Online versions of the Goldenrod Handouts have color images
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The Buffalo Film Seminars
Conversations about great films with Diane Christian and Bruce Jackson

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Claire Denis, Beau Travail (1999, 92 min)

Directed by Claire Denis
Written by Claire Denis and Jean-Pol Fargeau (screenplay);
Herman Melville (based on the story "Billy Budd, Sailor")
Producer Patrick Grandperret
Music Charles Henri de Pierrefeu
Cinematography Agnès Godard
Film Editing Nelly Quettier

César Awards, France 2001 Won
César Best Cinematography (Meilleure photographie) Agnès Godard

Cast
Denis Lavant…Galoup
Michel Subor…Commander Bruno Forestier
Grégoire Colin…Gilles Sentain
Richard Courcet…Legionnaire
Nicolas Duvauchelle…Legionnaire
Adiatou Massudi…Legionnaire
Mickael Ravovski…Legionnaire
Dan Herzberg…Legionnaire
Giuseppe Molino…Legionnaire
Gianfranco Poddighe…Legionnaire
Marc Veh…Legionnaire
Thong Duy Nguyen…Legionnaire
Jean-Yves Vivet…Legionnaire
Bernardo Montet…Legionnaire
Dimitri Tsipkinis…Legionnaire
Djamel Zemali…Legionnaire
Abdelkader Bouti…Legionnaire
Loula Ali Lotta…Loula Ali Lotta
Marta Tafesse Kassa…Young woman
Ali Mohammed Hamadou…Ali Mohammed Hamadou
Ahmed Houffeil Abdi…Ahmed Houffeil Abdi
Aïcha Med Robleh…Aïcha Med Robleh
Sigue Samouel…Sigue Samouel
Almaz Lissana…Almaz Lissana
Kounana Mitike…Kounana Mitike

Claire Denis (b. April 21, 1946 in Paris, France) was born in
Paris, France to French natives, and raised in colonial French
Africa: Burkina Faso, Somalia, Senegal and Cameroon, where

her father was a civil servant. Her childhood spent living in West
Africa with her parents and her younger sister would color her
perspectives on certain political issues. It has been a strong
influence on her films, which have dealt with themes of
colonialism and post-colonialism in Africa. Her debut feature
film Chocolat (1988), a semi-autobiographical meditation on
African colonialism, won her critical acclaim. It was selected for
the Cannes Film Festival and was praised by critics and
audiences alike as a remarkable first film. Denis is recognized for
her process of "shooting fast, editing slowly," which she has
developed. In general, she does a few takes on the set and spends
most of her time in the editing room, creating the film there. This
post-production process often involves rearranging scenes out of
the order in the script. For example, she placed the dance in Beau
Travail (1999) at the end of the film, although it was not at the
end of the script. Denis is a highly collaborative filmmaker,
saying in an interview that "the film becomes a relationship...and
that is what's important, the relationship." The importance of
collaboration is seen throughout her body of work. She works
with many of the same actors, such as Isaach de Bankole,
Vincent Gallo, Béatrice Dalle, Alex Descas, and Grégoire Colin,
and also collaborates often with the writer Jean-Pol Fargeau,
composer Stuart Staples, and cinematographer Agnès Godard,