

Ava presents

Directed by
Isild Le Besco

BROTHERS

What is more fantastic than a mother?

AVA PRESENTS

Brothers

WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY
Isild Le Besco

NARRATIVE

Charlotte Gainsbourg

WITH

Isild, Ulysse and Solon Le Besco, Mathieu Pezon, Mathis and Joris Vachée, Elie Frick, Jules Daudanne, Hamza and Nedim Nijemcević, Danis Fejzić, Sanjin Istrefi

VOICE OVER

Charlotte Rampling. Ali Omerović. Harry Evans. Jimmy Swales. Leah Brine. Bethany Hodd. Savannah Davies. Eleanor Hugues. Jonathan Stoddart. James Hallifax. Matthew Fitzgerald. Luke Clark

ASSISTANT Lada Paradzik *IMAGES* Rishi Boodhoo. Jowan Le Besco.

Zakia El Hamdi. Vedrana Mijić. Arnej Misirlić

ASSISTANT STORY Célia De Rudder *EDITING* Emmanuelle Jay *COLOR*

Stéphane Medez *SOUND & MUSIC* Jan Meinema. Alan Omerović. Rob

Griffin. Miles Sullivan Yan Sheng Lee. Thomas Volpe. Jimmy Swales.

Mitchell Bagguley. Zafeirios Stefanos Malakozis. Jordan Budgen. Jona-

than Stoddart. Harry Evans. Nicholas Faris. Elliot Hardman

COSTUME Florence Sadaume. Pascale Bortequoi

PRODUCTION

AVA et Soundwalk. Stephan Crasneanski. Claire Dupont



SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time, in a far away kingdom, there lived a blue bird, endowed with many powers that illuminated and protected the kingdom and all its inhabitants.

In this kingdom lived a family of six boys with their mother. The mother worked hard to raise her sons, but the sons were reckless and disobedient. They woke up a forest beast and brought a forest, a curse on their village. The mother suddenly disappeared, and the children were left all by themselves in their mountain home. The boys understood then that they would have to redeem themselves and correct their mistake, so they went in search of the blue bird, hoping that the peace and serenity in the kingdom would be restored, and hoping they would find their missing mother.

During their journey, the boys learned to find the kindness and all the help they needed in the nature that surrounded them.

Brothers is a story about recklessness and its consequences, but it is also a story about what it means to love. It's a story about growing up and learning what it takes to overcome one's weaknesses and find courage and strength to truly connect with other human beings, and the world.

The journey that the young brothers take in search of their mother incites them to find in themselves the strength they need to overcome their own weaknesses and flaws. They find the strength in the memory of their mother's love - the memory of her tenderness, to be finally reconciled with her after discovering their own power to feel and relate to nature in its fullness. It is only then that the brothers realize that their redemption rests on nothing other than their own acts of tenderness and compassion toward each other, and their being generous and unselfish. And only then are the brothers able to track down the blue bird, to take care of it tenderly, and see their mother return to them.

WE OFTEN TELL STORIES TO OUR LITTLE ONES IN TRYING TO TEACH THEM ABOUT LIFE AND ITS TRIALS...

In *Brothers* we see a family of six young boys moving through the obstacles which while seeming so simple at first, prove difficult to overcome. Our children are invited to enter the world of little people who tell what life is like in face of fear and anguish when choices have to be made.





INSPIRATION...

Since the age of 15, I had in mind a story inspired by one of the Grimm's Fairy Tales in which two young siblings are forced to flee their kingdom. In my travels through Bosnia, in 2013, I came across a ranch, which, with its mysterious feel, opened up that emotional and spiritual space from which *The Brothers* tale was born. Everything lined up in my head with absolute obviousness, so clearly that I had no choice but to quickly find the children, capture this breath of grace that I felt, and transcribe it through a film.

I wanted to put this momentum on the screen; to transpose, and share it.

A DISTANT AND WONDERFUL UNIVERSE ...

I went back to France, and brought back the costumes for the shoot. In Sarajevo, I looked for young boys I could film. Over the course of the following few months, my life was punctuated by this research and a desire to recreate a universe that I absolutely wanted to film: a distant and wonderful universe, a world where children are the protagonists in a tale that describes a quest, an intimate and personal quest, like an initiatory legend, where the path taken by our little heroes would forge an idea of existence, and would give a taste of discovery, revealing the young protagonists' innate aptitudes to vibrate and question the hidden meaning of things and the mysteries of nature.

A person wearing a white, hooded, tattered poncho stands in front of a stone building. The poncho is heavily worn, with a large tear at the bottom right. The background is a blurred stone structure, possibly a bridge or a wall, under a bright sky.

THE WILD CROSSING ...

This story takes place in the heart of nature where children are plagued by the raw elements. The wild crossing would plunge the children into questioning. The children will learn that water, absorbs, transforms and transcribes the vibrations that are created in the world. They will learn that trees live and emit sounds, that an apple is living food, that cats, dogs, horses ... soothe and can be holders of invisible, therapeutic or protective powers; that there is a soul in all things living, and that they all have a message to convey.



HEART TO HEART...

And children remain the best vibration sensors, due to their sensitivity still being unaltered. And it is this sensitivity that I am interested in.

Between science and ancestral knowledge, between physical properties and ancient beliefs, to just listen ...

CHILDREN THAT WE WERE AND ADULTS THAT WE ARE BECOMING ...

These children and this story may seem old fashioned, but in the ever-changing world we live in, some fundamental questions still pose themselves and still ask to be answered.

This story is the story of many of us, of the children we were, and the adults we are to become.

*FREE YOURSELF FROM YOUR
DEEPEST FEARS...*

To be able to live peacefully in present, free from the past and the future, one has to emancipate oneself from the fears that are deeply entrenched within. Each of the characters in this tale has to measure up to their fears and face what they don't want to face. By identifying their fears, by dominating these primary reflexes, by reflecting on the universe around them, these characters invite us to be like them. They want us to answer who we really are, and what we are able to do.

The question of identity is always so closely tied with questions of fulfillment, and the peace of body and mind - the notions dear to our universes jostled by confusion, speed and terror.

A BETTER FUTURE

The story of these six children is a story of looking within oneself to release the brakes that prevent us from moving forward, regardless of our age.





NEW LANGUAGES

This brothers tale mixes the emotional docu-fiction and art film to create a visual language which erases the borders between didactic documentary and a poetic dreamlike tale. The initiatory journey of our young heroes is punctuated with lessons on how cope and feel.