



# QUEEN OF HEARTS

A film by Valérie Donzelli

**"Hilarious! An endearingly goofy spin on looking-for-love-in-the-big-city comedies" – Dennis Harvey, *Variety***



**France | 2010 | Romantic Comedy | French and Spanish w. Eng. Subtitles  
| 84 min. | 1.33 | Dolby SRD**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Thirty-something Adele is devastated following a painful breakup. With no close friends or family, her distant cousin, Rachel, reluctantly takes her in and graciously attempts to salvage Adele's professional and love lives. Rachel finds her a job and suggests that Adele sleep with other men to get over her heartbreak. Adele bounces from one lover to the next in search of her perfect companion but can't escape the visage of her ex. Finally, she meets a man who may just hold the answer to her broken heart.

## **FESTIVALS AND AWARDS**

### **OFFICIAL SELECTION**

**Mumbai Int'l Film Festival**  
**Locarno Int'l Film Festival**  
**Buenos Aires Int'l Film Festival**  
**Thessaloniki International Film Festival**  
**Women's Film Days in Vienna**  
**Indielisboa Film Festival**  
**Jeonju International Film Festival**  
**Santiago International Film Festival**  
**International Women's Film Festival Rehovot**  
**Francophone Film Festival de Namur**  
**Mill Valley Film Festival**  
**Festival du Films Cinemania**  
**St. Louis Film Festival**

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

From the beginning, the objective of my project was to speak about the breakup. I was hoping to express the absence of being loved as an awakening dream where both suffer the pain of the deprivation of the other. So, I had imagined, Mathieu's character as a ghost that haunted Adele. Therefore, as a type of therapy, or even remedy, Adele in her endless dialogue on being loved, will search for a type of reconciliation within herself.

The story occurs in Paris. The location for all their encounters is Montsouris park, which will also become the place of work for Pierre, an erotic place for Adele and Paul, a place of where Jacques restlessly promenades with his daughter, but also a place of solitude.

I chose to have the same actor play to play the parts of Mathieu, Pierre, Paul and Jacques because the film is told from Adele's perspective. From the beginning, she is in pain and always sees the same man throughout all these encounters. Then, throughout the film, she evolves and liberates herself, to come to see Pierre for whom he really is.

As you may have understood, I filmed in the manner in which I saw the world, or how Adele sees it, which evolves naturally since I am playing Adele and, from any point of view, Adele is me.

## BIOGRAPHIES & FILMOGRAPHIES

### VALERIE DONZELLI

#### Director

Valérie Donzelli was born in Vosges and initially studied architecture. Her first film experience was *Martha... Martha*, by Sandrine Veysset, a film for which she won the Michel Simon Award. She also received awards in Florence and Torino for her acting in *7 years*, directed by Jean Pascal Hattu. She has collaborated with French directors Anne Fontaine, Guillaume Nicloux, Agnès Varda, Alain Guiraudie, Delphine Gleize, Gilles Marchand, Virginie Wagon, as well as many others. In 2007, she directed her first short film, *Il fait beau dans la plus belle ville du monde*, which was selected at The Directors' Fortnight in 2008.

THE QUEEN OF HEARTS is her first feature film. Since then, she shot *Declaration of War*, which participated in the Critic's Week at the Cannes Film Festival in 2011, and is the year's French submission to the Oscars' Best Foreign Language Film category.

### FILMOGRAPHY OF VALERIE DONZELLI

- 2011      **Declaration of War** (La guerre est déclarée)  
Feature film -
- 2009      **The Queen of Hearts** (La Reine des Pommes)  
Feature film
- 2007      **Il fait beau dans la plus belle ville du monde**  
Short film- Director's Fortnight

## **CREDITS**

### **CREW**

Director & writer  
First assistant director  
Producer

Original Music  
Cinematography  
Film Editor  
Assistant Editor :  
Sound  
Visual Effects

**Valérie Donzelli**  
**Jérémie Elkaim**  
**LES PRODUCTIONS BALTHAZAR**  
**JEROME DOPFFER**  
**Charles Trenet - Gonzales - Lio**  
**Céline Bozon**  
**Pauline Gaillard**  
**Guillaume Sagnol**  
**Laurent Gabiot**  
**, Steve Vojkovic**

### **CAST**

Adèle  
Mathieu/Pierre/Paul/Jacques  
Rachel  
The woman on the phone  
The neighbor  
Gladys  
The vigil  
The jogger  
The doctor  
The real Pierre

**Valérie Donzelli**  
**Jérémie Elkaim**  
**Béatrice De Stael**  
**Laure Marsac**  
**Lucía Sánchez**  
**Vanessa Seward**  
**Gilles Marchand**  
**Dominik Moll**  
**Serge Bozon**  
**Etienne Kerber**