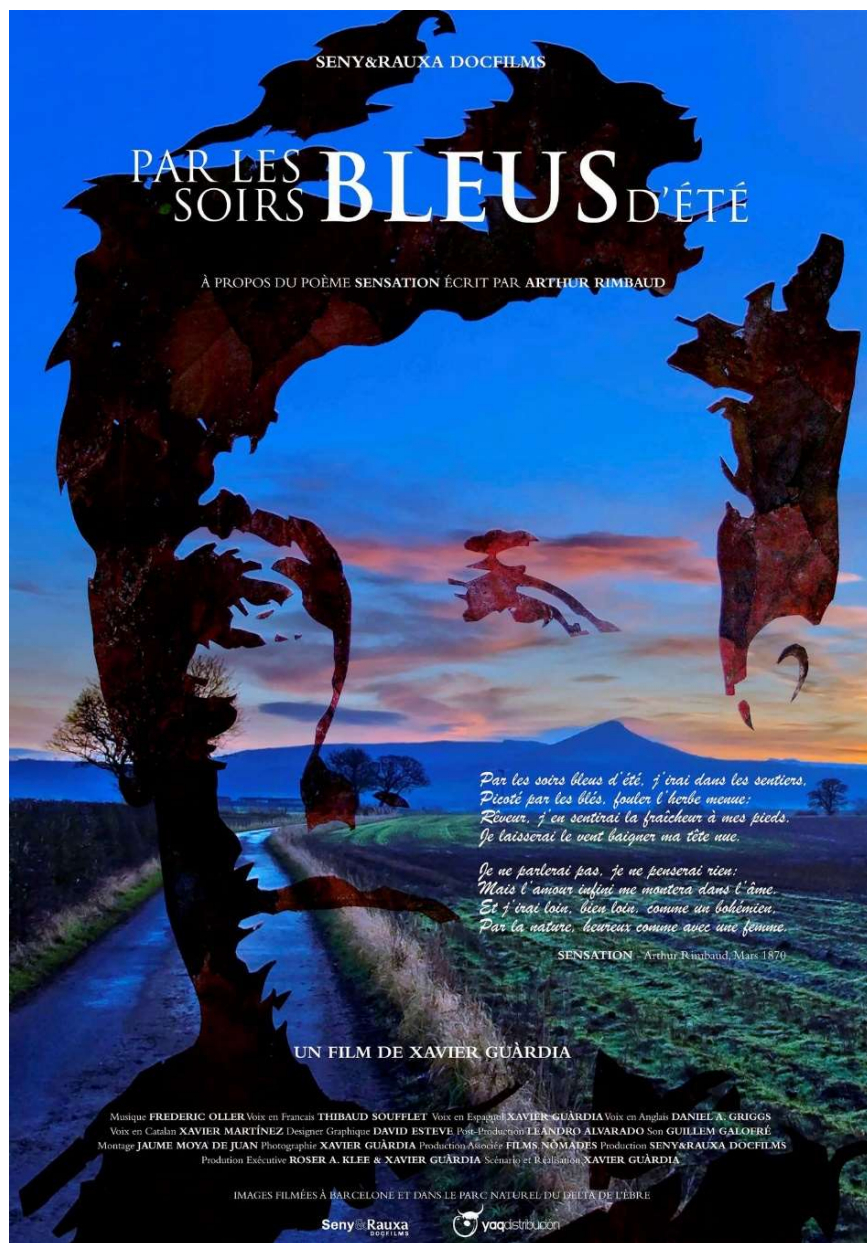


Par les Soirs Bleus d'Été

On The Blue Summer Evenings

A Film by **XAVIER GUÀRDIA**



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BIOGRAPHY

Xavier Guàrdia, Barcelona 1970, is a producer, screenwriter and film director. He studied Film Directing at Centre d'Estudis Cinematogràfics de Catalunya **CECC** and graduated in 2002. He has written and directed fiction and documentary short films in 8mm, 16mm and HD Video formats.

He also has a degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of Barcelona and Proficiency in English from Cambridge University. He has run **Aula Anglesa** School of English since it was founded in 2001.

Xavier Guàrdia is co-founder since 2020 of the film production company **Seny&Rauxa Docfilms**, a project that focuses on the production of arthouse films and independent cinema.

He is currently working on the editing of his first documentary feature film *Tourist Walk* and in the writing of the script for his second feature film *Soy Camino*.



FILMOGRAPHY

- 2024 Par les Soirs Bleus d'Été /10'/ On the Blue Summer Evenings
- 2022 Otros Tiempos /20'/ Other Times
- 2021 Towards the Hill /20'/
- 2019 Auld Lang Syne /6'/
- 2018 Cielito Lindo, Videta Meva /4'/ Sweet Heart
- 2017 Barcelona Tourist Walk /4'/
- 2016 A Bit of Us /4'/
- 2014 Atuendos, Dioses e Identidades /11'/ Attire, Gods and Identities
- 2013 Señas de Identidad /14'/ Signs of Identity
- 2012 10 Years Later /6'/
- 2002 Un Tomb per Barcelona /15'/ A Stroll around Barcelona
- 2001 Ho Sento Molt /4'/ So Sorry
- 2000 El Pez Más Viejo del Río /4'/ The Oldest Fish in the River
- 1999 Are You Lonesome Tonight? /5'/
- 1998 Blue Moon /12'/
- 1997 Le Petit Déjeuner /3'/ Breakfast Time
- 1996 Whisky on the Rocks /1'/

Work in Progress

- Tourist Walk /90'/
- Soy Camino /70'/ I am Camino

CREW

Title Par les Soirs Bleus d'Été
English Title On the Blue Summer Evenings
Screenwriter & Director Xavier Guàrdia
Country Spain
Year 2023
Running Time 10'
Genre Poetic Documentary
Production Seny & Rauxa Docfilms
Associate Production Films Nòmades
Executive Producer Xavier Guàrdia
Executive Producer Roser A. Klee
Cinematography Xavier Guàrdia
Music Frederic Oller
Editing Jaume Moya de Juan
Postproduction Leandro Alvarado
Graphic Designer David Esteve
Voice in French Thibaud Soufflet
Voice in Spanish Xavier Guàrdia
Voice in English Daniel Griggs
Voice in Catalan Xavier Martínez
Translation to Spanish Oriol Sánchez Vaqué
Translation to English Sébastien Calandrini
Distributor YAQ Distribución

SYNOPSIS

Logline

A poem by Arthur Rimbaud contrasts the tranquility of nature with the hectic pace of the big city.

Synopsis

Par les soirs bleus d'été is the first line of *Sensation*, a poem by *Arthur Rimbaud*. Its recitation in four languages (French, Spanish, English, Catalan) and a musical theme, *Somniador*, composed by pianist *Frederic Oller*, merge and dialogue with images of nature and the city. The tranquil and heavenly world of the Ebro River Delta contrasts sharply with the hectic and noisy pace of Barcelona City. Two different ways of understanding life give way to a metaphorical journey into nature, love and poetry.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The origin of this project was born and inspired by the poem *Sensation* by *Arthur Rimbaud*. A poem full of literary beauty and love for life that seeks total fusion with nature. An inner journey towards the human soul and an attempt to capture a moment that, in my opinion, contains eternity.

At no time have I intended to underline the poem with images. In fact, at no point does the recitation coincide with the bucolic images. We always hear the voice-over when we are in the city, with its noise, rush and crowds. What has really motivated me as a filmmaker is the contrast produced by poetic words with footage of the big city. Contrast and counterpoint of two lines that follow opposite directions. I look for the emotional reaction that the mixture of that inevitable clash of antagonistic forces provokes.

I must also highlight the work of the pianist *Frederic Oller* who has composed the piece *Somniador / Dreamer*, inspired by the poem and the footage of nature, giving balance to the whole film.

The proposal to use the poem in four languages is due to my deep attraction to physically hearing four different voices, with their very different cadences, tempos and textures. In French because it is the original of *Rimbaud*, in English because it is the most universal language, in Spanish because it is my nationality and the second most spoken language in the world, and in Catalan because it is my mother tongue.

I also wanted to vindicate the figure of the poet *Arthur Rimbaud* as well as the visual richness of the Ebro River Delta, showing it as one of the most virgin and paradisiacal places in my country.

FILM REVIEW (1)

Cinematographic impressionism on a poem by Rimbaud

Xavier Padullés Paricio

Professor of theory and aesthetics at Institut del Teatre in Barcelona

The new short film offered by film director *Xavier Guàrdia* is an amalgam of bucolic sensations of natural landscapes that are lost in our memory and crowded images of the city that stun us as a result of a poorly digested globalization.

In the melancholic views, we see its people working from dawn to dusk with their skin burned by the rude beauty that nature offers us, in this case the Ebro Delta. This produces calm, peace, harmony, through an editing of a filmmaker who pays tribute to the impressionists and of course to the poet **Arthur Rimbaud** but with a juxtaposition of sequences where the modern and cold of the big city contrasts with the green and peaceful countryside, a world that has been fading since the time of the French bard but it is still there.

As a poet of cinematographic painting, *Xavier Guàrdia* gives us a metallic gray palette for the city where the mass is swallowed up by itself up to nausea in contrast to the green moors, which reminds us, at certain times, of the painter **Jean- François Millet** or the dreamy landscape painters of the 19th century.

One of the most tense moments in this film can be found in the two ways of seeing and living the sea, either on a beach overcrowded or an empty sea where one can find his deep solitude sought. With this, the director creates a dialectical, subtle and elegant tension, where one can contemplate his contemporary evolution between the countryside and the city. As *Rimbaud* sought in his poem **Par les soirs bleus d'été**, recited off, in a distant 1870 when the modern city was "born" and the countryside was lost to factory smoke.

Synesthetic impressionist film, all of it exudes, also in its editing, a peaceful melancholy that invites calm and introspection (with an inspired *Debussy* score by pianist *Frederic Oller*). But those other disturbing masses shot in the big city show the new and false artificial paradises in which we live crowded together. All of them spawns of globalization with its deafening worldly noise: here the Barcelona underground becomes a great worm, the antithesis of the fascination of the **Lumières** in **The Arrival of the Train at the Station**. Times have changed dramatically.

Intelligently and in various languages, Rimbaud's short poem is repeated to impregnate our memory with bucolic encounters of ourselves in and with the countryside. If in the time of **Charles Baudelaire** the new was the city, now that is already the past, dirty and ordinary. This visual poem by *Xavier Guàrdia* takes us back to our origins, where man is born from dust and water and where we should never have left but where we still have time to return, to Mother Nature.

FILM REVIEW (2)

“Par les soirs bleus d’été”, the search for fullness

Ana Luengo

Writer and professor of Spanish and Latin American literature at San Francisco State University.

Xavier Guàrdia explores the desire to return to nature and a simple life in "**Par les soirs bleus d'été**". It is no coincidence that the title is the first line of the poem "**Sensation**" (1870) that a teenager **Arthur Rimbaud** wrote as a yearning for freedom. Each verse represents the desire to escape towards an ideal nature that serves as a framework for the joyful walk of a lyrical self: the sky, the crops, the grass, the freshness, the wind. Likewise, *Guàrdia's* short film offers various landscapes in the Ebro Delta Natural Park that oppose the hustle and bustle of a Barcelona saturated by tourism and the speed of capitalism.

The scenes of the film overlap showing the idealised and timeless nature of the Ebro Delta, with the transfer of a tourist-exploited city such as Barcelona. These urban scenes are accompanied by *Rimbaud's* poem recited in French, Spanish, English, and Catalan, while we hear the background noise of the city in scenes of herds of tourists on the Rambla, traffic jams, undergrounds and crowded beaches. The scenes of nature that precede them are accompanied by **Frederic Oller's** piano, showing an idyllic well-being through which people enjoy the moment without haste.

In this way, the sensations that *Guàrdia's* film produces in us, based on different stimuli, range from the embarrassment of a metro station or an exhaust pipe, to the freshness of the clean, saline air of heavenly beaches with flamingos walking on clear water and seagulls soaring in the skies. Through the images, the music by *Oller* and the poem that *Rimbaud* wrote almost two centuries ago, the film seems to ask us what we have done with the Mediterranean and what remains to be recovered.

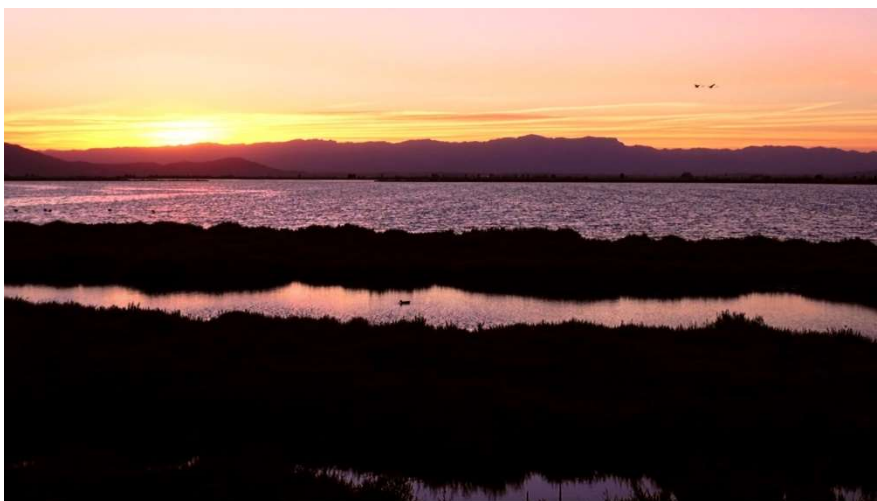
In the final act, however, the film shows a hopeful outcome of lonely couples who walk and enjoy the landscapes of nature, happy and in love, without rushing. Barcelona, however, no longer offers that refuge, neither to feel the breeze in the body nor for love. The only way out is, as *Rimbaud* wrote, to take paths to other places that still offer that fullness, and take care of them, before it is too late.

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STILLS / The City



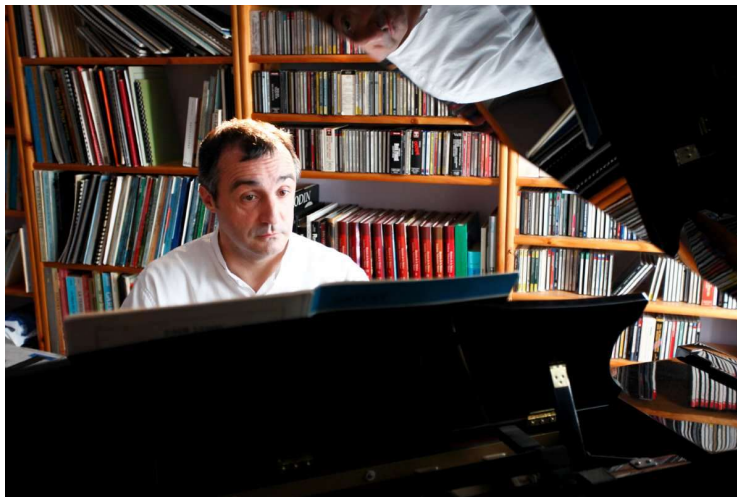
STILLS / Nature



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SOUNDTRACK

MUSIC **FREDERIC OLLER** THEME **SOMNIADOR / DREAMER**

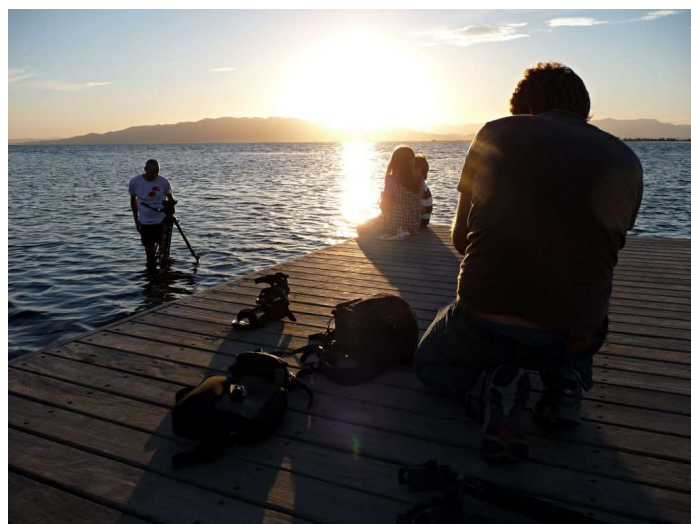


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SHOOTING

The Ebro Delta





XAVIER GUÀRDIA
PRODUCCIÓ, GUIÓ I DIRECCIÓ

PAR LES SOIRS BLEUS D'ÉTÉ

SENSATION

Arthur Rimbaud · Mars 1870

Par les soirs bleus d'été, j'irai dans les sentiers,
Picoté par les blés, fouler l'herbe menue;
Réveur, j'en sentirai la fraîcheur à mes pieds.
Je laisserai le vent baigner ma tête nue.

Je ne parlerai pas, je ne penserai rien;
Mais l'amour infini me montera dans l'âme.
Et j'irai loin, bien loin, comme un bohémien,
Par la nature, heureux comme avec une femme.

MÚSICA ESCRITA I INTERPRETADA PER:
FRÉDÉRIC OLLER

DISSENY GRÀFIC:
DAVID ESTEVE

VEUS EN OFF:
THIBAUD SOUFFLET/XAVIER GUÀRDIA/
DANIEL GRIGGS/XAVIER MARTÍNEZ

MUNTATGE I SO:
MARTÍ MAURICI/
JAUME MOYA DE JUAN

IMATGES RODADES A BARCELONA I AL PARC NATURAL DEL DELTA DE L'EBRE

Par les Soirs Bleus d'Été

Director **XAVIER GUÀRDIA**

www.xavierguardia.com

www.seny-rauxa.com