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 **Film Description**

FILM TITLE:
 Automne
 (Autumn)

Programme: Discovery
 Director: Ra'up McGee
 Country: France/USA
 Year: 2004
 Language: French
 Time: 110 minutes
 Film Types: Colour/35mm



SCREENING TIMES:
Friday, September 10 02:30 PM PARAMOUNT 2
Thursday, September 16 07:00 PM PARAMOUNT 4

Production Company: Next Week Filmworks
 Producer: Ra'up McGee
 Screenplay: Ra'up McGee
 Cinematography: Erin Harvey
 Editor: Ra'up McGee
 Production Designer: Rashad Carre
 Sound: Xavier Griette
 Music: Cyril Morin
 Principal Cast: Laurent Lucas, Irène Jacob, Dinara Drukarova, Michel Aumont, Jean-Claude Dreyfus

"There weren't many baseball games in my childhood. My father's love of French films, and his desire to share that passion, had us frequently exploring the diverse world of European cinema. While attending film school years later, two professors from France opened my eyes to new ways of thinking about and making films."

— Ra'up McGee

While working on a documentary in the heat of Indonesia, Ra'up McGee began to dream of a fiction shot in Paris that would be "blue and cold." Unable to speak a word of French, the young director wrote his first feature as an homage to sixties film noir, with French actors speaking French.

It is almost impossible to summarize the plot of *Automne*, as every incident in the complex scenario hinges on something from the past or relates to a twist yet to come. Three childhood friends, two boys and a girl, find themselves reunited in adulthood, all of them pursuing criminal careers. In fact, everyone in the film is a felon of some sort — hired killers mostly, with the occasional explosives purveyor, rapist or mob boss turning up. Love and death inextricably intertwine in this blacker-than-noir thriller, in which every perfectly-timed cut leads to another unexpected turn or moment of deeper deception.

The distinguished cast is headed by Irène Jacob (*La Double Vie de Véronique*), Laurent Lucas (*Le Pornographe*) and Dinara Drukarova (*Depuis qu'Otar est parti*) with terrific back-up from veterans Michel Aumont and Jean-Claude Dreyfus (who boast more than two hundred movies between them since 1972). The performances crackle; a mood can shift from menacing to seductive and back again in the averting of an eye.

McGee's direction is equally confident and subtle. He plays with style and atmosphere (the autumn woods, the cavernous subway platform), cinema convention (the perfect final shot formula, the crash editing) or strategic simplicity (the glance at the photo, the lovers in close-up). *Automne* is a nifty little genre movie made for about one million Euros.

- Kay Armatage

Ra'up McGee was born in New York and is currently based in Los Angeles and Paris. A European cinema lover from an early age, he studied film at the University of California, San Diego and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He has written, directed, edited and produced the feature-length documentary *Ramadhan in Indonesia* (97) and the documentary shorts *Project Quest* (98) and *Harold Hitchcock: Life in Light* (01). *Automne*(04) is his first narrative feature.

Associated with *European Film Promotion*, an initiative supported by the European Union's MEDIA Programme.

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