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Van
LUCA GUADAGNINO

QWEER

DANIEL
CRAIG

cinéart

PERSMAP



Drama - 2024 - IT, VS - 135 minuten
Bioscooprelease: 23 januari 2025

Meer info:

Cineart.nl/films/queer

Download persmaterialen:

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Distributie

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Synopsis

De boekverfilming QUEER is een rauw, romantisch drama over een Amerikaanse expat in het Mexico van de jaren vijftig, die op zoek is naar liefde en verbondenheid. Daniel Craig laat James Bond definitief achter zich in deze erotische en hallucinante rol: 'Craig is sensational in a role swimming in psychological complexity' ★★★★★ (The Telegraph)

Journalist en schrijver William Lee (Daniel Craig) slijt zijn dagen in Mexico Stad in de jaren vijftig. Er is daar een levendige Amerikaanse gemeenschap, maar hij is veel op zichzelf. Met de komst van Eugene Allerton (Drew Starkey) bloeit William helemaal op. Hij is in de ban van de ongrijpbare jongeman en dolgelukkig als Eugene instemt met hem mee op reis te gaan door Zuid Amerika. Tijdens deze reis lijken ze één te worden. Maar het leven laat zich niet sturen.

Regisseur Luca Guadagnino (CALL ME BY YOUR NAME, CHALLENGERS) verkent in QUEER opnieuw noties van mannelijkheid, intimiteit en vriendschap en doet dat op oogverblindende wijze. Hij baseert zich op de gelijknamige roman van William S. Burroughs. QUEER ging in première op het Filmfestival van Venetië en is genomineerd voor een Golden Globe voor Beste Acteur (Daniel Craig).





Director's notes

"How can a man who sees and feels be other than sad?" William Burroughs asks himself in the last entry of his personal diary before his death.

In adapting his second novel, published almost forty years after its completion, we have attempted to reply to this sombre invocation by the great icon of the beat generation.

Lee loves Allerton, Allerton loves Lee, and they will manage to meet despite all the missteps and fears that act upon both in their picaresque journey through South America as projected by the mind of Burroughs.

- Luca Guadagnino



A Q&A with Luca Guadagnino

Is it true that your journey with QUEER started with you reading as a teenager?

Yes, I'm not particularly original in being a teenager who discovered the very inspiring William S. Burroughs. What's more interesting to me is that once I'd read the book, I discovered the name, and I found in the name some kind of iconicity that led me to dig deep into the world of Burroughs. I've realised that I've been thinking of William Burroughs, looking for William Burroughs and paraphrasing William Burroughs all my life. He's one of my real hooks of imagery on which I can try to climb up this very steep wall of creativity.

The book 'Queer' is unfinished. Can you describe what you wanted from the third act of your own movie?

The writer Justin Kuritzkes and I needed to find a way to create a third act in the spirit of Burroughs, that could be very profoundly truthful to the book. In the book, the main character Lee and Allerton meet Doctor Cotter, and they are not given the ayahuasca, or yage, that they seek. We asked ourselves, 'what if they finally got hold of it, where would it take them?' Most importantly, we talked about the film not being a story of the unrequited love of Lee for Allerton, but a story of love. I wasn't interested in telling a story of unrequited love. This is a universal story about love, and the way in which people can reciprocate love or the tragedy of not being in the same place at the same time, but both being in love.

What tone did you want the film to have?

What I now know about Burroughs is that he was very shy and that *QUEER* wasn't published for 35 years after it was written, partly because the book was too close to home, showing that he was a tender soul in search of love, which we just don't associate with its literary canon. That's why I, Justin, Daniel and Drew felt that this had to play as a love story. It would have been too easy to make the tone dry, ironic, sarcastic and detached.

What made Daniel Craig your choice to play the character of William Lee?

I know that Daniel is one of the great actors of his generation. And when I met him, I discovered a very warm man. I love that Daniel and I have nurtured and grown a great friendship. I knew from the very beginning that Daniel's commitment was complete and total, and that he also understood the depth of what needed to be brought out on the screen for the character of Lee. I think what he's made of the vulnerability and candour of the character of William Lee is astonishing.

Did you ever think you should look for a gay actor to play the iconic role of Lee?

It's quite insulting, as a homosexual man myself, to consider the possibility that casting a homosexual man to play the role of Lee would make it more real, as if one person is defined entirely by their gender identity or their sexuality. I think it's about what you can do as a performer, as an artist of a given task, and the depth that Daniel Craig brings is profound.

Drew Starkey plays Eugene Allerton. How did you discover him, and did Daniel Craig also have a say on the casting of Allerton?

Once I found my partner in Daniel for the film, it was an absolute no-brainer for me that the process of finding Allerton had to involve Daniel. I was given a recording of Drew Starkey for another project, and I saw something astonishingly committed and beautiful. I immediately showed it to Daniel, who agreed with me. We went on to view hundreds of other tapes of actors, and then at around three hundred, we said, 'there really is no need to look any further because Drew is it.'

Have you cut down *QUEER* since it was selected for Competition at this year's Venice Film Festival?

I showed festival director Alberto Barbera an early cut of the film for the possibility of showing the film at the Venice Film Festival. He was patient enough to sit through three hours, but it wasn't the final cut. We had not finished the movie. And I kept working on it until I could finesse the movie to make it the way I wanted it, and that length is 135 minutes. There's never been a different version of the movie.

Cast

Starring

DANIEL CRAIG
DREW STRARKEY
JASON SCHWARTZMAN
HENRIQUE ZAGA
DREW DROEGE
ANDRA URSUTA
ARIEL SHULHMAN
ANDRES DUPRAT
OMAR APOLLO
DAVID LOWERY
LISANDRO ALONSO
MICHAEL BORREMANS
MICHAEL KENT
COLIN BATES
RONIA AVA

Supporting cast

DAAN DE WIT
SIMON RIZZONI
LA BRUJA DE TEXCOCO
SILVERIO CASTRO
AMIR ANTONIO SAMANDE CHAVEZ
ANDREA MONTSERRAT RIOS HERNANDEZ
CLAUDIO CARDENAS
GILBERTO BARRAZZA
JEAN CARLOS GONZALES FLORES
MICHAEL KENT
LORENZO POZZAN
JUAN DOMINGO SANDOVAL PUGA

Crew

DIRECTED BY LUCA GUADAGNINO

FROM THE NOVEL OF THE SAME TITLE BY

WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS

WRITTEN BY JUSTIN KURITZKES
EDITED BY MARCO COSTA
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SAYOMBHU MUDKEEPROM
GRAPHIC DESIGNED BY CHEN LI
MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE CREATED BY KARIM BOUTAHER
PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY STEFANO BAISI
COSTUMES DESIGNED BY JONATHAN W. ANDERSON
MUSIC SUPERVISOR ROBIN URDANG
MUSIC BY TRENT REZNOR
ATTICUS ROSS

VASTER THAN EMPIRE

WRITTEN BY TRENT REZNOR,
WILLIAM BURROUGHS, AND
ATTICUS ROSS PERFORMED BY
CAETANO VELOSO, TRENT REZNOR,
AND ATTICUS ROSS

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

SOL LEÓN
PAUL LIGHTFOOT

CASTING
CASTING DIRECTOR ITALY
CASTING DIRECTOR LATIN AMERICA

JESSICA RONANE CDG
MAURILIO MANGANO U.I.C.D.
VALENTINA MATERIALE U.I.C.D.
LUIS ROSALES

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LUCA GUADAGNINO P.G.A.
DAVIDE LUCHETTI
JAMES W. GRAUERHOLTZ
ELENA RECCHIA
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PETER SPEARS
CHRISTIAN VESPER
JUSTIN KURITZKES