



A film by **Onur Karaman**

# EMPTINESS



**STEPHANIE BRETON ANANA RYDVALD JULIE TRÉPANIÉ**  
**Marc Thibault Alex Dubois Rebecca Rowley**

Director of Photography **Tom McNamara** Production Designer **Antoine Quimper** Production Manager **Marc Bertrand**  
Sound Mix & Design **Michael Binette** VFX Artist **Simon Harrison** Editor **Onur Karaman** Assistant Editor **Amanda Kossits**  
Original Music **Maxime Fortin** Executive Producer **Marcel Giroux** Written, Directed & Produced by **Onur Karaman**



# SYNOPSIS

Suzanne's husband has disappeared and she has no idea where he is. She's stuck in her old house with Linda and Nicole who just won't leave her alone. Linda is caring and wants to help Suzanne whereas Nicole is mounting suspicions on her. While looking for hints about her husband's disappearance, a presence seems to prevent her from doing so. Is the house haunted or is Nicole playing a trick on her?



*Have you seen Normand?*

# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



As I advance in life and in my career as a filmmaker, I realize to what an extent poetry is impactful and how I can integrate it in my works. EMPTINESS is not a poetic work as such nor does it carry a poem within it, but it is what I would like to call “visual poetry”.

Not all poems are about love, birds and flowers. Some poems are dark and gloomy and reflect the human condition. It is a way for the soul to scream out from within the flesh and bone of the body into the ether, in hopes of being heard by someone. It's the cry of the soul that inhabits us, the soul within us which we are not always aware of, it is our bottle into the ocean. Our way out of emptiness.

My goal with EMPTINESS has been all along to craft a disturbing film that emanates from the depths of SUZANNE's psyche and soul, where ambiguity, fear of the unknown, shadows and darkness, reign supremely. Thus, with the team, I conceived a black & white timeless film with nightmarish sequences that delve into SUZANNE's deepest footholds.

## ONUR KARAMAN

WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER AND EDITOR

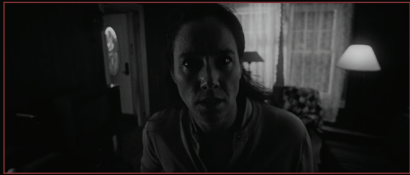


Of Turkish origin, Onur and his family moved to Canada (Montreal) when he was eight years old. His interest for cinema manifested itself early and he developed this passion throughout his education.

He shot his first feature, LA FERME DES HUMAINS (The Urban Farm) in 2014; soon followed (2016) LÀ OÙ ATILLA PASSE (There Where Atilla Passes) starring Roy Dupuis and Émile Schneider (Prix IRIS nomination for best actor). He subsequently shot LE COUPABLE (Guilt) in 2018 with a CALQ grant. His latest film, RESPIRE (Breathe), 2022, won Best Feature in the Cinemania National Competition; as well, his actor Mohammad Marouazi was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the upcoming Canadian Screen Awards.

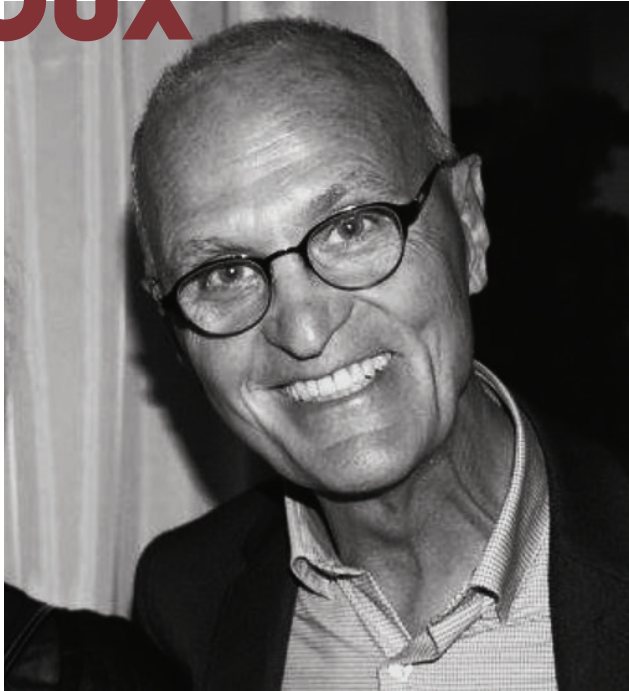
EMPTINESS, his first feature in English will premiere in the upcoming 2023 Fantasia Film Festival. Says Onur: “I'd define my endeavours as scary dramas with a touch of artistry and humanity that flirt along different styles... EMPTINESS is definitely a genre movie without any limitations... and its own uniqueness in the Canadian landscape”.





# MARCEL GIROUX

EXECUTIVE  
PRODUCER



Marcel Giroux is a seasoned Canadian film producer. Over the years, he has produced a variety of films (drama, documentary) and TV series, namely Simon Lavoie's No Trace, Slamdance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize for Breakouts (2021); Montreal Dead End, a satirical horror movie shot by a collective of young Montreal filmmakers, Best Canadian Film at Fantasia International Film Festival (2018), Best Feature Film at Blood in the Snow Film Festival (2018); Simon Lavoie's The Little Girl who was too fond of matches, Honorable Mention at TIFF for Best Canadian Feature, several nominations at the CSA and IRIS galas, part of Canada's Top Ten (2017); Liste Noire, Jean-Marc Vallée's first feature, amongst Quebec's all time box office; Pascal Laugier's shock horror movie Martyrs (2008), winner of numerous international awards; Onur Karaman's There were Atilla passes (2016) starring Roy Dupuis.

Recently acted in various producing capacities on the feature films l'Angoisse du Héron (Matthieu Brouillard), Emptiness (Onur Karaman), Se Fondre (Simon Lavoie) and Lachine (Michael Suan).

# STEPHANIE BRETON



Stephanie Breton has been an active performer for over 20 years. On screen (Hallmark), on stage (Best actress nomination for Psychosis 4.48), in video games (Ghost Recon) and with voice work (original voice for Carpe Diem's Butterfly Tales).

With Emptiness, Stephanie is proud to have been able to bring Onur Karaman's vision to life and will be forever grateful to him for the wonderful character and trust during filming.





## ANANA RYDVALD

Originally from Denmark, Anana first came to Montreal to study at Les Grands Ballets Canadiens at the age of 12. She later trained as an actress and mask artist in both Europe and Canada and eventually worked as an actress with the renowned Scandinavian Theatre group Cantabile 2, creating site-specific performances around the world. Some highlights in film have included working with directors Ari Aster, Darren Aranofsky and Mathieu Kassovitz.

With her own company, Level 4 Theatre, she has written and performed three solo shows. She has won two Montreal English Theatre Awards (METAs) for Outstanding Lead Performance for her lead in Love, Child and The Sighlence of Sky, and one META for Outstanding Independent Production for her play The Sighlence of Sky.

She has taught acting, mime and mask work at numerous schools such as Cirque du Soleil, Sheela Bal Bhavan in India and the School of Stage Arts in Denmark. She loves working as an actress in film and television, doing voice and mo-cap work, and coaching actors for film and theatre.



## JULIE TRÉPANIÉ

Julie is a bilingual artist based in Montréal who works in the fields of voice, theatre, film and television. She recently starred in the French Canadian TV series Mégantic who garnered 10 nominations for the upcoming Prix Gémeaux.

Next spring, she will perform as Maude in the very first english production of Porte Parole's critically acclaimed documentary play Rose et la machine at the National Arts Center, in Ottawa. This summer has been very busy for Julie as she is originating a role on a hit French Canadian TV show which she's very excited to share with the public. Julie is a graduate of the National theatre school of Canada.

Writer, Director and Producer

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Executive Producer

**Marcel Giroux**

Director of Photography

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QUÉBEC | LENGTH: 76 MINUTES | 2023

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