

# L'INTÉRÊT D'ADAM

a film by Laura Wandel



Laura Wandel

E-mail: [laura\\_wandel@hotmail.com](mailto:laura_wandel@hotmail.com)  
Tel: +32 479 95 21 76

## Technical Information

**Title:** L'intérêt d'Adam  
**Director:** Laura Wandel  
**Screenplay:** Laura Wandel  
**Nationality:** Belgium  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Format:** 16/9  
**Duration:** 100 min  
**Shooting location:** Belgium  
**Production:** Dragons Films/Les films du fleuve/Lunanime  
**Partner:** Lumière

## Director's Information

After her film studies at the IAD (Belgium), Laura Wandel presented her graduation film, *Murs* (2007), at numerous festivals, including San Sebastian. She has directed two other short films, *O Négatif* (2011) and *Les corps étrangers* (2014), selected in the Official Competition at the Cannes Film Festival.

Her first feature film, *Un Monde*, was presented at the Cannes Festival in 2021 in the *Un Certain Regard* section and won the FIPRESCI prize. With more than 30 awards, including Best First Film at the London Film Festival and Best Director at the *Magritte du cinéma belge*, *Un Monde* was shortlisted for the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Her second feature film, *L'intérêt d'Adam*, is being developed at the Cinéfondation residence.

## Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

5, rue Charlot, F-75003 Paris  
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20  
E-mail: [residence@festival-cannes.fr](mailto:residence@festival-cannes.fr)  
[www.festival-cannes.org](http://www.festival-cannes.org)

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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## SYNOPSIS

Sur le point de finir sa carrière de pédiatre, Naïm, 65 ans, chef de service dans un hôpital, reçoit en urgence Adam, un enfant de quatre ans, nourri exclusivement de graines et de fruits par sa mère. Pour l'intérêt médical de cet enfant, Naïm est amené, en concertation avec la juge, à le séparer de sa mère alors que son seul autre lien familial est un père fuyant ses responsabilités parentales. Envahi par le doute et la culpabilité, Naïm décide, sans s'en référer à la juge, de permettre à la mère d'Adam de rendre visite à son fils. Loin de mesurer que l'objectif de celle-ci était de s'enfuir avec lui, Naïm se retrouve confronté aux conséquences de sa décision. Hanté par la responsabilité de cet enlèvement, Naïm fera tout pour garantir la survie de l'enfant.

## NOTE D'INTENTION

La question de l'aide à l'autre est particulièrement complexe lorsqu'il s'agit d'un médecin pour enfants. Chaque décision médicale passe par la figure parentale des patients à soigner. L'intérêt de l'enfant est le point de départ pour explorer le conflit moral et humain d'un pédiatre confronté à un parent qui refuse de reconnaître que ses propres convictions idéologiques puissent mettre en danger le pronostic vital de son enfant. Avec ce récit, je voudrais raconter les répercussions d'une décision médicale sur la destinée d'un enfant et comment, en se sentant responsable des conséquences de cette décision, la vie de ce pédiatre va être bousculée et remise en question. Je voudrais ancrer ce récit dans une société faisant l'apologie du bien-être et montrer comment un problème médical peut révéler un problème social. La mise en scène plongera le spectateur au sein d'une unité pédiatrique en restant dans le point de vue du médecin, montrant à travers lui l'hôpital public comme un microcosme en écho au reste du monde avec les questions morales et humaines qui y sont liées.

## SYNOPSIS

On the verge of retiring as a paediatrician, and department head in a hospital, 65-year-old Naïm receives an emergency visit from four-year-old Adam, fed exclusively on seeds and fruit by his mother. For the medical interest of this child, Naïm is led, in consultation with the judge, to separate him from his mother whilst his only other family tie is a father fleeing his parental responsibilities. Overcome with doubt and guilt, Naïm decides, without consulting the judge, to allow Adam's mother to visit her son. Far from realizing that her goal was to run away with him, Naïm faces the consequences of his decision. Haunted by the responsibility of this kidnapping, Naïm will do everything to ensure the child's survival.

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

When it comes to a paediatrician, the subject of helping others is particularly complex. Every medical decision involves the parental figure of the patients to be treated. The well-being of the child is the starting point for exploring the moral and human conflict of a paediatrician confronted with a parent who refuses to acknowledge that their ideological convictions could endanger the life of their child. Through this story, I want to relate the repercussions of a medical decision on the destiny of a child. Feeling responsible for the consequences of this decision, the life of this paediatrician will be upturned and called into question. I want to set this story in a society that promotes well-being, and demonstrate how a medical condition can reveal a social problem. The staging will plunge the audience into the heart of a paediatric unit by maintaining the doctor's point of view, showing through him the public hospital as a microcosm echoing the world at large, with the moral and human questions interconnected to it.