

28 TFF

TORINO FILM FESTIVAL

Monday November the 29th, 5:45 pm, Ambrosio 1

Torino 28

Sophie Deraspe (director) e Nicolas Fonseca (producer) present *Les signes vitaux*

Sophie Deraspe: The idea was born before I met the protagonist, Marie-Hélène Bellavance, however I must say, that, though I wanted to make a movie on a character like hers, I'd never considered a physically handicapped girl. Marie-Hélène had never been an actress before, she's a visual artist and takes part to contemporary dance performances, however she struck me for her photogenics. She looked perfect for the role, so we worked together on the acting for about a year. I think she's really good because she conveys a lot without talking much; her physical handicap, although it wasn't essential to the story, adds on the visual plane describing all the vulnerability of a strong and independent character. Her being unable to anchor to the ground is symbol of her ability to express what words can't say. The explicit documentary approach was already part of the script. I wanted to show the reality of a palliative treatment center in a very honest way, not insisting on the romanticism of death, but outcropping the nature of such place, an unimaginatively real microcosm despite the extreme situations faced. I wished to have a human and not only artistic experience approaching this theme. It was important that the actress and the troupe were humanly involved too, and so it was: We went to the treatment center before shooting in order to plunge that reality.

Nicolas Fonseca: Also in production, creating a sensible environment was fundamental. None of the actors was ill, but I must say all of them managed to respond in a sensible manner to such a difficult topic.

Sophie Deraspe: The music, rather noticeable in the movie, was to me a moment of internal withdrawal or deep joy. Otherwise they express aggressiveness or the need to let go, which is a necessity within the movie. The track the movie opens on, was chosen spontaneously: Its about an old man in love with music who plays the guitar, Therefore opening the movie with his show was perfect.