

## *Le Temps qui reste / Time to Leave* (2005)

**Written and directed by:** François Ozon

**Cast:** Romain: Melvil Poupaud; Laura: Jeanne Moreau; Jany: Valeria Bruni Tedeschi; The Father: Daniel Duval; The Mother: Marie Rivière; Sasha: Christian Sengewald

**Awards:** Best Actor (Melvil Poupaud), Valladolid International Film Festival (2005)



In François Ozon's long-anticipated drama the director delicately addresses the differences in his characters' personal relationships with death and identity. Romain, a gay fashion photographer living in Paris, discovers that he is in the last stages of cancer. He chooses to reject the treatment which may grant him a slim chance of survival, and instead faces his imminent death. Pushing away his family, lover, and co-workers, he confides solely in his grandmother (played by New-Wave star Jeanne Moreau) a woman who is also nearing her own point of departure from the earth.

*Le Temps qui reste*, which earned both Ozon and Poupaud recognition at the Valladolid International Film Festival in 2005, is the second in a trilogy of films by Ozon which deal with the subject of death, the first being *Sous le Sable/Under the Sand* (2000). Both films portray the intense feelings of helplessness which accompany both loss and grief; while *Sous le sable* examines the perspective of the survivor, *Le Temps qui reste* switches focus to the dying. As the film progresses and his death approaches, Romain's attitude to life undergoes a dramatic change. Beginning the film as egocentric, narcissistic and brazen, he finds ways to relinquish his fears and arrive at a calm acceptance of his fate. Romain's actions and decisions are portrayed as being harsh in their honesty. In this way, Ozon manages to present Romain's story as that of a complex individual and avoids turning him into a cliché.

Through music and the characters' simple gestures, *Le Temps qui reste* captures the raw emotions of its subject matter and avoids slipping into melodrama. Romain's confrontation with death on his own terms is a reminder of the brevity of life and that dying must ultimately be a personal experience.

Program notes prepared by: Eric Dalle, Tricia Dimit, Paul Hartley, Aubrey Korneta, Lauren Messina, Bill Pedersen, Émilie Tarraf.