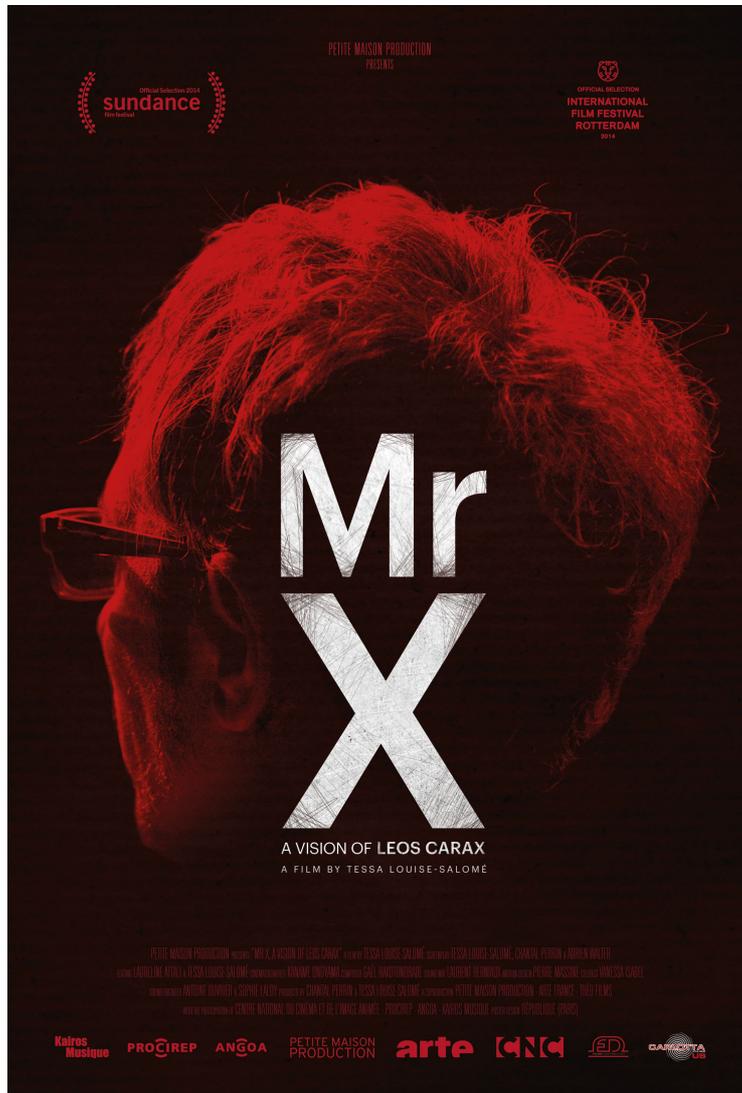




A PERSONAL, UNIQUE DOCUMENTARY  
ABOUT CULT FILMMAKER *LEOS CARAX*



FOLLOWING THE RELEASES OF MAUVAIS SANG AND BOY MEETS GIRL  
CARLOTTA FILMS US IS PROUD TO PRESENT :

# MR X - A VISION OF LEOS CARAX

A FILM BY TESSA LOUISE-SALOMÉ

IN THEATERS  
AUGUST 15 2014

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*“Leos Carax is a satellite that revolves around the sun, the moon, the solar system. He’s a shooting star of French cinema, yet he has this particularity of never burning out.”*

GILLES JACOB, president of the Cannes Film Festival

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*In France, Leos Carax has long been branded as a mysterious, solitary filmmaker with an aversion to both the media and the public at large. Yet outside of his home country, his work takes precedence over this public image, and he is recognized as an icon of world cinema. Mr X tackles this complex artist—a cult figure from his first feature—by plunging the spectator into the poetic and visionary world of his films.*



By means of exclusive archival materials, interviews with his closest collaborators (such as Denis Lavant), and excerpts from his favorite films, this documentary attempts to put together a few pieces of the Carax puzzle. What emerges is an immersive and dreamlike portrait inspired by his singular artistic vision. Sit back and let yourself drift into the world of this unparalleled visual poet...

“Tessa Louise-Salomé's documentary is an alluring if not especially illuminating tribute to singular filmmaker Leos Carax.”

Guy LODGE

## TESSA LOUISE-SALOMÉ

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Tessa Louise-Salomé is a French producer, director, and editor born in 1980.

After studying cinema in Paris, she got her start as an assistant director before focusing on editing and directing.

In 2006, she created her own production company, Petite Maison Production. She has produced, directed and edited documentaries, short works by young filmmakers, portraits of artists, and music videos.

Her work has focused largely on culture, art, and music. In 2010, she produced, edited, and did the art direction for a documentary feature, *Illegal Love*. The film was broadcast in a number of countries including the US (MTV Networks) and France (Canal+).



After directing *DRIVE IN Holy Motors* which chronicles the making of Leos Carax's *Holy Motors* (2012), Tessa soon began production on *Mr X*, her first feature length documentary as a director that provides a more personal approach the Carax's entire body of work.

## THE ORIGINS OF MR X

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“In August 2012, I met Leos Carax for the first time in a Parisian café before I began work on the making-of for *Holy Motors*. The image I had built up of him crumbled. Instead of being reserved, he began to talk openly with me about all of the production and financing issues he faced while trying to make his new film. The script was excellent, and despite difficulties in finding funding, I started shooting one week later.”

“This making-of quickly became a pretext and the images and sequences that it gave birth to were only the beginning of a larger project that I chose to pursue about Carax's unique cinematic world.”

“I decided to revisit his prior work, explore his favorite filmmakers, and to collect statements from his collaborators, as well as actors, other filmmakers, writers or journalists in order to sketch the portrait of this singular and important figure in film history.”

“Beyond the mythic aura that surrounds Carax and the fervent reactions that he inspires, what remains essential is that he is an incredible director and the creator of some truly stunning images.”

*Mr X* recounts the complex biography of this troubled filmmaker and provides a few pieces to the Carax puzzle. Above all, it will make you want to delve into the cinematic world of this exceptional visual poet.

“I’ve become a stranger to this world that, long ago, I squandered so much time on. They haven’t had any news from me for so many years that they must think I’m dead!”

Leos CARAX

## MR X

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*Mr X* is a portrait of one of the most controversial French filmmakers. In the early 80’s, Carax was a youthful virtuoso with significant critical esteem, but he quickly fell out of favor and attracted his fair share of detractors, be they producers, journalists, even ex-collaborators and friends. Yet this hasn’t stopped him from being recognized as one of the most important filmmakers of his generation, both in France and abroad. Although he has made only five features in thirty years, Carax has consistently been held up as an emblem of a new generation of filmmakers that emerged in the wake of the French New Wave.



In the course of a hazardous career, Leos Carax has retreated into silence, rarely granting interviews and becoming something of an enigma. Yet he pushes on and continues to chart new territory by making films that consistently defy all classification. His talent and poetic verve are acknowledged, yet his impenetrable nature is a source of both fascination and exasperation.

Carax himself is given a chance to speak by means of statements and interviews that were collected from a wide range of sources. His voice has been weaved into the film and he can be heard alongside colleagues and admirers such as Harmony Korine, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, and Caroline Champetier. In addition to an entire roster of filmmakers, producers, journalists, and scholars, a special place is reserved for Denis Lavant, the actor who is often seen as Carax’s alter ego. We also evoke the actresses who accompanied the work (and at times the personal life) of Carax: Mireille Perrier, Juliette Binoche, Catherine Deneuve – and of course Katerina Golubeva.

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## FEATURING

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MEHDI BELHAJ KACEM	KENT JONES	KYLIE MINOGUE
RICHARD BRODY	GABRIEL JULIEN-LAFERRIÈRE	MIREILLE PERRIER
CAROLINE CHAMPETIER	HARMONY KORINE	NELLY QUETTIER
JEAN-MICHEL FRODON	KIYOSHI KUROSAWA	KENZO HORIKOSHI
DENIS LAVANT	MARION STALENS	TOSHIHIRO ISOMI
EVA MENDES	PACÔME THIELLEMENT	GILLES JACOB
SERGE TOUBIANA	NEIL HANNON	

### **MR X, A VISION OF LEOS CARAX**

(2014, France, 72 mn, Color, 1.78)

PETITE MAISON PRODUCTION presents  
a film by Tessa LOUISE-SALOMÉ  
screenplay by Tessa LOUISE-SALOMÉ, Chantal PERRIN & Adrien WALTER  
editing Laureline ATTALI & Tessa LOUISE-SALOMÉ  
cinematographer Kaname ONOYAMA  
composer Gaël RAKOTONDRABE  
sound mix Laurent HERNIAUX  
motion design Pierre MASINE  
sound engineer Antoine OUVRIER & Sophie LALOY  
produced by Chantal PERRIN & Tessa LOUISE-SALOMÉ  
a coproduction PETITE MAISON PRODUCTION - ARTE France - THÉO FILMS  
with the participation of the CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE – PROCIREP -  
ANGOA

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