



# **DHARMA GUNS**

**[la succession starkov]**

A film by F.J. Ossang



# Synopsis

The film opens on a water-skiing accident - a girl (Délie) drives a speedboat and pulls a young man (Stan). They are both challenging their own limits when a crash occurs...

Stan wakes up from a coma after this serious accident, to find out that genealogists are looking for an individual whose identity corresponds to his. Instead of asking himself questions about this testamentary filiation, he subscribes for Professor Starkov's legacy, and embarks for the country of Las Estrellas...

Purging odyssey where intuition and telepathy accelerates the journey in time.

Dharma Guns revisits the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice fighting with the tyranny of Time-God...







# Director's statement

**Dharma guns** is my fourth feature-film. It has come about after several years of silence during which I have travelled, written, published, shown my work in many festivals — and most of all: thought and meditated about film.

I have tried to open up to the reality of the world, without ceasing to watch the evolution of contemporary film — in order to understand my passion for less recent movies, and to confront the latter with my passion for music and poetry.

It is a “primitive” film, divided into three movements, three space-times in which the hero (Stan van der Decken) is subjected to the stripping down of his own life so that he can recover, like Orpheus, his fiancée, Délie, and take her away from hell.





The film starts with a water-skiing scene, in which the speed and challenge involved convey a sort of romantic metaphor — which ends in a fatal accident.

Stan floats around — as if he were dead — and Délie has departed.

Starting with a smooth and modern scene, bring out the mystery “lying beneath”...

After the credits, we find Stan standing outside of the Saint-Elme hospital: using an enquiry made by genealogists as a pretext, he embarks on a “new life”.

The film slowly acquires a fantastical dimension. The main character goes through the stages of a “voyage in the world of the dead”, in which he sees the faces of his loved ones — at least the main characters of his previous life...

Little by little, Stan traces his fiancée, Délie, and, as in a “revelation” in three acts, goes from one time to the next — from the encounter to the learning stage to the escape — understood as a resurrection...

DHARMA GUNS is a trip through time and the primitive quality this authorizes will, ideally, bring together the movies of someone like Jacques Tourneur and the metapsychic speculations of someone like W.S. Burroughs...

I wish to draw from a cinema of revelation — black and white, sun, darkness, mist and electricity being the only elements, so as to enhance our expectations...

Before starting on this project, I shot over one summer a metaphorically titled short film, SILENCIO, in which I only interrogate natural elements, sunlight — and the passage of something feminine...

At a time when the “industrial” death of cinema seems to have been rationally, technically and economically organized, I hope to show that a cinema of poetry and fantastical adventure is possible, better: necessary...

F.J. Ossang







### **Director's filmography :**

**1983** Zona Inquinata (23'), Cannes Film Festival - Perspectives

**1985** L'Affaire des Divisions Morituri (81'), Cannes Film Festival - Perspectives

**1990** Le Trésor des Iles Chiennes (109'), Belfort Film Festival - Grand Jury Prize

**1998** Docteur Chance (96'), Locarno Film Festival - Official Competition

**2007** Silencio (20') – Cannes Film Festival - Director's Fortnight- Prix Jean Vigo

**2008** Ciel Eteint ! (23') – Cannes Film Festival – Director's Fortnight

**2009** Vladivostok (5') – Vila Do Conde, Portugal – Best Experimental Film

**2010** Dharma Guns (93') - Venice Official Selection - Orizzonti

### **Biography :**

Filmmaker, writer and musician (MKB Fraction provisoire), F.J. Ossang made 4 feature length films (among them Docteur Chance with Joe Strummer from The Clash). He has published a dozen books and 9 records with his band (MKB Fraction Provisoire).

Several F.J. Ossang retrospectives were organized in different places :

La Rochelle (1998), Bruxelles (1998), Molodist, Kiev in Ukraine (1998), Puchon, Korea (1998), Budapest, Hungary (1999), Fukuoka, Japan (1999), La Cinémathèque Française, BAFICI (Buenos-Aires Film Festival 2003), Montevideo, Uruguay (2004), Lisbon, Portugal (2004), Musée du Jeu de Paume (2006), Filmoteca de Madrid (2008), Palic, Serbia (Underground Spirit Award 2008), BAFICI (Buenos-Aires Film Festival 2009).

A DVD-box of his main feature films will be released in January 2011

by Potemkine / Agnès b.

His novel 'Génération Néant' will be translated in Spanish and published in 2011 by Caja Negra Editora, Buenos Aires.





### Cast

Guy McKnight is Stan van der Decken

Elvire is Délie

Lionel Tua is Jon

Diogo Doria is Dr Ewers

### Crew

Director : F.J. Ossang

Screenplay : F.J. Ossang

Director of cinematography : Gleb Teleshov

Scenography / Set designer : Yann Mercier - Séverine Baerel

Editing: F.J. Ossang - JC Sanchez

Sound and mixing: Julien Cloquet

Line producer: Pascal Metge

Costume designer : Pierre-Yves Gayraud - Karine Charpentier

Original music : Jack Belsen - Little Drake - MKB Fraction Provisoire

### Production

OSS/100 Films & Documents / LOVESTREAMS Agnès b productions (Paris, France)  
and Cinemate (Lisbon, Portugal)

## **DHARMA GUNS**

**Directed by F.J. Ossang**

**France | Portugal | 2010 | 93' | 35 mm | B&W | Color | Dolby SR/SRD | 1.85 | 24 i/s**



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