

LA VIE NOUS APPARTIENT (INTRODUCTION)

“La Vie Nous Appartient” is a psychological drama about two students, Sarah and Philip, who after meeting online develop a tragic plan to end their lives. The two decide to meet in person and hike into the mountains in the heart of Austria where Sarah used to go with her father as a child. During this journey, as they share stories, thoughts and struggles, they find that perhaps neither of them is quite as alone as they had thought.

Filmed among the rocky hills and forests of Lower Austria, "La Vie Nous Appartient" is a probing, but also lighthearted film. Through an up-close view of two individuals, it looks into enduring issues about family, depression and fulfillment while also touching upon the unique issues of growing up in the modern world.

Suicide is a significant issue among adolescents. It is the second highest cause of deaths among Austrian teenagers - only traffic accidents causes more deaths. According to the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development), Austria has the 6th highest suicide rate among 15-19 year olds, after New Zealand, Finland, Norway, Canada and Ireland. A large audience worldwide can identify well with this issue, and an empathetic story such as La Vie Nous Appartient may allow affected people (vulnerable teens, survivors, parents and friends) to find hope and some answers to their struggles.

The film was made with the support of Kultur Niederosterreich (Lower Austria Cultural Fund) and starting private investment which allowed production to begin. The cast shines with two upcoming French actors, Alix Bénézech (her latest short movie, *Le Quepa sur la vilni!* de Yann Le Quellec, world premiered at *La Quinzaine des Realisateurs* in Cannes this year) and Florent Arnoult, and reunited film professionals from 10 different nationalities (Austria, Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Romania, Brazil, South Korea, US and Argentina). The original soundtrack has been written and performed by Austrian-Argentine composer, Tomás Leonhardt, while the ending titles song, *Voices in My Head* has been composed for the occasion by Dutch-Italian Rock Band *theFilmakers*.

To view a short teaser and learn more about the project please visit our website.

www.LAVIENOUSAPPARTIENT.com

Short Synopsis:

After meeting online, Sarah and Philip plan a trip to the mountains where Sarah used to hike with her father as a child. On their journey to the top, they will face the ghosts that have haunted them for years...

Long Synopsis:

Two teenagers, Philip and Sarah, meet online and develop a tragic plan to end their lives. They meet in person and hike into the mountains where Sarah used to go with her father as a child. On their journey to the top, their newborn friendship may not be enough to avoid taking the last fatal step...

LA VIE NOUS APPARTIENT (DIRECTOR)



ALEX K. LEE (www.alex-lee.com)

Alex is of Korean descent, but was born in Austria and educated in the UK, France, Switzerland and the US, where he graduated from Oberlin College with a B.A. in Political Science and Economics, before obtaining a M.A. in International Business. Alex's path to directing came over script writing, soon fascinated by the art of telling compelling stories from paper to screen. After working on a number of short films and related projects in different roles, Alex made his directing feature film debut with "La Vie Nous Appartient".

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"A movie about suicide can't be life-affirming and positive!" This was the common reaction when I first presented the idea of "Maybe Tomorrow". Yet, the movie is exactly that, and especially considering that not all too long ago I myself was wandering through life as a troubled teenager, I would never want to glorify or romanticize suicide.

The story is only partly based on real people: the two characters should rather be seen as symbolizing teenagers in general. Philip and Sarah have the typical problems, worries and fears. What they are lacking is the parental and social net that can catch them and convince them that there are solutions other than killing themselves. Instead, they fall into an emotional pit that they can no longer see a way out of. They fail to recognize that their problems, while potentially serious, are not earth-shattering. They couldn't care less that far away people are starving, because their life is happening NOW, and their worries are burdening them considerably more in this here and now. While in the beginning the two teenagers are acting up and pretending that "it's not all that bad anyway", their true feelings quickly emerge. Eventually, they are faced with the decision of whether to really jump or not. The viewer sees every minute, follows their conversation and experiences their transition.

The second question that I am asked inevitably is why I didn't choose a "conventional" narrative method, in other words showing how Philip and Sarah are airing in chats, with schoolmates, and with their family, before they meet as planned. It's not about what is truly happening in their lives. Are they exaggerating? Maybe. Have they gotten too worked up about something? Probably. But all that is irrelevant because it's about how they fell NOW, with all their emotions, their powerlessness and their desire to escape it all. This is their reality at that moment, regardless of the truth of their perception. The viewer should witness the world they exist in, empathize with them and learn to understand them.

It is clear to me that this narrative method is most demanding of the actors, which is why I chose to write the script in English at first, not only to appeal to a larger international market, but also to be able to choose among the best young actors from all over Europe. The very same choice brought us to the attention of Alix Bénézech and Florent Arnoult, two young talented actors from Paris who were perfect in their interaction, even outside the casting room. After seeing them on and off screen, it became a natural choice to adapt the script in French and have them perform in their original language. This is how "Maybe Tomorrow" became "La Vie Nous Appartient" and how a small independent Austrian movie brought two young French actors on the hills surrounding Vienna.

As for most events in our life, sometimes a simple pause is needed for thought to recognize some light and hope and this is the spirit with which I hope audiences and film festival juries will perceive this film.

Alex K. Lee, June 2013

LA VIE NOUS APPARTIENT (PRODUCERS)



ANGELO D'AGOSTINO

As a former Engineer and Business Consultant, Angelo started off a new career by promoting the work of film-makers and music professionals internationally. After working on a number of award winning short movies, in 2009 he moved to Vienna where he joined forces with Penny Lane Film to develop projects for international co-production. In 2011, Angelo started collaborating with WorksFilmStudio, an American based high-end VFX company with office in Europe. Angelo worked on "True Love", produced in 2012 by Mario Gianani & Wildside ("*Io & Te*", "*Vincerò*"), and then "*La Vie Nous Appartient*", first feature film as producer. In 2013 Angelo worked as Associate Producer on "*Swelter*" (with Alfred Molina, Josh Henderson, Vinnie James and JCVD). Angelo is now preparing "*Coke. Champagne. & Cigarettes.*" (by Croatian director Mariana Jukica) and "*Sirena - Hear the Whisper*", with Italian indie veteran Giorgio Borgazzi, as well as collaborating with senior producers on a number of projects between Europe and abroad.

Feature Films

(2015) *Sirena - Hear the Whisper* (Italy, co-producer)
(2015) *Coke. Champagne. & Cigarettes.* (Germany, producer)
(2014) *Swelter* (USA, associate producer)
(2014) *The Nightless City* (Italy / UK, associate producer)
(2013) *La Vie Nous Appartient* (AUSTRIA, producer)
(2012) *True Love* (ITALY/USA, associate producer)



TERESA HELLER

Teresa Heller graduated from Oberlin College and Webster University with a Masters in International Relations only to later find her passion in film. After co-founding Penny Lane Film alongside Alex K. Lee in 2005, she worked as Production Manager and Assistant Director on numerous projects and commercials.

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Penny Lane Film

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Feature Films

(2013) *La Vie Nous Appartient* (drama, producer)

Short Films

(2010) *Little World* (18 min, romantic-drama)

(2008) *Muriendo* (25 min, thriller-drama)

LA VIE NOUS APPARTIENT (CAST)



ALIX BÉNÉZECH (www.alixbenezech.fr)

Film

2014 Des Lendemain qui chantent TURLU

2014 Trucs de Gosse

Prix Canal+ au Festival de Clermont Ferrand 2014

2013 La Vie Nous Appartient SARAH

2013 Une Lettre ne s'écrit pas LA LECTRICE

Honorable Mention at Santa Monica Independent Film Festival 2014

2013 Le Quepa sur la Vilni! JEANNE

Prize Jean Vigo 2013

Sélectionné à la Quinzaine des Réalistes au Festival de Cannes 2013

2013 De l'Autre Côté du Périph LA FILLE

2012 Article 23 ALICE MONFORT

2011 La Vie Rêvée de David L. SARAH

2010 Vénus Noire LA MARQUISE

2009 Ouvert 24/7 THELMA

Television

2014 Nina (8 episodes, France 2) NINA

2013 Nos Chers Voisins MILE LANGLOIS

2013 En Dernier Recours AURÉLIA

2013 Plan B (pilote) CLÉMENCE

2013 Le 65 LAUREN BACALL

Prix du Jury au Festival de la Rochelle 2013

FLORENT ARNOULT (florentarnoult.wix.com/comedien)

Film

2013 Le Palier

2013 La Vie Nous Appartient PHILIP

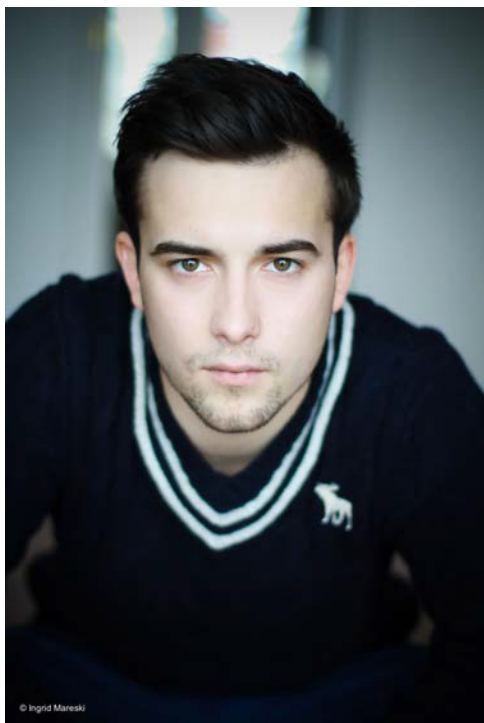
2012 Les garçons et Guillaume, à table PARIS

2009 Villa Belle France FRANCK

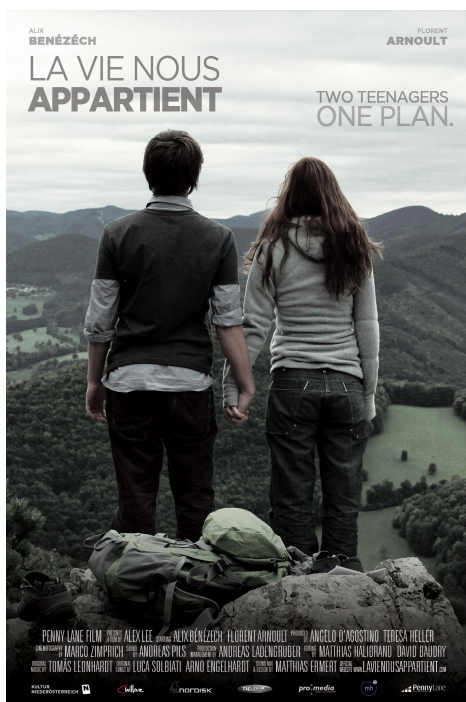
Television

2012 Plue Belle La Vie ANTONIN

2009 Second Chance YOANN



LA VIE NOUS APPARTIENT (CREDITS)



Genre:	Coming of age / Drama
Nationality:	AUSTRIA
Year:	2014
Running Time:	88 min (approx.)
Language:	French (English Subtitles)
Writer / Director:	Alex K. Lee
Cast:	Alix Bénézech, Florent Arnoult
Producers:	Angelo D'Agostino, Teresa Heller
Cinematographer:	Marco Zimprich
Assistant Director:	Erwan Geri
Editors:	Matthias Halibrand, David Baudry
Production Design:	Laura Tille, Christoph Fischer
Sound Mix & Design:	Matthias Ermert, Arno Engelhardt
Color Grading:	David Baudry, Matt Willis-Jones
Music (Score):	Tomás Leonhardt, Luca Solbiati

FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

2015 Social Film Festival (ITA)

Special Mention of the International Jury

2015 CineJeune Film Festival (FRA)

2015 Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis (GER), *Spektrum Section*

2014 Valley Film Fest Los Angeles (USA), *International Competition*

2014 Olympia Film Festival of Children & Youth (GRE),

Winner of Young Audience Award for Best Feature Film

Winner of Special Prize in Feature Film of International Jury

2014 Oulu International Children & Youth Film Festival (FIN), *Youth Competition*

2014 JuniorFest Dobřany (CZ), *Festival Nights Programme*

2014 Rolan Festival of Kids & Youth (ARM), *International Competition*

2014 Avventura Film Festival Zadar (CRO), *1st & 2nd time Director's Competition*

2014 New Filmmakers New York (USA), *Summer Screenings*

2014 Zlín Film Festival (CZ), *Official Competition*

2014 VVFilmf Kids & Teens International Festival (ITA)

Winner of 25+ Alti Jury Award

2014 Buff Film Festival Malmö (SVE), *Nordic Premiere*

2013 Gijón Film Festival (ESP), *Enfant Terribles Section, World Premiere*

LA VIE NOUS APPARTIENT (REVIEWS)

Special Jury Mention - *"Special Mention goes to La Vie Nous Appartient by Alex K. Lee: thanks to young and very effective actors, with a script devoid of any rhetoric, in a simple and measured language, the film reaches the heart of the viewer, representing strongly the discomforts of today's young generation."*

Social World Film Festival

www.cinejeune02.wordpress.com/competition-longs-metrages/

"Une écriture brillante et une sensibilité raffinée se mettent au service des véritables sentiments et expériences des adolescents."

Cine Jeune Film Festival

www.olympiafestival.gr/2014/12/08/awards-2014/

Special Prize in Feature Film - *For realistically and essentially capturing the mentality of young people who face serious problems of rejection, contributing in their self awareness.*

Olympia Film Festival of Children & Youth

www.gijonfilmfestival.com/noticias/show/21729-la-vie-nous-appartient-el-joven-werther-desencadenado

"Beautiful, simple and necessary... an intelligent, funny and sensitive review of a romantic myth."

Jesús Palacios, Gijon Film Festival

www.cineuropa.org/nw.aspx?t=newsdetail&l=en&did=248330

"Shedding light on an obscure and taboo slice of today's society... with caution and humility."

Cineuropa Magazine

www.redsharknews.com/production/item/1348-what-s-it-like-using-a-top-end-camera-the-sony-f65-on-a-low-budget-indie-film

"Challenging, funny and poignant."

Red Shark News

www.afc.at/lavienousappartient

Austrian Film Commission

for additional information please write to:

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