



## SYNOPSIS

*Les Signes Vitaux* (*Vital Signs*) follows Simone who suddenly finds herself back in Quebec City following her Grand-mother's death. She has no idea her student existence is about to be scuttled... by the discovery of life itself. A switch is mysteriously flicked, and she decides to embark on a journey to help those about to die. Perhaps to fill the emptiness that follows her wherever she goes, from her apartment to the old snowy streets and even with her lover.

Sophie Deraspe walks away from the temptation to fill the awkward moment, while slipping radiantly sly humour into the plot. The director of Recherche Victor Pellerin transforms this silent quest into a superb wintry poem about life and death and why we reach out to strangers.

Sophie Deraspe wrote, directed and photographed her narrative debut. *Les Signes Vitaux* was produced by Nicolas Fonseca and stars Marie-Hélène Bellavance and Francis Ducharme. It will receive its international premiere in competition at the Rotterdam International Film Festival.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

by **Sophie Deraspe**

Real people and real stories have always fascinated me and are still my primary source of inspiration. My fiction work always starts with a deep research and draws heavily in the world of documentary both in content and style. Mixing experienced actors with new comers and drawing from their past and singularities allows them to invest their characters personally. The camera can then capture the effect of time, the marks of accidents and the moments of delights that are left on their bodies and faces. A kind of transformative beauty becomes apparent, showing strength and fragility at once.

## BIO SOPHIE DERASPE

Sophie Deraspe fell into cinema through visual arts and literature. As both a director and a cinematographer, she has worked mostly in documentary before directing her realism-bending first feature length film *Missing Victor Pellerin* (2006). Followed by critical acclaim and projections throughout the world, Sophie's realistic work has continued with her second feature film *Vital Signs* in 2009.

**Filmography :** *Missing Victor Pellerin*, 35mm, Les Films Siamois, 102 min. (2006) *Vital Signs*, 35mm, Les Films Siamois, 87 min. (2009)



## VITAL SIGNS

### Crew

Writer Director :	Sophie Deraspe
Producer :	Nicolas Fonseca
Photography :	Sophie Deraspe
Editor :	S.Madeleine Leblanc
Music :	Jean-François Laporte Krista Muir
Sound :	Frédéric Cloutier
Set designer :	Antonin Sorel
Costumes :	Patricia Mc Neil

### Cast

Simone	Marie-Hélène Bellavance
Boris	Francis Ducharme
Céline	Marie Brassard
Ms Perrin	Danielle Ouimet
Ms Mireault	Suzanne St-Michel
McNeil	Alan Fawcett
Cudici	Dominico Caputo
Dr Luc Richard	Marc Marans
Singing attendant	Bernard Arène
Guest Musicians	Arthur Cossette American Devices

## SIAMESE FILMS

Siamese Films is an independent film production company based in Montreal. Founded in 2005 for the creation of Missing Victor Pellerin by Sophie Deraspe, the company went along with a second feature length film Vital Signs, finished in October 2009. Dedicated to a contemporary, genuine and rigorous craft of filmmaking, Siamese Films is now developing different types of projects for the big screen and other platforms.

## IN THE PRESS

Maclean's

<http://www2.macleans.ca/tag/signes-vitaux/>

Montreal Gazette

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/Some+films+that+aren+missed/2062053/story.html>

Panorama

<http://www.panorama-cinema.com/html/critiques/signesvitaux.htm>

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Marie-Hélène Bellavance



Marie-Hélène Bellavance & Francis Ducharme



The American Devices



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Danielle Ouimet & Paul deStrooper





Marie-Hélène Bellavance & Francis Ducharme



Francis Ducharme



Arthur Cossette

