

Dans Paris (2006)
Christophe Honoré



Dans Paris is the fourth full-length film of novelist and director Christophe Honoré. Nominated at the César Awards in 2007 for best supporting actor for Guy Marchand in the role of Mirko, this film showcases Honoré's French New Wave cinematic influences through a stylistically rich account of the intricate nature of family dynamics in the contemporary world.

The film starts with Jonathan's self-introduction directly to the audience as the omniscient narrator, a role that Honoré himself describes as his own relay inside a film whose characters never stop telling each other stories. Following his monologue, a series of disjointed and non-sequential scenes recount painful disintegration of Paul and Anna's life together after they moved to the countryside. According to Honoré, "the long prologue at the beginning of the film is very different from the rest of the film, but it's an anchor that I felt was needed for the film to find its freedom later. It wasn't really a psychological foundation used to explain the couple of Anna and Paul, but a formal structure." After this introductory exposition, the story returns to the family's Paris apartment where Paul has come to stay with Jonathan and their father Mirko. Paul is suffering from a deep depression, refusing to leave his room or eat.

The cinematic complexities of *Dans Paris* mirror the complexities of family dynamics and repressed emotions. Paul broods on the past, while Jonathan is continually fleeing—from responsibility, his family, and steady relationships. While Paul remains confined to his room and confronts the difficulties of his life; Jonathan, on the other hand, is in a constant state of escape—with often amusing consequences. In the end, however, Jonathan's voyage completes the momentum of the brothers at the intersections of life, love, and family.

Dans Paris was shot in only 31 days and edited in less than two months. Honoré explains that "making a film is like writing a letter to hear from the filmmakers, the actors and a city," continuing to say that "if we were to make *Dans Paris* again next winter, it would end up being a completely different film. It's almost a political gesture, a way to fight against the way we are expected to make films nowadays."

Dans Paris: Saturday 11/1 – 6.45 pm; Monday 11/3 – 9.30 pm; Wednesday 11/5 – 4.30 pm; Thursday 11/6 – 9.30 pm

Written by Eric Dalle