



C'est Arrivé Près de Chez Vous

Man Bites Dog

Rémy Belvaux, André Bonzel, Benoit Poelvoorde

Belgium, 1991, 95 minutes
Black and White/35mm

Production Company: Les Artistes Anonymes

Producer: Les Artistes Anonymes

Screenplay: Rémy Belvaux, André Bonzel, Benoit
Poelvoorde, Vincent Tavier

Cinematography: André Bonzel

Editor: Eric Dardill, Rémy Belvaux

Sound: Alain Opezzzi, Vincent Tavier

Music: Jean-Marc Chenut

Special Effects: Olivier de Lavelaye

Principal Cast: Benoit Poelvoorde, Rémy Belvaux,
André Bonzel

Print Source: Roxie Releasing, 3110 16th Street,
San Francisco, California, USA 94103. Tel: (415)
431-3611. Fax: (415) 431-2822.

Foreign Sales Agent: World Marketing Film, 8 rue
Lincoln, 75008 Paris, France. Tel: (331) 42 25 84
20. Telex: 641 306 WOFILM. Fax: (331) 42 25 67 52.

Belgium, much like Canada, has produced its share of serious documentarians, chronicling the mundane lives of its citizens. *Man Bites Dog*, every frame dripping with irony and blood, turns this tradition on its head and kicks it in the teeth. Ben is a Belgian serial killer. Rémy, André and their film crew need a suitable subject for their new documentary. A match made in heaven. Ben, a natural in front of the camera, is not at all shy about sharing his professional secrets and philosophical insights with the viewing audience. Nor is he reticent about showing us the meat of his work. We follow Ben from body-dumping sessions to a choreographed strangulation, from (literally) scaring the life out of a grandmother to a Manson-like rape and murder. Throughout, Ben is a jaunty source of arcane and practical details about life and flesh wounds. He clearly has a great deal of professional pride, but still likes a good party (even when barfing up massive quantities of moules frites). The film crew becomes increasingly entangled in Ben's strange lifestyle. At first, they are concerned liberals, shocked by his behaviour and seeking his inner motivation. But, as their admiration for Ben increases, they join in the fun. Soon enough they giggle through a throat-slitting orgy and gleefully slaughter a video crew which is following another serial killer. (Gotta curtail the competition, after all.) The good times seem destined to last forever. *Man Bites Dog* has chosen its targets well. Skewers equally impale media hype around self-aggrandizing crime celebrities and our voyeuristic fascination with "America's Most Wanted" blood and guts. Smart, sick and searingly funny, *Man Bites Dog* is a riotous stab at our newest cultural icons and their media protectors. Mass murder has never been this much fun.

Rémy Belvaux was born in Namur, Belgium, in 1966 and studied animation at La Cambre and filmmaking at INSAS in Brussels. He has made many short films in and out of school. **André Bonzel**, born in 1961 in Paris, also attended INSAS, but didn't manage to graduate. **Benoit Poelvoorde** was born in 1964 in Namur, studied at l'École de Recherches Graphiques in Brussels. He was the Prince Carnaval. In 1988, the trio collaborated on the short film, *Pas de C4 pour Daniel-Daniel*, which was filmed in Cinemascope. *Man Bites Dog* (91) is their first feature film.