



Euzhan Palcy

| Director | Screenwriter | Producer |

©Euzhanpalcy.net

Euzhan Palcy

The first black female director produced by a major Hollywood studio (MGM)

The only woman who directed Marlon Brando

The first black director who directed an actor to an Oscar nomination (tied with Spike)

The first female and the first black director who won a Cesar Award (French Oscar).

The only black director & only woman filmmaker who managed to direct an anti-apartheid narrative feature film during Nelson Mandela's prison sentence.



©Euzhanpalcy.net

Marlon Brando & Euzhan Palcy

A Dry White Season directed by Euzhan Palcy

© David James / MGM

Garry CAGENAT • Darling LÉGITIMUS • Doula SECK

Rue Cases-Nègres

SUGAR CANE ALLEY30th Anniversary

directed by

EUZHAN PALCYOFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES CLASSICS
FESTIVAL DE CANNESVenice film festival
Silver Lion

©Euzhanpalcy.net



Born in Martinique, Euzhan Palcy is a film director, writer and producer. In 1983, she directed **SUGAR CANE ALLEY** (Rue Cases Negres) putting the French West Indies on the world cinema stage. This critically acclaimed movie went on to win the prestigious Cesar award (French Academy Award) for best first film making Euzhan Palcy the first black person (male or female) to be granted this prestigious award. **SUGAR CANE ALLEY** won more than 17 international awards including the Silver Lion and Best Actress awards at the Venice Film Festival.

Euzhan Palcy successfully brought back Marlon Brando to cinema screens with the anti-apartheid film, **A DRY WHITE SEASON**. She travelled to South Africa defying the special section of the apartheid regime with the help of Dr. Nthato Motlana, President Nelson Mandela's personal physician and friend, who smuggled her into Soweto undercover. She received the Orson Welles award for this film in Los Angeles in 1989. After his historic release from Robben Island in 1990, the newly elected President Mandela watched the film and invited her to South Africa in 1995 (during the first anniversary of his election). Therefore, she directed and produced the *never before seen* interview titled **MY CHAT WITH PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA**.

A DRY WHITE SEASON Directed by Euzhan Palcy

©Euzhanpalcy.net



© David James / MGM 1989

Euzhan Palcy is the **only** black director (male or female) to get a feature film produced about apartheid in the United States during Nelson Mandela's 27 years in prison. She is also the only woman in the world who managed to direct a narrative feature film during South Africa's apartheid period.



DIRECTED BY
EUZHAN PALCY

A DRY WHITE SEASON

STARRING **DONALD SUTHERLAND**

Euzhan wanted *A Dry White Season* to be "Cinema Verité" — that is to reflect the truth — at all costs. She was so passionate about creating an accurate portrayal that she traveled to Soweto undercover to research the riots. With a false cover of a recording artist looking for singers for her new album she was secretly interviewing victims of the apartheid regime thus eluding the South African secret services.

The regime felt particularly threatened at this time and had stepped up it's actions against the opposition.

A Dry White Season was finally released in September, 1989. South Africa banned it, enraged by the truths exposed of what they were actually doing to the people who opposed them. MGM had to continue engaging the two bodyguards to protect Euzhan Palty throughout the promotion of the film.

A movie poster for the film 'Simeón'. The title 'SIMEÓN' is written in large, stylized, orange-yellow letters at the top. Below the title, on the right, it says 'A FILM by euzhan palcy' in white, with 'euzhan palcy' in a lowercase, handwritten-style font. On the left, there is a small circular logo containing a stylized plant or leaf design. At the bottom center, there is a small, dark, circular portrait of a man, likely the actor Simeón, looking slightly to the side.



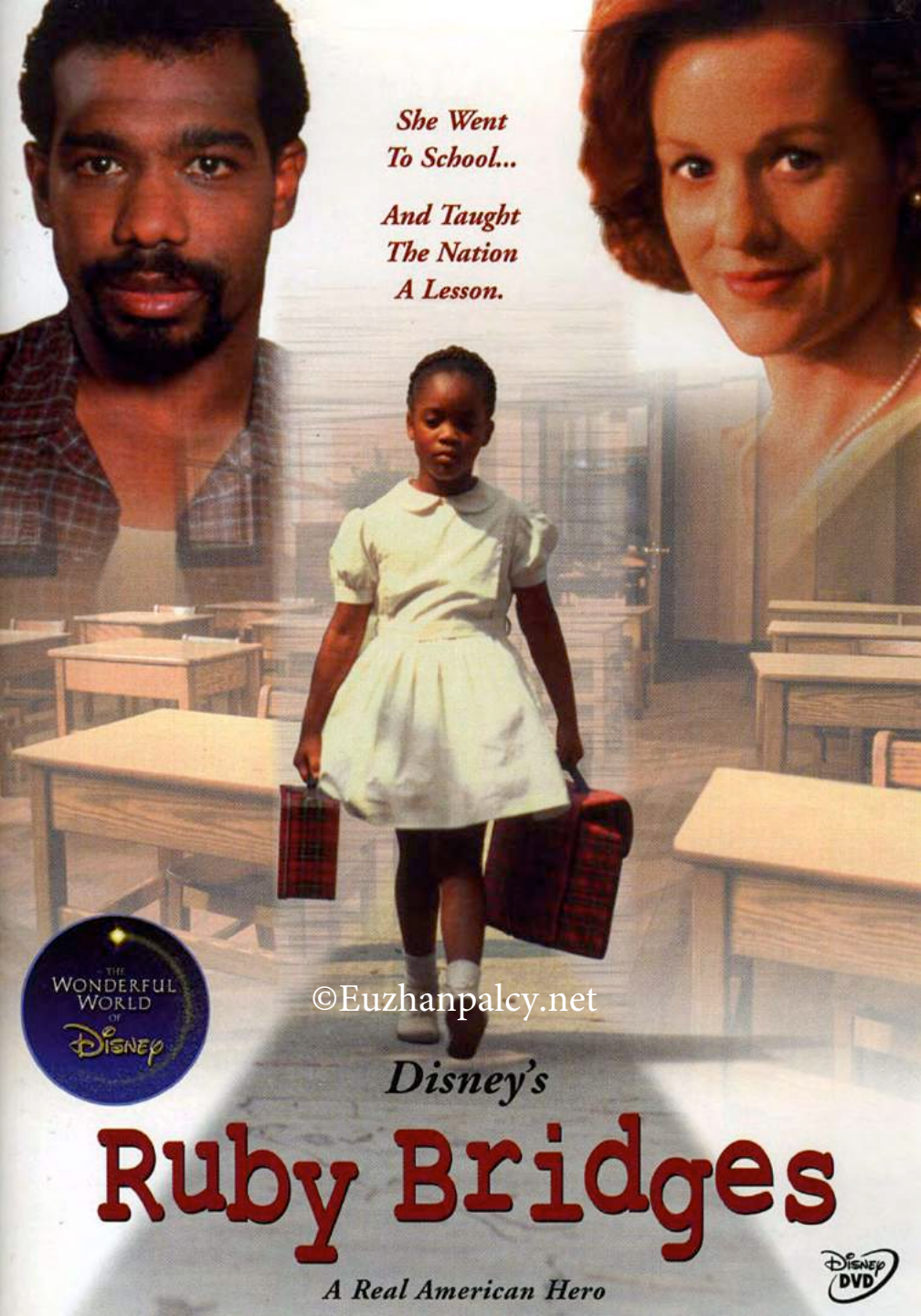
SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
CANNES CLASSICS
FESTIVAL DE CANNES



MUSIC BY
KASSAV

**JMNA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES presents a SAIGON PRODUCTIONS French 2 CINEMA CLUB d'INVESTISSEMENT MEDIA Coproduction AN EUZIAN PALCY FILM "SIMÉON" JEAN-CLAUDE DUVERGER
JACOB DESVARIEUX, LUCIANA MESSAGER, JOCELYNE BEROARD, GERTY DAMBURYLL, AL LIVRAT with PASCAL LEGITIMUS written by EUZIAN PALCY & JEAN PIERRE RUMORD directed by EUZIAN PALCY**

Original music by Bruno COLETTI, with Vocal Harmonization of the songs composed by JAMES H. NEWBERRY. Cinematography by PHILIPPE WELT. Second by BRUNO METZ. Production design: MARCO RUSSO. Editing: MARCO RUSSO. Special Effects by CHRISTIAN OGIKAWA with Digital Animation by JAMES H. NEWBERRY. Music Supervision by JAMES H. NEWBERRY. Lyrics by JAMES H. NEWBERRY. Produced with the participation of the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC) in accordance with the Convention between the Government of France and the Government of Japan signed at Paris on July 28, 1993.

A movie poster for the film 'Ruby Bridges'. The background is a soft-focus classroom with wooden desks. In the foreground, a young girl, Ruby Bridges, is walking towards the viewer. She is wearing a white, short-sleeved dress with a Peter Pan collar and white socks with shoes. She is carrying two red and black plaid suitcases, one in each hand. In the upper left corner, there is a large, semi-transparent portrait of a Black man with a beard and mustache, wearing a plaid shirt. In the upper right corner, there is a large, semi-transparent portrait of a white woman with short, wavy brown hair, wearing a pearl necklace. The text 'She Went To School...' is written in a red, serif font above the woman's portrait. The text 'And Taught The Nation A Lesson.' is written in the same red, serif font below the first line of text. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo with the text 'THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF Disney'. In the bottom center, the text '©Euzhanpalcy.net' is written in a black, sans-serif font. Below that, the word 'Disney's' is written in a black, serif font. The title 'Ruby Bridges' is written in a large, red, serif font. At the bottom, the text 'A Real American Hero' is written in a black, serif font. In the bottom right corner, there is a small Disney DVD logo.

*She Went
To School...*

*And Taught
The Nation
A Lesson.*

THE
WONDERFUL
WORLD
OF
Disney

©Euzhanpalcy.net

Disney's

Ruby Bridges

A Real American Hero



In 2006, she directed the French documentary PARCOURS DE DISSIDENTS (THE JOURNEY OF THE DISSIDENTS) which tells the incredible story of 5,000 young French West Indians fighters (boys and girls) during World War II. Her struggle for their national recognition was officially acknowledged by former French President Nicolas Sarkozy who bestowed them France's highest award: the Legion of Honor on behalf of all those courageous war veterans.

In 2007, she directed the historical drama, THE BRIDES OF BOURBON ISLAND, about the colonization of the Reunion Island during the 17th century. That same year to mark the Bicentennial of the 1807 Abolition of Slave Trade Act in the UK, The National Maritime Museum of of London hosted her first retrospective.

In a poll by the BBC/British Film Institute' citing The 100 Most Iconic Black Screen Icons of the Last 100 years, Euzhan Palcy ranked among the top three in both the female and directors categories.

In 2011, President Sarkozy asked her to create a “short cinematic synopsis” to launch France’s National Tribute to Aimé Césaire at the Panthéon; Cannes Film Festival paid her a Tribute and The New York City’s Museum of Modern Art organized her mid-career retrospective.

Later that year, Palcy was decorated with the Officer Medal of the National Order of Merit by President Sarkozy.

On June 1 2014, for the 70th anniversary of WWII Normandy and Provence landings, President Hollande hosted the presidential screening of **PARCOURS DE DISSIDENTS** (THE JOURNEY OF THE DISSIDENTS) at the Elysée Palace as a National Tribute to the Dissidents. The heroes in her film received a full week of tributes at the Presidential Palace, the Invalides, the National Assembly, the Senate, the Panthéon and in Normandy.



© Présidence de la République



Photo Laurent Cipriani/AP

I Photo above: Taken following the screening of **Parcours de Dissidents** with President Hollande on June 1, 2014.

I Photo below: Taken during the awarding by President Sarkozy of the Officer Medal of the National Order of Merit to Euzhan Palcy on September 13, 2011.

On April 28, 2017, as part of the Freedom Day, the Republic of South Africa bestowed upon Euzhan Palcy the Order of the Companions of Oliver Reginald Tambo “for her excellent contribution to the liberation struggle by exposing South African social injustices through an international film that strengthened the revolution against apartheid”. This order is the highest honor in South Africa for a foreign dignitary.

On March 8, 2018, The Telegraph included Palcy in its all-time list of 35 Women who changed the history of cinema while The International Slavery Museum of Liverpool inducted her on its Black Achiever's Wall as part of its commemoration of the centennial of the woman's vote.

Euzhan Palcy's films have undoubtedly a huge impact initiating humanitarian efforts globally for causes extremely important to her core values as a filmmaker and a person.

She manages her time between her humanitarian work (helping disabled or very ill young people to rebuild themselves and achieve their dreams) and the development of new European and American film projects.

The Filmmaker holds the keys to the cities of New York, Atlanta, New Orleans and Sarassota, Fl.

In France, she is a distinguished recipient of the French Legion of Honor for her work and social causes.

A high school, a movie theater and a road bear her name.



©Euzhanpalcy.net

MORRIS CHESTNUT

ROSE MCGOWAN

AN ACT NO ONE COULD FORGIVE. AND ONLY ONE MAN COULD DEFEND.



©Euzhanpalcy.net

ALAN ALDA THE KILLING YARD

DIRECTED BY EUZHAN PALCY

THE TRUE STORY OF THE ATTICA PRISON RIOT

American Bar Association
Silver Gavel Award 2002
for the Media & the Arts

Recognizing Outstanding Efforts
to Foster Public Understanding of Law



©Euzhanpalcy.net



©Euzhanpalcy.net



©Euzhanpalcy.net



©Euzhanpalcy.net

Some Distinctions:

Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honor (Decree 2019/01)
Officer of the National Order of Merit
Grand Companion of the Order of OR Tambo (South-Africa)
Knight of Les Arts et des Lettres
Medal of the city of Bordeaux
Gold Medal of Martinique

Citizen of Honor of New York, New Orleans, Atlanta & Sarasota Fl.

2018, The Telegraph (UK) 35 Women who changed the history of Cinema
Inductee on the Black Achievers' Wall of the International Slavery
Museum for the centenary of the women's vote in the UK

2016

Life Time Achievement Award of the first Positive Cinema Week of Cannes

The WRAP : 17 Women Who Revolutionized Hollywood

From Mary Pickford to Oprah Winfrey, here are some of the most influential women in Hollywood. Euzhan Palcy is one of the five living women listed.

2015 Tribute to Euzhan Palcy by the American Cinematheque

2013 Unveiling of the Euzhan Palcy Road

2013 Henri Langlois World Cinema Honor Award

2013 First woman President of the Fespaco

2011 ELLE.fr magazine's 17 Most Influential Women of the Planet

2011 Euzhan Palcy Retrospective at New York City's Museum of Modern Art

2011 Cannes Film Festival Pays Tribute to Euzhan Palcy

2010 The Most Powerful Black Women in Europe

2007 #3 to the BBC/BFI poll: "The All-Time Black Screen Icons"

1998 Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame

1994 John Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts

1989 People magazine's 10 Most Inspiring Women

1989 First black female director produced by a major Hollywood studio

1984 First female and first black director winner of a French Oscar.

1983 First black winner of the Venice Film Festival Silver Lion

! Photo : Euzhan Palcy and Mayor of Gros Morne – Martinique unveils the Euzhan Palcy Road on July 13, 2013.



©Euzhanpalcy.net



Filmography

- 2015 My Chat with President Mandela
- 2014 Saving Nadine (Humanitarian rescue)
- 2011 Aime Cesaire "short cinematic synopsis" for the France's National Tribute to Aimé Césaire at the Pantheon *
- 2010 The Journey of the Dissidents & WWII French West-Indian Maquisards DVD collector 8h30 of video
- 2008 Cesaire/Senghor: l'Ami fondamental
- 2007 The Brides of Bourbon Island
- 2006 The Journey of the Dissidents (Hosted by President Hollande of France in 2014)*
- 2001 The Killing Yard
- 1998 Ruby Bridges (premiered by President Clinton)
- 1994 Aimé Césaire: a Voice for History /Aime Cesaire A Voice for the XXI Century
- 1992 Siméon

- 1990 Hassane: segment of "How are the Kids" A UNICEF & Red Cross sponsored six-films anthology produced for the signature of the UN convention for the rights of children (with Jerry Lewis, J
- 1989 A Dry White Season *
- 1983 Sugar Cane Alley
- 1982 The Devil's Workshop
- 1975 The Messenger

* A *Dry White Season* was screened by President Mandela. He then invited Euzhan Palcy to visit him for a week in South Africa / *Ruby Bridges* was introduced by President Clinton on ABC from the White House /An excerpt of *Aime Cesaire: a Voice for the 21st Century* introduced President Sarkozy's eulogy for the National Tribute of France to Aime Cesaire at the Panthéon & The Toussaint Louverture Award by Unesco / **The Journey of the Dissidents* was hosted by French President Hollande at the Elysee Palace for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Normandy and Provence WWII Landings.



Movies Awards (partial)

A DRY WHITE SEASON

- 2016 **Trophée d'Honneur** of the 1st Positive Cinema Week of Cannes Film Festival
- 2015 Sabela International Recognition Award (South African Oscar) for Mandela Day by the Durban International Film Festival
- 1990 Orson Welles Award
- 1990 Tokyo International Film Festival Grand Prix nominee
- 1990 Political Film Society Award for Human Rights nominee
- 1990 Chicago Film Critics Association Best Film Award nominee
- 1990 Academy Award, Golden Globe & BAFTA nomination for Marlon Brando
- 1990 Tokyo International Film Festival Best Actor Award

SIMEON

- 2013 Cannes Classics official selection
- 1995 Fespaco Thomas Sankara Institute for Black People's Award
- 1993 Brussels International Fantasy Film Festival Silver Raven Award
- 1993 Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema: Public Award
- 1993 Milan Film Festival Youth Award
- 1993 Montreal Film Festival "Vue d'Afrique" Ban Zil Kreyol Award

THE KILLING YARD

- 2002 Silver Gavel Award by the American Bar Association

SUGAR CANE ALLEY (Rue Cases Nègres)

- 2011 Cannes Classics official selection
- 1985 Fespaco Public Award (First movie to receive the award)
- 1985 Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Award
- 1984 Houston International WordFest Special Jury Award
- 1984 Cesar (French Oscar) for Best First Film (A first for a black person)
- 1983 Venice Film Festival Silver Lion (A first for a black person)
- 1983 Best Actress Award (A first for a black person)
- 1983 Unicef Prize
- 1983 OCIC Award (now Signis Award)

RUBY BRIDGES (Wonderful World of Disney)

- 1999 Christopher Award
- 1999 National Educational Media Network Gold Apple Award
- 1999 Young Artist Award Best performance by a young artist under 10
- 1999 Image Awards nominee
- 1999 American Cinema Editors nominee
- 1998 Humanitas Prize (for the screenwriter)
- 1998 Young Star awards nominee

AIMÉ CESAIRE: A VOICE FOR HISTORY

- 1997 National Black Programming Award of Excellence

I From left to right : Euzhan Palcy & Ava DuVernay at the Tribute to Euzhan Palcy by the American Cinematheque on May, 28, 2015

I Euzhan Palcy posing with her Lifetime Achievement Award / Trophée d'Honneur at the first Positive Cinema Week of Cannes Film Festival on May 18, 2016

I Euzhan Palcy receiving the 2015 Sabela International Recognition Award (South African Oscar) after the Mandela Day screening of *A Dry White Season* by the Durban International Film Festival

I Euzhan Palcy making history when receiving the Cesar Award (French Oscar) for *Sugar Cane Alley* (Rue Cases-Negres) on March 1984.



Clockwise:

I Euzhan Palcy Guest of Honor of the 2015 Champs Elysées Film Festival

I Euzhan Palcy & her Godfather, Poet & Statesman Aime Césaire

I Euzhan Palcy & Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari M. Maathai receiving the Cinéma Vérite Award in 2008.

I The National Maritime Museum of Greenwich, London hosted the screening of Sugar Cane Alley for the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in the U.K. on March 25, 2007.

I Euzhan Palcy opening her retrospective at The MoMA in May, 2011

I On April 6, 2011 Palcy's "short cinematic synopsis" on Aime Césaire opened the National Tribute of France to Aime Césaire at the Pantheon



*P*residential & Governmental Appointments

- 2013 -2015 Appointed by French President François Hollande, member of the National Committee for the Memory & History of Slavery (CNMHE)
- 2011-2013 Appointed Chair & Member of the advising committee of the Martinique Film Fund at its inception
- 1992 -1995 Appointed by French President Mitterrand, member of the High Committee for the housing of disadvantaged people at its inception
- 1992 Appointed by French President Mitterrand, Member of the High Council of Francophonie at its inception



‘ I have learnt that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but they will never forget how you made them feel. ’

Dr. Maya Angelou