

Pascale Bussières

Emmanuel Schwartz

IMPETUS

Force of movement.
Impulse.



a film by Jennifer Alleyn



WATCH TRAILER 

www.impetus-film.com

 [impetus.film](https://www.facebook.com/impetus.film)



While shooting her new film in New York City, a director begins questioning the origin of impulsion. As the shoot begins to fall apart, with her lead actor unable to complete the project, this hybrid film between documentary and fiction takes viewers on an unexpected and compelling journey.

WORLD PREMIERE

21th Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)

Canada Feature Competition

November 9, 2018

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

36th Torino Film Festival

Internazionale Doc

November 29, 2018

US PREMIERE

25th Slamdance Film Festival

Narrative Feature Competition

January, 2019

SYNOPSIS

An engineer (Emmanuel Schwartz) abandoned by his lover, a filmmaker (Jennifer Alleyn) losing her character, an actress friend in self-reflection (Pascale Bussi eres), a musician-philosopher who put away his guitar (J. Reissner), they all hit a wall. *IMPETUS* follows, from Montreal to New York, four individuals colliding, each giving the other a new impulse, a liberating impetus.

In a free form that gives way to the creative process, *IMPETUS* combines documentary and autofiction, in an ode to the possibilities offered by the intervals between real and imaginary.



"Playful like a Godard or a Varda film.
Brilliant and moving"

- DENIS VILLENEUVE



ABOUT THE FILM

Switching freely between fiction and documentary, self-portrait and poetic essay, Montreal and New York, in her latest film Jennifer Alleyn reflects on creativity, everyday poetry, solitude and the beauty of human contact. The film builds itself while we watch, as Alleyn puts herself in the frame, using experimentation to find a liberated cinema, which she achieves with the help of two actors, Emmanuel Schwartz and Pascale Bussières.

A meditation on the actor's role and the realities of fully independent cinema, *IMPETUS* celebrates listening to others, and the possibilities found in the interstices between reality and imagination.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

GENRE: Drama, Hybrid

YEAR: 2018

LENGTH: 94 minutes

FORMAT: digital HD, 1,85:1, color

VERSIONS : original French and English version | with English and French subtitles

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION : Quebec, Canada





CREDITS

© Marilyn Dubeau

Written by JENNIFER ALLEYN

Directed by JENNIFER ALLEYN

Cinematography : JENNIFER ALLEYN, ÉTIENNE BOILARD

Editing : EMMA BERTIN

Sound : MARIE-CLAUDE GAGNÉ, LOUIS GIGNAC, BRUNO PUCELLA,
LAURENT BÉDARD, MARTYNE MORIN

Original Music : ÉDOUARD FERLET

Line Producers : DANIEL PLANTE, DAVID CLERMONT-BÉÏQUE

Production : JENNIFER ALLEYN - LES FILMS DE JENNIE

Distribution : LA DISTRIBUTRICE DE FILMS

With PASCALE BUSSIÈRES (Pascale), EMMANUEL SCHWARTZ (Rudolph),
J. REISSNER (John), ESFIR DYACHKOV (Esfir), JENNIFER ALLEYN
(the filmmaker), BESIK KAZARIAN (the taxi driver) and BÉATRICE
McAVINEY (Carla).

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What spurs us to action? How do we manage to break away from pain, collapse, or even the comfortable little ruts we carve out for ourselves?



© Mathieu Laverdière

IMPETUS is about what happens when a person who feels annihilated undergoes a profound transformation. You suddenly find yourself in a strange new place - a neutral one - and endure a period of immobility. But even as you feel that time has stopped, your next élan is being prepared...

No matter what genre I'm working in, fiction or documentary, I always start out by hunting for images. With *IMPETUS*, I wanted to blur the border between what was staged and what was not. Starting out with a flexible storyline, I put my actors in real situations, asking them to improvise with people in the streets of New York City. As I welcomed cinéma-vérité into fiction, I incorporated images of the film's ongoing scouting, into the film itself. I wanted to show how the very freshness of life can translate the gravity of human existence. The film became magical, showering us with surprises and moments of grace.

IMPETUS turned into a real filmic adventure, moving from male to female, Montreal to New York, pushing the boundaries of freestyle docufiction...

- **Jennifer Alleyn, filmmaker**

JENNIFER ALLEYN'S BIOGRAPHY

Jennifer Alleyn completed her studies in Fine Arts-Film Production and Literature at Concordia University before embarking on her documentary filmmaking career by participating in the cult program *La Course Destination Monde*. Born in Switzerland, based in Montreal, she was a journalist at *Le Devoir* and then on CBC radio. She started out in fiction by directing a segment of the collective film *Cosmos*, produced by Roger Frappier, which won the CICEA Award in Cannes Film Festival as part of the Directors' Fortnight. *Cosmos* was followed up by the documentaries *The Rossys* and *The Imagined Life of Jacques Monory*.

Probing the mysteries of art is what motivates Jennifer's approach. *My Father's Studio* was her first feature documentary as a filmmaker. Winner of the Best Canadian Production Award at the FIFA and of two Gemini Awards, the film has screened in Paris, London and Washington. Since then, she has directed *Ten Times Dix*, a film about German painter Otto Dix - winner of the ARTV Springboard to the world Award at the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA).

Exploring the field of visual arts in parallel of her documentary work, she presented her first installation at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in 2011, as part of the Big Bang exhibition. A collaboration with writer Nancy Huston followed, with the videographic essay *A Few Lost Words*. Her following work have been presented in Switzerland at Galerie C in Neuchâtel.

From 2015 to 2018, she wrote, directed and produced the feature film *IMPETUS*, a hybrid film that offers a cinematic dive between fiction and cinema-vérité where Pascale Bussièrès and Emmanuel Schwartz play interchanging roles. The film had its World premiere in competition at the Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM) in November 2018 and will be released in theaters January 18.

Jennifer is currently working on several feature film projects on a variety of subjects, including *Merveille*, a film on the boundaries between madness and creativity, by portraying an artist (produced by L'Unité Centrale). Also in the works, a film about the Montreal musician-philosopher J. Reissner, a living legend of the blues, long crippled in isolation.

In addition to her strong interest in humans and the relationship to art, her studies in anthropology make her a versatile filmmaker and author interested in issues of beauty and difference.

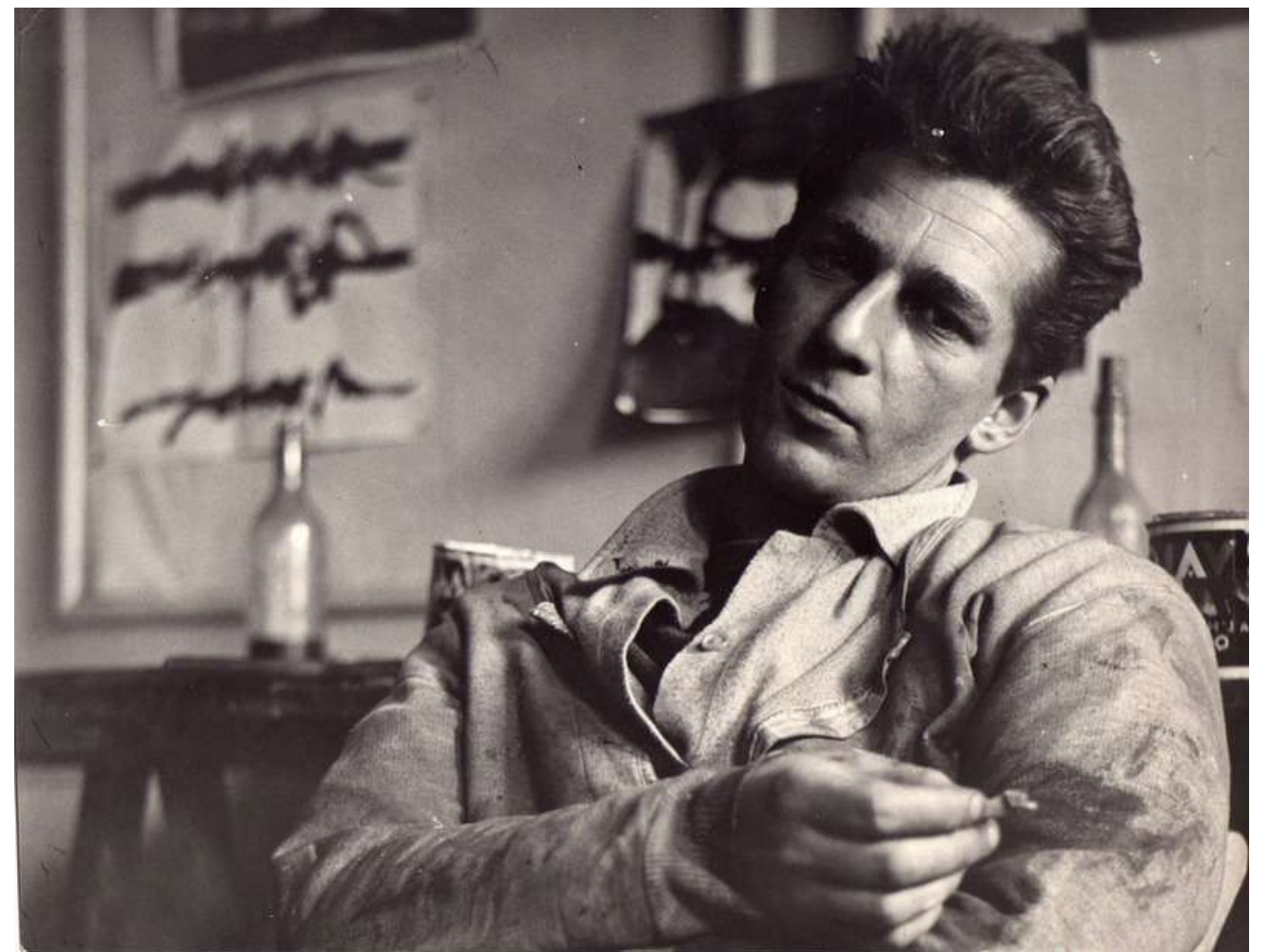
www.jenniferalleyn.com

SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

- 2018 - IMPETUS / hybrid / 94 minutes
2012 - A FEW LOST WORDS / video art / 10 minutes
2011 - TEN TIMES DIX / documentary / 58 minutes
ARTV Springboard to the World Award at the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA)
2008 - MY FATHER'S STUDIO / documentary / 72 minutes
Best Canadian Production Award at the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA)
Gemini Awards - Best Portrait, 2009
2005 - THE IMAGINED LIFE OF JACK MONORY / documentary / 75 minutes
2005 - SVANOK (THE CALL) / short fiction / 17 minutes
Best Short fiction, Quebec Association of Film Critics
Best Short film genre Award, New York Intl Independent Film & Video Festival 2006
2002 - THE ROSSYS / short documentary / 15 minutes
1996 - COSMOS / collective feature film / 99 minutes
Art and Experimental Cinema Award, Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival
Canada's Selection for the Oscars



Ten Times Dix
(Doc, 58 min., 2011)



My Father's Studio
(Doc, 72 min., 2008)

* ARTV Springboard to the World Award at
FIFA

* Award for Best canadian work - 26th
International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA)
* Jutra nomination for Best Documentary

PROTAGONISTS

EMMANUEL SCHWARTZ

Intense and versatile artist, Emmanuel Schwartz goes from the big screen to the stage boards with ease. He played from Tartuffe to Alexandre, to Caligula and even Achille in *l'Illiade*, and collaborated with Wajdi Mouawad and Mani Soleymanlou. Between his creations for the theatre as an author and director (*Chroniques*, *Nathan*, *the Exhibition* and *Alfred* with Alexia Bürger) he is sacred best actor, by the Festiweb from Marseilles in 2015, for his role in web-series *L'Écrivain Public*. In 2016, he is nominated by l'ACAD, for his interpretation of Lucky in *En Attendant Godot*, directed by François Girard. The year after, he wins the same prize as the one he was nominated for, for his interpretation of Tartuffe, played at the TNM. We've also seen Emmanuel Schwartz on the screen in many productions of either Xavier Dolan (*Laurence Anyways*), Denis Villeneuve (*Next Floor*), Simon Lavoie and Mathieu Denis (*Laurentie*). In 2018, he gets to play many characters for seven feature films such as *Hochelaga*, *Land of Souls* by François Girard (for which he won best supporting actor for QC Iris), *Ailleurs* by Samuel Mateau and *Dérive* by David Uloth. He's also been seen in *Nous sommes Gold* by Éric Morin, *IMPETUS* by Jennifer Alleyn, and *The 20th Century* by Matthew Rankin. Two of Emmanuel's plays are being adapted for the cinematographic screen and multiple creations for the theatre and the big screen are on their way.



"A lizard crawling may symbolize a person who is keeping a low profile." That's me!"

PASCALE BUSSIÈRES

Pascale Bussières first attracted attention at the age of 13 in Micheline Lanctôt's *Sonatine*, winner in Venice, a filmmaker she will find in two other films, *Deux actrices* and *Suzie*. In 1993, she held the title role in the mini-series *Blanche*, garnering several awards. This success was followed by leading roles for many renowned directors in Quebec and English Canada such as Charles Binamé (*Eldorado*, *La beauté de Pandore*), Patricia Rozema (*When Night is Falling*), Denis Villeneuve (*Un 32 août sur terre*), Léa Pool (*Emporte-moi*, *Le papillon bleu*), Guy Édoin (*Marécages*, *Ville-Marie*), Manon Briand (*La turbulence des fluides*), Carole Laure (*La capture*, *Love Project*) and Philippe Lesage (*Les démons*). On the International scene, she appeared in Anne-Sophie Birot's *Les jeunes filles ne savent pas nager*, Attila Bertalan's *Between the Moon and Montevideo* and Catherine Corsini's *La Répétition*. In 2005, Pascale was honored with the Prix Jutra (Best Actress) and Genie Award (Best Female Performance) for her leading role in Denise Filiatrault's *Ma vie en cinémascope*. Her most recent films include *Nous sommes les autres* by Jean-François Asselin, *Innocent* by Marc-André Lavoie, *Justice Dot Net* by Pol Cruchten and *IMPETUS* by Jennifer Alleyn. On stage, Pascale played in *Huit Clos* (Jean-Paul Sartre) and *Icare* (Michel Lemieux) presented at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (TNM). This fall, she is back on stage with the play *L'Assemblée* (Alex Ivanovici, Annabel Soutar, Brett Watson) at Espace GO.



"I came here to check...if I could live again"

J. REISSNER

Born in Germany, J. Reissner immigrated to Canada in the early sixties. This chemist let his hair grow long and picked up an electric guitar. Playing with such legends as Big Mama Thornton, Dizzy Gillespie, the McGarrigle sisters and many others, he was the Stephan Barry Band guitar player for more than 20 years. Now retired from the music scene, he lives in isolation and material deprivation, focusing on reading philosophers. This highly charismatic, endearing character offers Rudolph a reflection of his own journey...



“I’ve been waiting for years for the right impetus. The urge. What makes you do things.”

ESFIR DYACHKOV

Born in Yakutsk, Siberia to musician parents, she embodies resiliency and the ability to reinvent oneself. She was the official pianist of the Soviet regime throughout Europe, before leaving the Soviet Union in the midst of political humiliation and going into exile in 1988. Even though she experienced much drama—the loss of her son, being abandoned by her husband—she doesn’t feel sorry for herself. Rudolph discovers her via videotapes where she comes off as strong and inspiring.



“I know I shouldn’t smile, because it’s tragic, but I always smile.”



"A film of pure magic. Where beauty is almost suffocating"

- NANCY HUSTON



IMPETUS is produced with the financial support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Film and Television Tax Credit (Gestion SODEC), and with the collaboration of PRIM - Productions Réalisations Indépendantes de Montréal, MELS Studios and Postproduction, PHI Centre and NFB's ACIC - Independent Filmmaker Assistance Program.

Les Films de Jennie is a Montreal-based production company founded in 2004 by filmmaker Jennifer Alleyn. The company's mission is to produce independent and high-standard cinema. Les Films de Jennie has been producing short films and documentaries that have been selected and awarded at numerous festivals in Europe (France, Belgium, Ireland) and North America (Canada, USA). In addition, the company also produces video art tapes.

La Distributrice de films distributes and represents Canadian short and feature films in close collaboration with filmmakers and producers. It tackles some twenty films a year, including works by Sophie Goyette, Ashley McKenzie, Denis Côté, Olivier Godin, Félix Dufour-Laperrière, Matthew Rankin, Sarianne Cormier, Kazik Radwanski, Jennifer Reeder, Ryan McKenna and Fanie Pelletier.

Information : ladistributrice.ca

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