



## BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

### **ENZO** (15)

Director: Robin Campillo

Starring: Eloy Póhu, Pierfrancesco Favino and Élodie Bouchez

France/Belgium/Italy, 2025, 1 hour 42 minutes, French/Ukrainian + English subtitles

Enzo, 16, defies his bourgeois family by starting a masonry apprenticeship, rejecting the future mapped out for him. In their sun-drenched villa in the South of France, tensions simmer as questions about his choices intensify. On-site, a charismatic Ukrainian colleague, Vlad, unsettles and expands his world.

Directed by Robin Campillo but credited as "a film by Laurent Cantet", Enzo stands as a valedictory to Cantet, who died last year aged 62. Friends and collaborators for more than 40 years (*Time Out*, *Heading South* and Palme d'Or winner *The Class*), Campillo said "I've edited six of his films and co-wrote five of them." Spare and direct, yet incisive in its portrait of male adolescence, *Enzo* forms a resonant coda to Cantet's body of work. "It's not my film," Campillo insists. "It's the person who carries the project in his head and heart and feels it is necessary to make the film...that is Enzo for Laurent. But I directed it."

With casting nearly complete, Laurent was back in the hospital. "We knew it was a tough diagnosis, but things accelerated quickly," Campillo recalls. "Laurent was able to tell the two main actors they had been cast. One week later, he was gone." Shooting began weeks after his death. "I found it was more joyful...than to just stop everything. It would have been like a second death... Jumping into filming...prevented me from diving into sadness...It was the film of a friend."

The film contrasts Enzo's privileged drift toward the frontlines with Vlad's fear of being sent to fight in Ukraine. "Enzo is an enigma to us and to himself," Campillo says. "He doesn't feel like he fits into his family or his social class, and he is also experiencing fluidity both sexually and politically." Though its Mediterranean setting recalls *Call Me By Your Name*, Campillo avoids cliché: "It's a sexual awakening without sex."

Quotes from *How Robin Campillo helped guide the late Laurent Cantet's last film 'Enzo' to the big screen* by Rebecca Leffler (**Screen Daily**)

Notes compiled by Charlie Wainwright-Jones (Shropshire Young Curators)

Preview courtesy of Curzon Film

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