Director by instead having in mind Rembrandt or Caravaggio, in more dramatic chiaroscuro.

I enjoyed the challenge of making this film, in the continuity of my work on *Ce qu'il faut pour vivre*, addressing the viewer's intelligence and sensitivity. In the end, *Le Club Vinland* offers a reflection on the importance of engagement with young people, to make them dream of a better world and help them realize their full potential. The importance is also to resist one-track-thinking, and to persevere in adversity. In today's looming world, I believe this is a more important topic than ever.

Benoit Pilon

Co-writer and director

BENOIT PILON

Director

Born in Montreal in 1962, Benoit Pilon studied film at Concordia University, where he distinguished himself by directing **La rivière rit** (1987), which won the award for best fiction film at the Canadian Student Film Festival. First assistant director for Charles Binamé and André Melançon, he directed his first professional medium-length film,

Regards volés (1994), awarded at



Yorkton. However, it was his documentaries that made him known: **Rosaire et la petite nation** (1997) and **Roger Toupin, épicier variété** (2003) were celebrated by the critics, **Roger Toupin...** winning awards in Nyon (Switzerland), Namur (Belgium), Chicago (United States) and Moncton, in addition to winning the Jutra for best documentary and the Gémeaux for best social documentary. The filmmaker is praised for the way he constructs his works with sensitivity, relying on the patient and attentive observation of discreet characters from modest backgrounds.

At the same time, Pilon directed the television series **Réseaux** (1998-1999) and produced **Trois soeurs en deux temps** (2003), a documentary about a daring staging of Anton Chekhov's play. He then returned to his roots of social concern with **Nestor et les oubliés** (2006) and **Des nouvelles du Nord** (2007).

Released in 2008, **Ce qu'il faut pour vivre** (What it takes to live), his first feature film, was a resounding success: the film garnered 20 international awards and was shortlisted for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Pilon followed up with three more feature films - **Décharge** (2011), **Iqaluit** (2016) and **Le club Vinland** (2020) - films that pay particular attention to the social and historical context in which the characters evolve.

Very active in the Quebec film community, Benoit Pilon is a founding member of the production center Les films de l'autre (1988), of which he chaired the board of directors (1993-1998 and 2000-2007), he sat on the board of directors of the Cinémathèque québécoise (2001-2006) and of the Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal (2005-2010), and directed the Documentary Program of the Institut national de l'image et du son (2016-2019). He is also a member of the SACD-Canada's Authors' Committee since 2000.

Brother Jean



A 1998 graduate of the National Theatre School, **SÉBASTIEN RICARD** is both a talented singer (founding member of the group Loco Locass) and actor. Well known to the public for his role in the television series **Tabou**, he has also been seen in **Olivier, 30 Vies, En Thérapie, Fortier, Les Hauts et les bas de Sophie Paquin** and **Nos étés III**. Since 2019, you can see him in the soap opera **Une autre histoire**. In the theater, he has played in several productions directed by Brigitte Haentjens at the Sybillines creation theater; **L'opéra de quat'sous** (Usine C), **La nuit juste avant les forêts** (Ateliers JeanBrillant), **Woyzeck** (Usine C), **Vivre** (Usine C) and **Sang** (Usine C). In addition, he was in the cast of **Poésie, sandwiches et autres soirs qui penchent** (Attitude Locomotive), **La Dame aux Camélias** (TNM), **Big Shoot** (Salle Fred Barry and Usine C), **Kamouraska** (Théâtre Denise Pelletier), **Les manuscrits du déluge** (TNM), **Les oiseaux de proie** (Théâtre Jean Duceppe), **Les Enfants d'Irène** (Théâtre Petit à Petit), and in 2015, **Richard III** (TNM). In 2017 and 2018, he was in the musical **La bibliothèque interdite** presented at the Théâtre de Quat'Sous and on tour. In film, he played Dédé Fortin, the singer of the group Les Colocs in **Dédé, à travers les brumes** (Jean-Philippe Duval) for which he received the Jutra for best actor. He participated, among others, in **Une jeune fille** (Catherine Martin), **Avant que mon cœur bascule** (Sébastien Rose and Stéfane Lasnier), **De ma fenêtre, sans maison** (Maryanne Zehil), **Histoire de famille** (Normand CanacMarquis and Guy Fournier), **Les invasions barbares** (Denys Arcand) and **15 février 1839** (Pierre Falardeau), **Gabrielle** (Louise Archambault), **Antoine et Marie** (Jimmy Larouche), **Chorus** (François Delisle) and **Hochelaga, terre des âmes** (François Girard) and **L'Acrobate** (Rodrigue Jean). This year, we will see him in **Le club Vinland**, Benoit Pilon's latest feature film.

RÉMY GIRARD

Brother Léon



With an impressive track record, **RÉMY GIRARD** has a rich and varied career. In the theater, he has delivered outstanding performances of many great characters. He has been seen, among others, in **La leçon**, **Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait au bon dieu**, **Marius et Fanny**, **Le Murmure du Coquelicot**, **Le dindon**, **Ubu roi**, **L'ouvre-boîte**, **Les joyeuses commères de Windsor**, **Don Quichotte**, **Le malade imaginaire** and **En attendant Godot**. On television, he was in the cast of **L'échappée**, **Les Mutants**, **30 vies**, **Ti-Mé Show**, **DéTECT.INC.**, **Emma**, **Bunker le cirque**, **La petite vie**, **Cher Olivier** and **Scoop**.

He also played the inimitable Papa Bougon in the cult series **Les Bougon, c'est aussi ça la vie**, and on screen in **Votez Bougon**, and Stan, the coach and spiritual father in **Les Boys I, II, III** and **VI**.

In addition, **RÉMY GIRARD** has proven that he has also mastered English comedy, in the Canadian series **InSecurity I** and **II** broadcast on CBC. In addition to the films **Incendie** (D. Villeneuve), **Cabotins** (A. Desrochers), **De père en flic** (É. Gaudreault), **Les sept jours du Talion** (Podz), **Le grand départ** (C. Meunier), **Le piège américain** (C. Binamé), **Bluff** (Marc-André Lavoie and Simon-Olivier Fecteau), **Maurice Richard** (C. Binamé), **Les invasions barbares** (D. Arcand) and **Un homme et son péché** (C. Binamé), he played in the films **Les Boys I, II, III** (L. Saia) and **IV** (G. Mihalka), **La Florida** (G. Mihalka), **Dans le ventre du dragon** (Y. Simoneau), **Votez Bougon** (J-F Pouliot), **Le déclin de l'empire américain** (D. Arcand), **la chute de l'empire américain** (D. Arcand) and **Il pleuvait des oiseaux** (Louise Archambault). This year, we will see him in **Le Club Vinland** (Benoit Pilon) and in **Tu te souviendras de moi** (Éric Tessier).

FRANÇOIS PAPINEAU

Brother Cyprien



A prolific actor, **FRANÇOIS PAPINEAU** has distinguished himself both on the screen and on the stage, and his talent has earned him several awards and nominations. On television, he has been part of the cast on several series, such as, **En thérapie**, **Les Boys**, **États humains**, **Le négociateur III**, **Vice caché**, **Les Poupées russes**, **Fortier** et **Catherine**. From 2012 to 2019, he played Norman Despins in the series **Unité 9** and is currently starring in the soap opera **5e rang**. On the big screen, he has appeared in nearly twenty films, including **Le génie du crime** (L. Bélanger), **Le Collectionneur** (J. Beaudin), **La Bouteille** (A. Desrochers), **Post Mortem** (L. Bélanger), **Hasards et coïncidences** (C. Lelouch), **Clandestins** (D. Chouinard) and **Le Confessionnal** (R. Lepage). More recently, he acted in **La contemplation du mystère** (A. Aurtenèche), **14 jours, 12 nuits** (J-P. Duval), **Ca\$h Nexu\$** (F. Delisle), **La disparition des lucioles** (S. Pilote), **9**, **Le film-Hystérie** (J-P. Duval), **Les mauvaises herbes** (L. Bélanger), **Iqaluit** (B. Pilon), **Chasse-galerie**, **la légende** (J-P. Duval), **Papa à la chasse aux lagopèdes** (R. Morin), **Trois temps après la mort d'Anna** (C. Martin), **André Mathieu** (L. Dionne),

Route 132 (L. Bélanger), **Une vie qui commence** (M. Monty), **Memories Corner** (A. Fouché) and **Marécages**, the first film of director Guy Édoin. In 2020, we will see him in **Le Club Vinland**, Benoit Pilon's latest feature film. In the theater, some of the plays he has acted in are **La Grande Trilogie** (NTE), **Les chemins qui marchent** (NTE), **Les Dishwasheurs** (NTE), **Ha ha!**, (TNM), **Là** (Compagnie Jean Duceppe), **Bureaux** (NTE), **Cabaret** (Théâtre du Rideau Vert and Quebec tour), **Le Chant du dire-dire** (Espace GO), **Motel Hélène** (Espace GO and France tour) and several Momentum productions. At the TNM, he has left his mark by playing legendary characters such as Ulysses in **L'Odysée**, and Mycroft Mixeudeim in **La Charge de l'original épormyable**, for which he won the Gascon Roux award for best performance in 2009. In 2011, he played the Beast in **la Belle et la Bête**, which was made and directed by Lemieux. Pilon 4d art, co-produced with the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde. In 2015, he triumphed in the play **Le Misanthrope**, directed by Michel Monty, which presented at Théâtre du Rideau Vert. In 2017, he was in the cast of the plays **Ne m'oublie pas** at the Compagnie Jean-Duceppe and **Vu du pont** at the TNM.

FABIEN CLOUTIER

Brother Lucien

Actor, author, storyteller and director, Fabien Cloutier graduated in 2001 from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec. Since then, he has performed in more than twenty theatrical productions in Quebec City and Montreal, notably under the direction of Marie-Josée Bastien, Olivier Choinière, Lorraine Côté and Frédéric Blanchette. On the small and big screen, he has been seen in **Karl / Max**, **La Maison du pêcheur**, **Blue Moon**, **Les pays d'en haut**, **Plan B** and **Boomerang**. With his performance in **Les Beaux Malaises**, he won the Gémeaux Award for best supporting role in 2015. As a columnist, he spiced up the shows **Paparagilles** and **Esprit critique**. In 2017, he played the one and only Mike Pratt, in **Faits Divers**, a series directed by Stéphane Lapointe, for which he won the Prix Gémeaux for Best Leading Role in a Dramatic Series in 2018.

Fabien Cloutier is also the author and performer of the plays **Scotstown** and **Cranbourne**, which have been presented on several stages across Quebec, as well as his comedy show, **Assume**. His play **Billy (Les jours de hurlement)** won the Gratien-Gélinas Award in 2011 while **Pour réussir un poulet** won the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award in the fall of 2015. His play **Bonne retraite, Jocelyne**, which he also directed, was presented at the Théâtre La Licorne and the Trident. He is also the creator, author and lead actor of the television series **Léo**, presented on Club illico.

XAVIER HUARD

Brother Mathieu

After graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada, Xavier Huard participated in numerous theater and television productions. Upon graduation in 2013, he directed theatrical projects in remote Aboriginal communities and in Haiti. In February 2015, he co-founded, with Marco Collin and Charles Bender, the theater company Productions Menuentakuan, an organization he still co-directs today.

He directed the projects **Puamun** (2013), **Muliats** (2015), **Je suis un arbre sans feuille** (2016), **Mushum** (2017), **Nikomotan MTL** (2017-18-19), **Bleuets et Abricots** (2017), **Umanishish** (2018-19), **Utei** (2019) and **AlterIndiens** (2020).

Also very active as a performer, in 2015 he won the Best Lead Actor award at the Austin Festival in Texas. On the small screen, he interprets the roles of Kevin in **Nouvelle Adresse 1** and **2**, Manuel in **Au secours de Béatrice** and more recently (2019) the role of Alain in **La Faille**. On the big screen, he plays the brother Mathieu in **Le Club Vinland** by Benoit Pilon. In theater, he stepped onto the stage of the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in 2014 and 2015 with the productions of **Cyrano de Bergerac** and **Les Trois Mousquetaires**, In 2017 and 2018, he was in **Antigone au Printemps** and **Là où le sang se mêle** at the Fred-Barry Hall.

ARNAUD VACHON

Émile

Arnaud Vachon has always dreamed of being in movies. At a very young age, he would delight those around him with his cheerful smile, his artistic talents and his acrobatics. The 7th art fascinated him, he was intrigued by the acting and directing. He wanted to see the backstage. Not knowing how to approach all this, life decided to offer him a golden opportunity. It was during a casting session organized for the general public, for the film **Le Club Vinland** by director Benoit Pion that Arnaud was able to show what he was capable of. An opportunity he couldn't pass up! He prepared himself the best he could, even though he had never auditioned before. Then, thanks to his naturalness and his great social awareness, he got the role of Émile. It was the first important role for which he would learn the ropes during the 25 days of shooting. This young beauceron, laughing and endearing, knows instinctively how to approach the most complex characters. We have every reason to believe that a great career is ahead of him.

ÉMILIE BIBEAU

Marguerite

A graduate of the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal in 2002, Émilie Bibeau was quickly given several roles in theater. She has played in **Aphrodite, Gertrude, le cri, Coin St-Laurent, Scaramouche, Du vent entre les dents** and **Là**. She also had great success in **Toc Toc** and **Le Vrai Monde?** Afterwards, she was in **L'effet des rayons Gamma sur les vieux garçons**, the revival of the play **Matroni et moi, Une maison propre, L'Opéra de Quat'Sous, Hamlet, L'Invention du chauffage central en Nouvelle-France, Ce moment -là, Un village de fou, Furieux et désespérés, Albertine en 5 temps**, Terry in **Les Chroniques de Saint Léonard** (Steve Galluccio), and Honey Bubbalowe in the summer play, **Le combat des chefs**, at the Vieux-Terrebonne Theater. She was in the cast of **Variations sur un temps**, which was a big hit at Théâtre de Quat'Sous, as well as in **Peer Gynt**. In 2018, she acted in the play **Impromptu** presented at the Rideau Vert, in **Edmond**, presented at the TNM as part of the Just for Laughs Festival, and in **Chroniques d'un cœur vintage**, a play she wrote and which was presented at the Licorne. In 2019, Émilie played in **L'éducation de Rita**, presented at the Rideau Vert. She is also part of the cast of the tribute show to Pauline Julien: **La Renarde, sur les traces de Pauline Julien**.

On television, Émilie has played in **Nos étés II, Les invincibles II, Tout sur moi I-II-III- IV Annie et ses hommes, Les Boys TV III, Toute la vérité, Tranches de Vies, Unité 9, Ces gars-là, L'imposteur** and **Olivier**.

In film, Émilie was in **Monica la mitraille, Émilie** and the short film **Quelqu'un d'Extraordinaire** by Monia Chokri. In 2016, she was in the feature film **Ça sent la coupe**, directed by Patrick Sauvé. This year, she will be seen in Benoit Pilon's feature film, **Le Club Vinland**.

A TRIBUTE TO ALL OF THE TEACHERS WHO HAVE CHANGED LIVES

BENOIT PILON salutes **Pierre Ménard** - Collège St-Paul de Varennes (1978-1979)

CHANTAL LAFLEUR salutes **Françoise Marceau** - Cégep du Vieux-Montréal (1980-1981)

NORMAND BERGERON salutes **André G. Roy** - Université de Montréal (1982-1987)

MARC ROBITAILLE salutes **Marc Audet** - École Sainte-Isabelle (1968-1969)

SÉBASTIEN RICARD salutes **Sylvie De Braekeleer** - Institut des arts de diffusion,
Louvainla-Neuve (1997-1998)

RÉMY GIRARD salutes **Gabriel Riverin** - École Secondaire de Ste-Foy (1962-1963)

FRANÇOIS PAPINEAU salutes **Hubert St-Germain** - École Mont-De-La-Salle (1983-1984)

XAVIER HUARD salutes **Martin Malenfant** - Académie les Estacades (2006-2007)

FABIEN CLOUTIER salutes **Marlene Demers** - Polyvalente Benoit-Vachon (1990-1991)

ÉMILIE BIBEAU salutes **Hélène Lachance** - École Secondaire de Rochebelle (1994-1995)

GUY THAUVETTE salutes **Louis Genest** - Collège Bourget de Rigaud (1956-1961)