

October 2009 **BENOIT DELHOMME A.F.C.**
Director of Photography

Born in Paris in 1961, Benoit spent most of his childhood in Cherbourg (Normandy), much of it in his home-made dark-room experimenting in black & white stills photography.

Between 1980 and 1982 Benoit studied cinematography at the Louis Lumière school in Paris under the inspirational tutelage of Cesar Chiabaud (Robert Bresson's favourite camera operator).

In 1985, Benoit worked as camera assistant to the legendary French DP Bruno Nuytten on the eight month shoot of JEAN DE FLORETTE and MANON DES SOURCES in Provence. Then for 5 years Benoit shot more than 40 short films, experimenting in all kinds of styles and situations.

In 1992, he shot his first feature film with the Vietnamese first time director Tran Ahn Hung : THE SCENT OF THE GREEN PAPAYA - shot entirely in a sound stage in Paris. The film won the Camera d'Or Award at Cannes and was also nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign language film. In 1994, Benoit re-teamed with Tran Ahn Hung on CYCLO which was shot on location in Saigon. The film won the Golden Lion at Venice. This 'Vietnamese' experience at the beginning of his career was highly influential in the development of Benoit's taste for colours, lights, textures and inspired him to start painting to pursue his desire to create new images in new ways.

In 1995, Benoit lit two films back-to-back with director Cedric Klapisch : WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY and FAMILY RESEMBLANCES. They worked closely together, obsessed by the idea of giving a new look to French comedy. Both films were successful in France and internationally.

In 1996, Benoit received a Cesar nomination for Best Cinematography for his work on Agnes Merlet's ARTEMISIA - the true story of an Italian woman painter of the seventeenth century.

Between 1997 and 1999 Benoit worked outside France, collaborating twice with Mike Figgis on THE LOSS OF SEXUAL INNOCENCE and MISS JULIE. Both of these films enabled him to experiment with his camera work and reflect the incredible freedom of Mike's directing conceptions. In a completely different style, Benoit found inspiration in John Singer Sargent's paintings for David Mamet's adaptation of «The Winslow Boy».

In 1999 and 2002 Benoit worked with Benoit Jacquot, first on SADE starring Daniel Auteuil as the Marquis de Sade and then ADOLPHE, starring Isabelle Adjani, an adaptation of Benjamin Constant 's cult novel.

In 2000, Anthony Minghella asked Benoit to work with him on a short art film PLAY – an adaptation of the Samuel Beckett play and part of a season of Beckett short films for Channel 4.

In 2001, Benoit won the Special Grand Jury Prize for Cinematography at the Chicago Film Festival for his work on the critically acclaimed Taiwanese film WHAT TIME IS IT THERE? directed by Tsai Ming-Liang. The Jury mentioned « The uncanny subtlety in which Benoit Delhomme makes Light into a fully fledged character ».

In 2004, Benoit lit Michael Radford's adaptation of THE MERCHANT OF VENICE starring Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons, affording him another opportunity to pursue his love of Renaissance painting.

In 2005, Benoit won the Best Cinematography award of the Australian film Institute for his work on the acclaimed Australian western « The Proposition » directed by John Hillcoat and written by Nick Cave.

Then Anthony Minghella asked Benoit to find new ways of filming London in his metaphorical « Breaking and Entering », starring Jude Law and Juliette Binoche.

In 2006, Al Pacino invites Benoit to be part of his very personal journey into the adaptation of Oscar Wilde's Salome , « Salomaybe ». The main artistic indication Al gives to Benoit is to look at surrealist collages...

The same year Benoit lights « 1408 », an adaptation of a Stephen King's famous short story for director Mikael Hafström , taking his main inspiration in Stanley Kubrick's « The Shining ». The film starring John Cusack and Samuel L Jackson became a hit during summer 2007 Us Box Office.

In 2007, Benoit shoots an adaptation of the overwhelmingly powerful novel « The Boy in Striped Pyjamas » for director Mark Herman and acclaimed producer of Harry Potter : David Heyman..

In 2008, Benoit reteams with Mikael Hafström for « Shanghai ». A complex epic story set in 1941, produced by Harvey Weinstein and Mike Medavoy. Chinese movie stars Gong Li and Chow Yun Fat, Japanese star Ken Watanabe are part of the amazing cast spearheaded by John Cusack.

In 2009, Benoit shoots « Chatroom » in London with the acclaimed Japanese director of « The Ring » and « Dark Water » : Hideo Nakata,. A very modern story about teenagers and the « on line world” .