

## Document Citation

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**France**

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## **Le Diable Probablement** **The Devil Probably**

1977. Color. 1.66 format. 99 min.

In French with English subtitles

*Producer* Stephane Tchalgadjieff *Director-Screenwriter:*  
Robert Bresson *Cinematographer:* Pasqualino de Santis  
*Editor:* Germaine Lamy *Music:* Philippe Sarde *Principal Cast:*  
Antoine Monnier, Tina Irissari, Henri de Maublanc, Laetitia  
Carcano, Regis Harrion, Nicolas Deguy, Geoffroy Gaussen  
*Production Companies:* Sunchild Productions, G.M.F. Produc-  
tions, Societe Francaise de Production *Print Source:* French  
Film Office

*Berlin, Locarno, Montreal, New York Film Festivals 1977*

*Probably The Devil* is Robert Bresson's twelfth film and the first from an entirely original script. He claims to have been inspired for this film by overhearing a conversation on a Paris bus where the passengers were blaming various social ills and inequities on "the devil." Bresson posits a brilliant young law student who grows increasingly apathetic over his inability to latch onto meaning and value in the contemporary world. His illness, he says, is "seeing things too clearly." After he misinterprets and is misinterpreted by everyone with whom he comes in touch—from girlfriends to psychiatrists to colleagues to drug addicts—he hits upon a solution: suicide.

Bresson's austere visual style, his use of untrained actors, his infinite care with visual detail, his masterly construction of the sound track are all as evident here as ever. But the subject matter and enactment of the theme are so extreme as to render *Probably The Devil* as Bresson's most controversial film to date. The film even encountered political troubles in France for "inciting the young to suicide."—*Eric Sherman*