

“Entre les murs” de Laurent Cantet (2008)

CADARN Project

Routes Into Languages Cymru

Presented by Mr. Logan Labrune



Le Film

- **School in 20th Arrondissement in Paris**
- **Collège**
- **Mr. Marin, the French Teacher**
- **Following his 'classe de quatrième' (Year 9)**
 - Classes
 - Breaks
 - Workshops
 - Parent-teacher meetings
- **Life in a school as a teacher**

Official Movie Poster of *Entre les murs* (2008)

Le Succès

- **Palme d'Or au Festival de Cannes (2008)**
- **Nominated for Best Foreign Films at the Oscars**
- **International Recognition**
 - César Award (Best Writing)
 - Image Award (Outstanding Foreign Motion Picture)
 - Independent Spirit Award (Best Foreign)
 - International Film Festival Cinematik (Meet Point Europe Award)
 - Many Other Nominations
- **Adapted from a critically-acclaimed and awarded book (2016) by François Bégaudeau**

Un Phénomène

- **Initially described as part of ‘banlieue cinema’**
- **Rather among immigrant stories**
 - *Welcome* (2009)
 - *Fatima* (2015)
 - *Samba* (2014)
 - *Dheepan* (2015)
- **In recent years focusing on young immigrants / children of immigrants**
 - *La Cour de Babel* (2013)
 - *Les Héritiers* (2014)
 - *Bande de filles* (2014)
 - *Enfants Valises* (2014)

Le Microcosme Scolaire



Benjo, Caroline & Scotta, Carole (Producers) & Cantet, Laurent (Director) (2008) Entre les murs [Motion Picture] France: Haut et Court.– Screenshot at 02:02:44

Le Microcosme Scolaire

- **‘Entre les murs’ = Between the Walls**
 - Of the Classroom and the School
 - Socially Speaking in Terms of Status (Students vs. Teachers)
 - ‘Dans des cases’ = Labeling People
- **As a *milieu* echoing life in society**
 - Attacks
 - Groups (cf. Race, Style, Background, Title)
 - Misunderstandings or Impossibility to Understand

Les Styles du Film

- **Realism**

- Based on Experience
- Documentary-like

- **Documentary**

- Hand on Camera
- Not Scripted
- Non Professional Actors
- Chaotic

- **Reality?**

- Children Acting and Creating their own Characters (cf. Arthur)
- Limited View
- Restricted Perspective

Les Tensions Raciales



Benjo, Caroline & Scotta, Carole (Producers) & Cantet, Laurent (Director) (2008) Entre les murs [Motion Picture] France: Haut et Court.– Screenshot at 00:12:13

Les Tensions Raciales

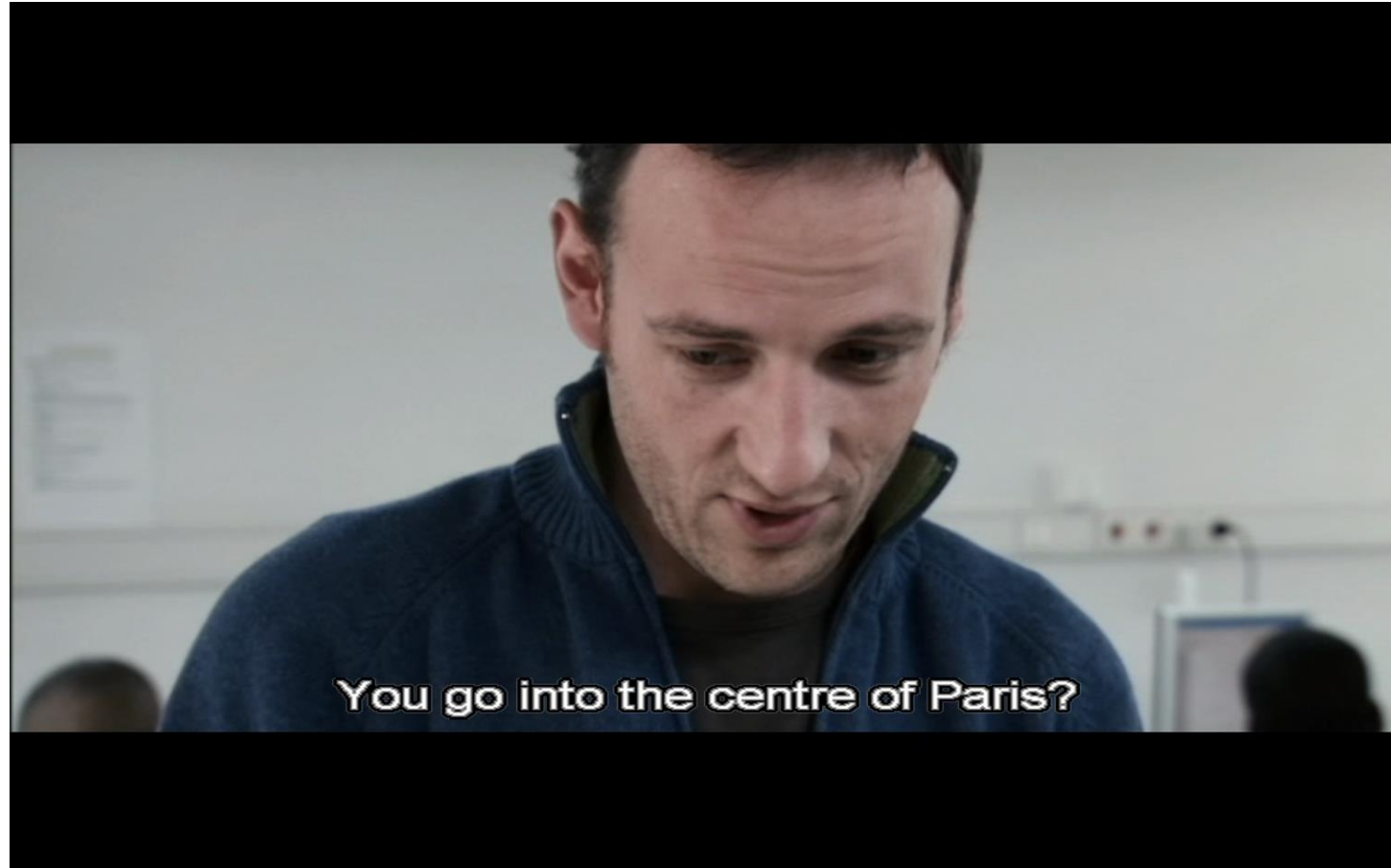
- **Immigrants' children towards French people**

- Jambon-Beurre
 - Céfran (< Français)
 - Babtou (< Toubab)
- } 'banlieue language' and/or slang (cf. <http://www.dictionnairedelazone.fr>)

- **Between Students**


- Coupe d'Afrique
- Individual Level (e.g. Wei and the Others)

Les Tensions Sociales



Benjo, Caroline & Scotta, Carole (Producers) & Cantet, Laurent (Director) (2008) Entre les murs [Motion Picture] France: Haut et Court.– Screenshot at 01:04:11

Les Tensions Sociales

- Preconception(s) of people from 'banlieues'
 - Culturally (*La République* de Platon)
 - Habits (cf. Galleries Lafayette)
 -  Clothes
- Various walks of life
 - Impossible to Blend in
 - Determinism (gentils/pas gentils; 'sauvages')

La Langue



Benjo, Caroline & Scotta, Carole (Producers) & Cantet, Laurent (Director) (2008) Entre les murs [Motion Picture] France: Haut et Court.– Screenshot at 01:49:04

La langue

A Barrier and a Gap Between ...

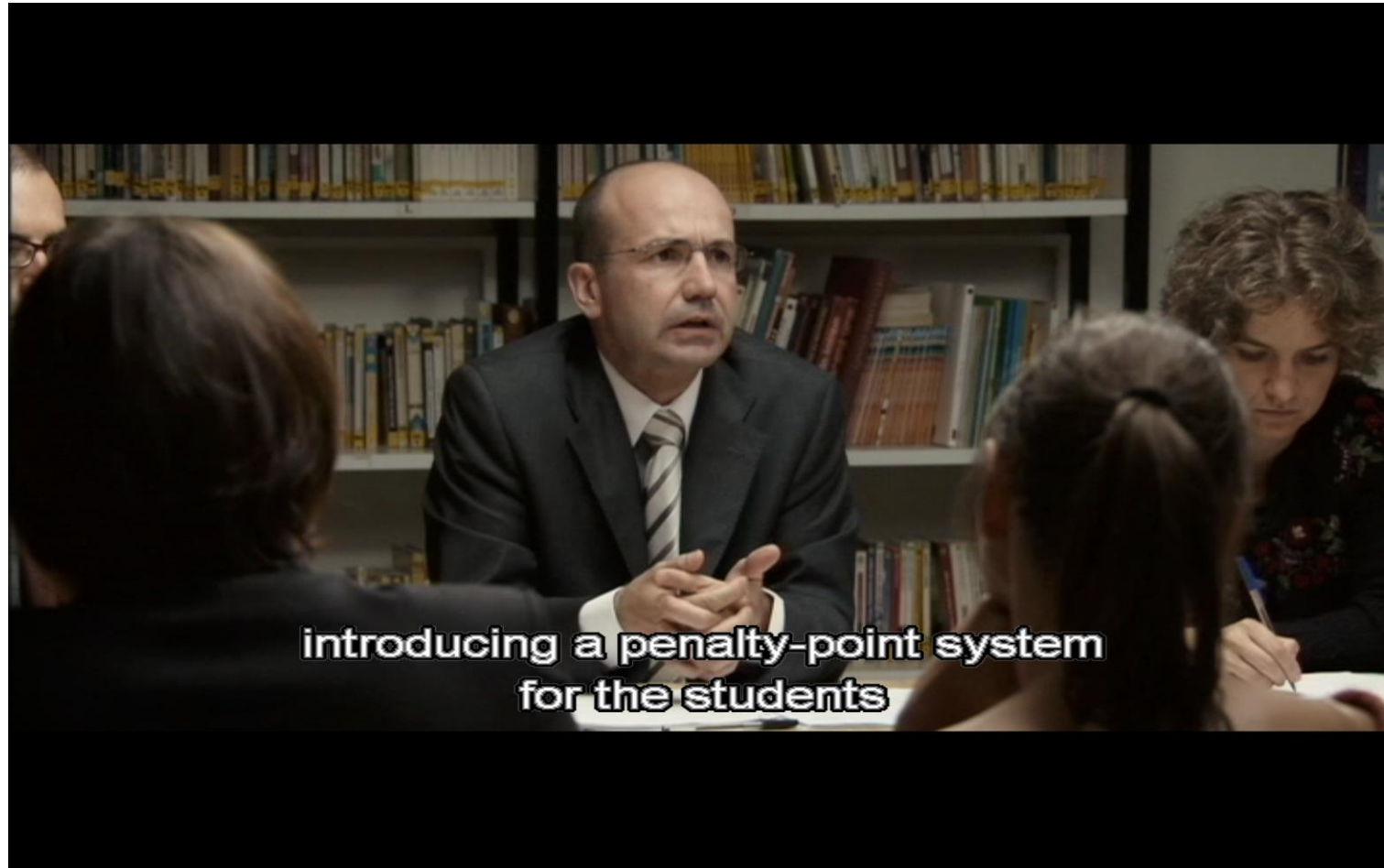
➤ ... Native Speakers and Immigrants

- Using Different Languages (e.g., Souleymane and his Family)
- Not Mastering the Same Languages (e.g., Wei and his Parents)

➤ ... Peoples and Classes

- Level of Vocabulary (cf. succulent; trompeur; etc.)
- Tenses used by Specific People (e.g., *subjonctif imparfait*)
- Registers and Forms (Formal vs. Informal; Written vs. Oral)

La Réflexion Scolaire



Benjo, Caroline & Scotta, Carole (Producers) & Cantet, Laurent (Director) (2008) Entre les murs [Motion Picture] France: Haut et Court. – Screenshot at 00:42:04

La Réflexion Scolaire

- How a School works
 - Staff Meetings
 - Parent-Teacher Meetings
 - Staff Room
 - System
- Pressure
 - Beginning of the year (Staff Unhappy; Good vs. Not Good)
 - Breakdown
 - Faux-pas (cf. Mr. Marin insulting some students)

Conclusion

- Translates multicultural France
- Social milieu of school
- Closer to reality