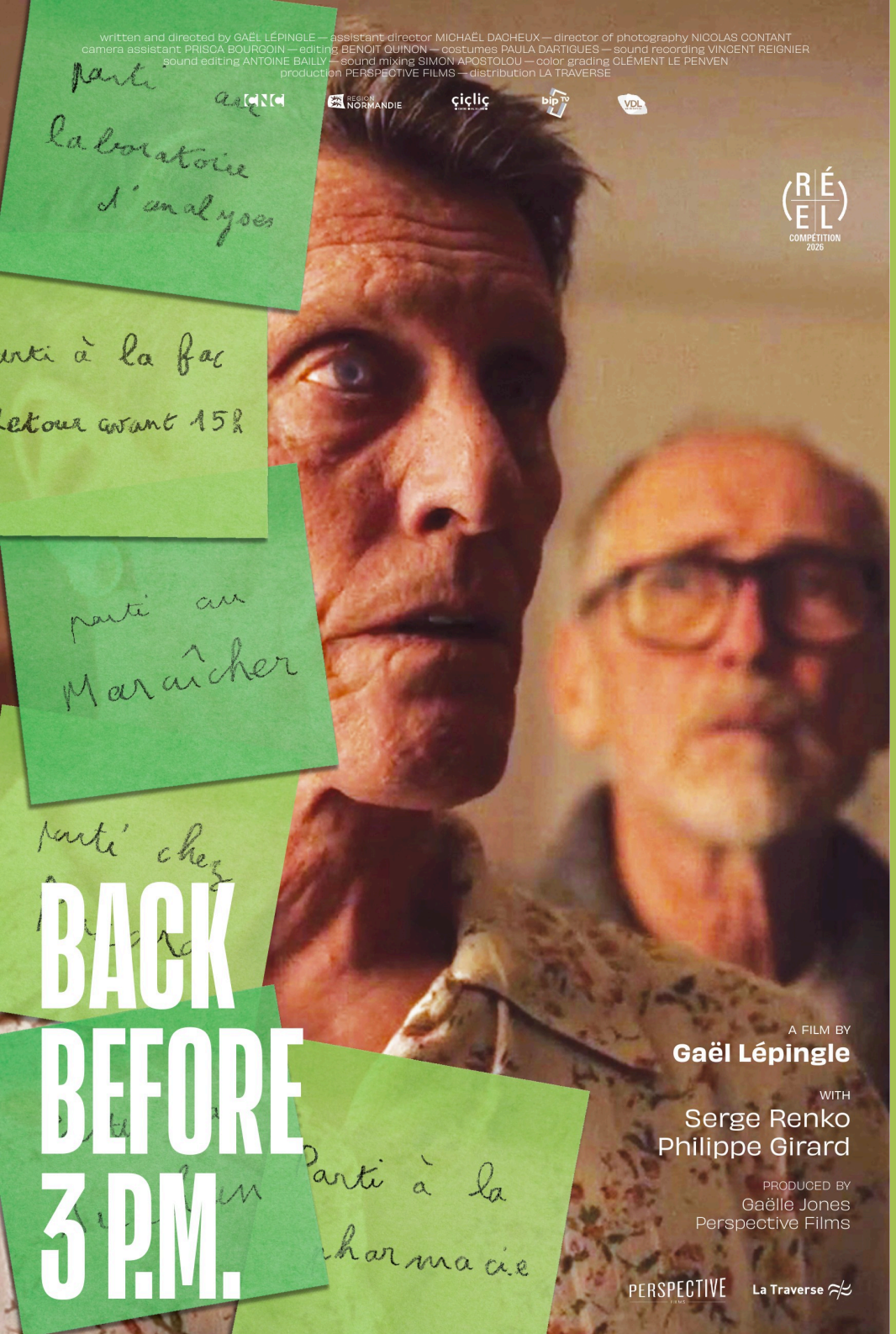


BACK BEFORE 3 P.M.

A FILM BY

Gaël Lépingle

FRANCE · 2026 · 74 MIN.

WITH SERGE RENKO, PHILIPPE GIRARD

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS 2026

Cinéma du Réel — Competition

IDFA — Luminous

États généraux du film documentaire — Lussas

PERSPECTIVE FILMS

La Traverse



SYNOPSIS

After his father's death, a filmmaker finds the notes in which the old man recorded, with obsessive precision, the underside of his days. He stages them, word for word, in the family home.

> Shot in the director's parents' real house, with actor Serge Renko speaking the notes verbatim and Philippe Girard appearing in a succession of costumes, the film sits between documentary and fiction — "a true ritual of farewell."

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

The infinite grace of this film.

JACQUES MANDELBAUM LE MONDE

With equal audacity and restraint, it is a poignant ceremony that plays out there.

JÉRÔME MOMCILEVIC CINÉMA DU RÉEL

We owe the festival's greatest emotion to the deeply moving Back Before 3 P.M.

SANDRA ONANA LIBÉRATION

DIRECTOR

GAËL LÉPINGLE

Gaël Lépingle makes films on the border between documentary and fiction, selected at international festivals such as Cinéma du Réel, Rotterdam, La Viennale, Jeonju IFF and FIDMarseille, where his first two feature films, *Julien* (2010) and *The Time of the Pirates* (2018), each received the Grand Prix of the French Competition.

Smalltown Boys (2022) won the Prize of the Italian National Syndicate of Film Critics at Sicilia Queer Film Fest. His entirely sung documentary *Une jolie vallée* (2015) was released in French theaters in 2019. He has also worked for the rediscovery of filmmaker Guy Gilles and staged operas for chorus and repertoire operas.



FILMOGRAPHY

2026 ***Back Before 3 P.M.***
74 min.

2022 ***Smalltown Boys***
fiction, 84 min.

2020 ***Atomic Summer*** (L'Été nucléaire)
fiction, 80 min.

2018 ***The Time of the Pirates***
fiction, 90 min.

2015 ***Une jolie vallée*** (lit. A Pretty Valley)
documentary, 52 min.

2014 ***La Nuit tombée*** (lit. Night Has Fallen)
fiction, 30 min.

2010 ***Julien***
documentary, 80 min.

2008 ***Guy Gilles et le temps désaccordé*** (lit. Guy Gilles and the Untuned Time)
documentary, 57 min.

2007 ***Guy Gilles photographe*** (lit. Guy Gilles, Photographer)
documentary, 20 min.

TECHNICAL SHEET

CAST

SERGE RENKO
PHILIPPE GIRARD

Written and directed by	Gaël Lépingle
Assistant director	Michaël Dacheux
Director of photography	Nicolas Contant
Camera assistant	Prisca Bourgoin
Editing	Benoit Quinon
Costumes, hair & make-up	Paula Dartigues
Sound recording	Vincent Reignier
Sound editing	Antoine Bailly
Sound mixing	Simon Apostolou
Color grading	Clément Le Penven

ORIGINAL TITLE
Retour avant 15 heures

ENGLISH TITLE
Back Before 3 P.M.

RUNNING TIME
74 min.

COUNTRY · YEAR
France · 2026

FORMAT
Color · 16:9 · 5.1

LANGUAGE
French

DIRECTOR
Gaël Lépingle

PRODUCTION

Produced by **Gaëlle Jones, Perspective Films**

With the support of the **CNC**, **Région Normandie** (with **Normandie Images**) and **Ciclic – Région Centre-Val de Loire**

In coproduction with **BIP TV** and **Val de Loire TV**

French distribution **La Traverse** · With the support of the **GNCR**

PRODUCTION & INTERNATIONAL

Perspective Films — Gaëlle Jones
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PERSPECTIVE FILMS

FRENCH DISTRIBUTION

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