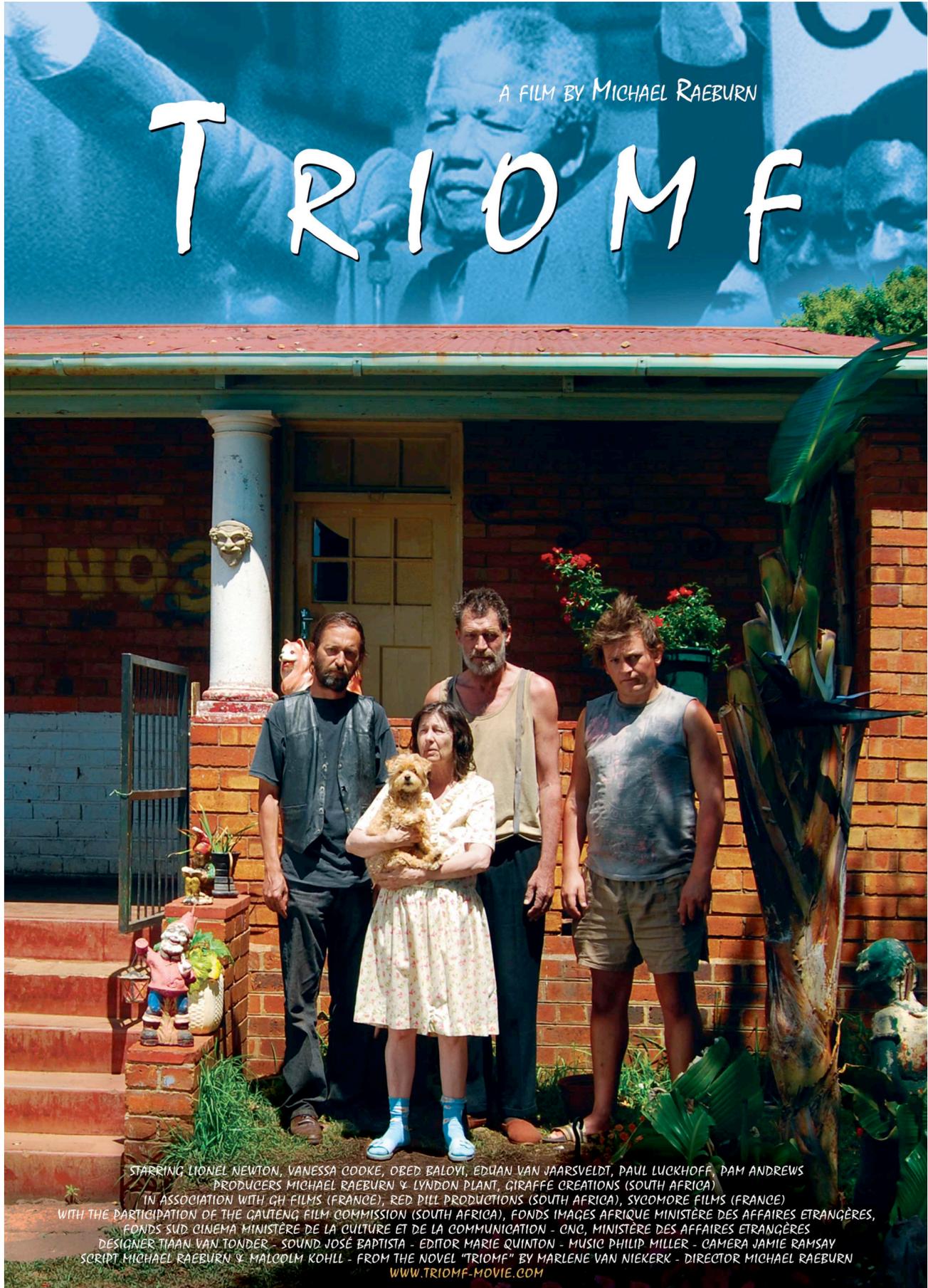


A FILM BY MICHAEL RAEBURN

TRIOMF



STARRING LIONEL NEWTON, VANESSA COOKE, OBED BALOVI, EDUAN VAN JAARSVELDT, PAUL LUCKHOFF, PAM ANDREWS
PRODUCERS MICHAEL RAEBURN & LYNDON PLANT, GIRAFFE CREATIONS (SOUTH AFRICA)
IN ASSOCIATION WITH GH FILMS (FRANCE), RED PILL PRODUCTIONS (SOUTH AFRICA), SYCOMORE FILMS (FRANCE)
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE GAUTENG FILM COMMISSION (SOUTH AFRICA), FONDS IMAGES AFRIQUE MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES,
FONDS SUD CINEMA MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE ET DE LA COMMUNICATION - CNC, MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
DESIGNER TIAAN VAN TONDER - SOUND JOSÉ BAPTISTA - EDITOR MARIE QUINTON - MUSIC PHILIP MILLER - CAMERA JAMIE RAMSAY
SCRIPT MICHAEL RAEBURN & MALCOLM KOHLL - FROM THE NOVEL "TRIOMF" BY MARLENE VAN NIEKERK - DIRECTOR MICHAEL RAEBURN
WWW.TRIOMF-MOVIE.COM

TRIOMF by Michael Raeburn
a South African / French co-production

LOGLINE - March 1994 South Africa. On the day of the first free election Lambert Benade will turn 21, and Uncle Treppie promises him the girl of his dreams. But, in this hilariously horrendous tragi-comedy, as a new world is born, two members of the white trash family are destined to die.



SYNOPSIS - In five days the first South African democratic elections will take place, after which there will be majority rule under a black government. Tensions are high throughout the land, and no less so in Triomf, the poor white suburb of Johannesburg that was built on the ruins of the black community of Sophiatown.

The Benade family, who'd be considered hillbillies or white trash in the USA (Uncle Treppie fixes fridges, Pop's a railway pensioner, his wife Mol sells flowers in the street, and their son, Lambert, is a slow-witted youth prone to violent fits) are so worried about the elections that they're prepared for an escape north 'when the shit hits the fan!' Already things are not what they used to be in Triomf with half-caste neighbours having rowdy barbecues, and there's a black family moving in. While, Sonny, who is an acquaintance of Lambert Benade, is waiting in the street to take back his stolen family land upon which the Benade house now stands!

The action of the film revolves around Sonny, as well as around the dynamics within the Benade family. These are highly-strung, often horrendous and consistently hilarious.

It is the interaction between Uncle Treppie and the young Lambert that is the driving force behind the story. Treppie's not just fed up with Lambert, but with the family's poverty, their suffocating social isolation, and everything they stand for including their own history as Afrikaners, which he sees as clouded by lies and pretence. Treppie doesn't really know what the solution to all this is, but the new South Africa is on its way, and he wants drastic change.

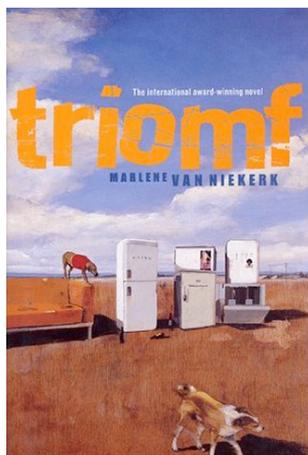
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Co-incidence would have it that Lambert's 21st birthday is on the first day of voting, and Uncle Treppie plans a special present for him: a meeting with a nice girl he's met who might find a soft spot for Lambert. What Treppie really wants is to get Lambert out of the house and out of his life at any price.

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The climax is truly explosive after Lambert discovers that his prospective girlfriend is a whore, and after Treppie, in his mad desperation, reveals a dark 'family secret'. But in the end it will be Lambert and his black friend Sonny who triumph over Treppie.

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THE NOVEL - The scenario of TRIOMF written by Michael Raeburn and Malcolm Kohl is adapted from the novel of the same name by Marlene van Niekerk (Noma Award for African Literature, 1995) - english translation Leon de Kock.

"TRIOMF reads like the work of a South African Faulkner. We don't have many writers of this class."

Sunday Independent

"American readers have finally been provided with South Africa's only world-class tragicomic novel, the kind of book that stabs at your heart while it has you rolling on the floor ... van Niekerk's greatest fictional gifts are theatrical: her impeccable ear and her ability to bring to life a family that never stops creating scenes... The Benades are history's has-beens, but they are also one of the most outrageously entertaining families in contemporary literature."

The White -Trash Bin of History, Rob Nixon in The New York Times Review of Books

"A tempestuous, heartbreaking, exhilarating read. "

Time Out, New York

"Van Niekerk's chronicle of this incestuous, impoverished Afrikaans underclass is a vital and surprising novel that captures the bitter tragi-comic end-game of South African racial politics and the betrayal of a twisted dream."

The Guardian, UK

THE WAY OF THE WOMEN - Afrikaans : **AGAAT** - Marlene's second novel was published in English in 2007

"Unquestionably the most important novel since Coetzee's DISGRACE...narrative creation of the highest order."

Patrick Denman Flanery, Times Literary Supplement

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THE CAST



LIONEL NEWTON plays Treppie

One of South Africa's foremost actors in theatre, television and cinema. His television series Sorted was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2007. He won the All African M-Net Award for best actor in Les Blair's feature film Jump The Gun. The role of Estragon in Samuel Beckett's Waiting For Godot won him a Vita award for best actor. The Well Being (his most recent theatrical appearance) had a sell-out season in London.



OBED BALOYI plays Sonny

Has featured in many South African television series. His play Ga Mchangani won a Main Stream Award at the Market Theatre.



EDUAN VAN JAARSVELDT plays Lambert

This up and coming actor has had roles in Totsi (Gavin Hood 2004), Catch a Fire (Phillip Noyce 2005), The Gothica Caper (Mini-Series), and Bille August's GoodBye Bafana (2007).



VANESSA COOKE plays Mol - Vanessa has performed in over 50 stage productions and 10 movies. She has been an active participant in the development of theatre in South Africa for which she earned the Gauteng Arts & Culture & Heritage Award. She was a founder member of the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, and the Director of the Market Theatre Laboratory.



PAUL LUCKHOFF plays Pop

A veteran actor of Afrikaans language theatre.



PAM ANDREWS plays Cleo - Pam is a South African celebrity both as an actress and a singer. Her lively personality and her individualistic dress sense have made her popular on television chat shows. TRIOMF is her first movie part.

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DIRECTOR 'S NOTE

TRIOMF is an African “Brutti, Sporchi e Cattivi” (Director : Ettore Scola - French title : “Affreux, Sales et Méchants”), with a touch of “Bagdad Café” thrown in. A movie that perturbs as well as entertains. It is at once authentically African and universally accessible as a story about a dysfunctional family. Written as a fable in the style of a Greek tragedy about death (the old apartheid South Africa) and rebirth (the new free South Africa), the story throws an original light on issues of prejudice by exposing the close link between race and class.

Certainly, there has never been anything like it before from Africa !

Michael Raeburn - Cape Town, July 2008



DIRECTOR & WRITERS

Michael Raeburn (writer & director) was born in Egypt, a citizen of Zimbabwe and now, for political reasons, of South Africa. He has dedicated his life to African cinema. Having made many documentaries, experimental films and feature movies, **TRIOMF** is his most original work to date. It plunges us into a social milieu that has been seen on screen before. The film serves as an important link between the 3rd World and the 1st World, and between different racial groups, which has always been the purpose of all Michael's films and of his books as well.

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Some responses to Micheal's work :

“THE GRASS IS SINGING” : "Karen Black triumphs in one of the most demanding roles of her career. The film takes us into a world as beautiful as it is harsh, and we can all but feel the heat that's so unbearable. It ends on a note of authentic ambiguity that few films attain."

Kelvin Thomas, Los Angeles Times

“JIT” : "This does for Africa what 'The Harder They Come' did for Jamaica."

Time Out, UK

“JIT” : "Cool, très cool... Diabolically seductive."

Pariscopes

“HOME SWEET HOME” : “An example of hybrid cinema in which the old formulae are outdated."

Duel Ottana, Italy

NIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES (Publisher: David Philip) NOVEL : “Raeburn is no lightweight on the African continent. This book must surely rate as one of the stranger phenomena of postcolonial Africa.“

Mail & Guardian

more details on www.michaelraeburn.com

Malcolm Kohli (writer) has worked as a freelance writer and producer since 1978. His first commissioned work was for the classic BBC sci-fi series, Doctor WHO; his first feature film as writer and co-producer was the \$10 million The Fourth Reich (1990); and he developed and produced Secret Society, Julie's Geist, The 51st State and The Bone Snatcher for Focus Films.

more details on www.focusfilms.co.uk

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THE PRODUCTION

GIRAFFE CREATIONS (South Africa) - founded for the production of TRIOMF by business entrepreneur Lyndon Plant, director Michael Raeburn, events manager Megan Meas, and the famous South African actor Zayne Meas whose credits include the award-winning movie “Forgiveness” ; Zayne’s stage productions include “Big Boys” and Athol Fugard’s “The Blood Knot” ; he has a leading role in “Isidingo”, South Africa’s most successful television series since independence.

GH FILMS (France) - Ghassan Salhab and Caroline Chomienne.

2006 : "Le Dernier homme" - Salhab coproduced with Agat Films

2002 : "Terra incognita" - Gh. Salhab coproduced with Agat Films - Cannes, Un certain regard

2000 : "Freestyle" - C. Chomienne - Cannes, Acid

1998 : "Beyrouth fantôme" - Gh. Salhab - Cannes, Un certain regard

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1995 : "Des lendemains qui chantent" - C. Chomienne, Prix SACD

RED PILL PRODUCTIONS (South Africa) - is a partnership of Natalie Stange and Ryan Fortune. Natalie has a broad range of production experience in documentaries, short and feature films and television drama. She is the General Secretary of the Documentary Filmmakers Association and a member of The Producers Alliance.

Ryan Fortune has been a radio news journalist, news editor, anchor and commissioning editor for the South African Broadcasting Association (SABC). As a print journalist he has written film and theatre reviews for the Cape Times, This Day and the Sunday Times.

SYCOMORE FILMS (France) - brings together a wide range of filmmakers in France working in cinema, television, music, contemporary art, publishing, fashion, design and multimedia. Projects are developed from script into production, through to in-house post-production including digital special effects. Films include "Gloria Mundi" (Nico Papatakis) and "The Immature" (Adrian Smith). www.sycomorefilms.com

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Eduan van Jaarsveldt, Paul Luckhoff, Pam Andrews

Producers

Michael Raeburn / Lyndon Plant
Giraffe Creations (South Africa)

in association with

GH Films (France), Red Pill Production (South Africa), Sycomore films (France)

with the participation of

Fonds Sud Cinema
Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication - CNC
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (France)

Fonds Images Afrique
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (France)

Developed with the Gauteng Film Commission, South Africa

Designer

Tiaan van Tonder

Sound

José Baptista

Editor

Marie Quinton

Music

Philip Miller

Camera

Jamie Ramsay

Screenplay

Michael Raeburn & Malcolm Kohll

Adapted from the novel "Triomf"
by Marlene van Niekerk (Queillerie Publishers)

Director

Michael Raeburn