

Start of production for **LA PLUS PRECIEUSE DES MARCHANDISES**

Paris, June 7, 2019 - Michel Hazanavicius will adapt the tale of Jean-Claude Grumberg, **LA PLUS PRECIEUSE DES MARCHANDISES**, into an animated feature film. This timeless and deeply moving tale, already a best-seller in France since its publication by *Editions du Seuil* in January 2019, will be translated into more than ten languages including English in 2020.

Michel Hazanavicius will co-write the script with Jean-Claude Grumberg. He will also direct and create the graphic design of the movie. Production will start in 2020 for a theatrical release scheduled for 2022.

LA PLUS PRECIEUSE DES MARCHANDISES is produced by Ex Nihilo (Patrick Sobelman and Robert Guédiguian) and Les Compagnons de Cinéma (Florence Gastaud, Riad Sattouf and Michel Hazanavicius), co-produced by Les Films du Fleuve (Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne) and STUDIOCANAL. The animation will be created by Prima Linéa (Valérie Schermann).

STUDIOCANAL is co-developing the film and will handle all rights including international sales.

Synopsis:

"Once upon a time there was a poor woodcutter couple living in the depths of a Polish forest. The wife lamented on not having children.

Once upon a time there was a Jewish family, two newborn twins and their parents, who were arrested in Paris and deported to Auschwitz.

In the train that brought them to their certain death, the father made a crazy gesture. In an ultimate and desperate hope, he threw one of his twins out of the train.

One day, when the wife was watching a train that she thought was carrying goods, a package was thrown out of a window and fell into the snow. As though it were a gift from heaven, this small commodity turned out to be what she was waiting for so fervently. A child.

This event will forever change the destiny of this tale's protagonists, which will take us from the death camps to the intimacy of a woman who decides, despite the danger she incurs, to become the mother of this most precious merchandise.

Opposing the force of life to the industry of death, Grumberg's tale succeeds in finding something beautiful to tell about what will forever remain a stain in the history of mankind."

Michel Hazanavicius

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