

# AROUND A SMALL MOUNTAIN

(36 Vues du Pic Saint Loup)

The new film by Jacques Rivette

With Jane Birkin and Sergio Castellitto

Premiered at the Venice Film Festival 2009

Selected for the forthcoming London Film Festival 2009



**France/Italy 2009 / 84 min / Certificate: tbc**

**Release date: November 2010 (tbc)**

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*new wave films*

## **Around a Small Mountain**

<b>Director</b>	Jacques Rivette
<b>Screenplay</b>	Jacques Rivette, Pascal Bonitzer, Christine Laurent, Shirel Amitay
<b>Dialogue</b>	Pascal Bonitzer
<b>Director of photography</b>	Irina Lubtchansky
<b>Sound</b>	Olivier Schwob
<b>Editor</b>	Nicole Lubtchansky
<b>Sound Editor</b>	Georges-Henri Mauchant
<b>Costumes</b>	Laurence Struz
<b>Set</b>	Manu de Chauvigny, Giuseppe Pirrotta
<b>Make-up</b>	Ignazi Ruiz
<b>Hair</b>	Pilartxo Diez
<b>Production Managers</b>	Pierre Wallon, Elisabetta Olmi
<b>Produced by</b>	Maurice Tinchant and Martine Marignac (Pierre Grise Productions)
<b>Co-produced by</b>	France 2 Cinéma ; Cinemaudici (Luigi Musini, Roberto Cicutto and Ermanno Olmi); Rai Cinema ; Alien Produzioni (Sergio Castellitto and Margaret Mazzantini)
<b>With the participation of</b>	Canal+, France 2, RAI Cinema, Centre National de la Cinématographie, Italian Ministry of Culture

France / Italy 2009 / 84 min / 35mm / Colour

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### CAST

Kate	Jane Birkin
Vittorio	Sergio Castellitto
Alexandre	André Marcon
Marlo	Jacques Bonnaffé
Clémence	Julie-Marie Parmentier
Margot	Hélène de Vallombreuse

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### SYNOPSIS

On the eve of the troupe's summer tour, the owner and founder of a small circus dies suddenly. In order to save their season, the troupe decides to ask his oldest daughter, Kate, to step in. Even though she walked out on the circus fifteen years before, to everyone's surprise, she agrees to put her new life on hold and join them. By chance, she crosses paths with an Italian, Vittorio. Intrigued by Kate and fascinated by the circus lifestyle, he decides to follow them. Gradually, he becomes part of the life of the troupe, eventually taking the plunge and joining the show. But above all, he tries to uncover Kate's secret—why did she leave the circus and why did she agree to return? At the end of the tour, they go their separate ways. But which way?

## Around a Small Mountain

### Jacques Rivette

Born in Rouen in 1928

### Selected Filmography

2007	DON'T TOUCH THE AXE
2003	THE STORY OF MARIE AND JULIEN
2001	VA SAVOIR
1998	SECRET DEFENSE
1995	HAUT, BAS FRAGILE
1994	JEANNE LA PUCELLE 2: THE PRISONS
1994	JEANNE LA PUCELLE 1 : THE BATTLES
1991	LA BELLE NOISEUSE : DIVERTIMENTO
1991	LA BELLE NOISEUSE
1988	LA BANDE DES QUATRE
1985	HURLEVENT
1984	L'AMOUR PAR TERRE
1981	MERRY-GO-ROUND
1976	NOROIT
1974	CELINE AND JULIE GO BOATING
1969	L'AMOUR FOU
1966	LA RELIGIEUSE
1960	PARIS NOUS APPARTIENT
1949	AUX QUATRE COINS

## Around a Small Mountain

### Jane Birkin – Selected Filmography

**Blow-up** by Michelangelo Antonioni • **La piscine** by Jacques Deray • **Je t'aime moi non plus** by Serge Gainsbourg • **La fille prodigue** by Jacques Doillon • **L'ami de Vincent** by Pierre Granier-Deferre • **La pirate** by Jacques Doillon • **L'amour par terre** by Jacques Rivette • **Dust** by Marion Hänsel • **Le neveu by Beethoven** by Paul Morrissey • **Soigne ta droite** by Jean- Luc Godard • **Comédie !** by Jacques Doillon • **Kung-fu Master !** by Agnès Varda • **Jane B. par Agnès V.** by Agnès Varda • **Daddy Nostalgie** by Bertrand Tavernier • **La belle noiseuse** by Jacques Rivette • **On connaît la chanson** by Alain Resnais • **Reines d'un jour** by Marion Vernoux • **Boxes** by Jane Birkin • **Around a Small Mountain** by Jacques Rivette

### Sergio Castellito – Selected Filmography

**Magic Moments** by Luciano Odorisio • **La Famiglia** by Ettore Scola • **Alberto Express** by Arthur Joffé • **La Carne** by Marco Ferreri • **Rossini Rossini** by Mario Monicelli • **Toxique Affair** by Philomène Esposito • **L'Uomo delle Stelle** by Giuseppe Tornatore • **Le cri de la soie** by Yvon Marciano • **Quadrille** by Valérie Lemerrier • **Que la lumière soit !** by Arthur Joffé • **A vendre** by Laetitia Masson • **Va savoir !** by Jacques Rivette • **Ne quittez pas !** by Arthur Joffé • **The Wedding Director** by Marco Bellocchio • **Paris I Love You** • **Chronicles of Narnia :PrinceCaspian** by Andrew Adamson • **Around a Small Mountain** by Jacques Rivette

## Around a Small Mountain

### On *Around A Small Mountain* by H el ene Frappat

Since *Paris nous appartient*, the theatre has constituted an acid test for Rivette's heroines, each novice actor becoming herself through the words of someone else: her role. For the traps of theatrical language, the circus substitutes clowns' masks and acrobats' death-defying feats: "It's the most dangerous place in the world where anything's possible, where eyes are opened and my eyes were opened."

Like *Lola Montes*, fully aware that she risks her life in the ring, Kate ( Jane Birkin) must perform the whip number in order to be excised of her grief. "I feel like I've had an operation. I'd become used to my sickness, to my grief." Interpreting Rilke's advice to a young poet, ("All the dragons in our lives are perhaps princesses in distress asking to be released.") Vittorio stages the risky number designed to free Kate of the memory that stops her from living (the tragic death fifteen years earlier of the man she loved).

In Jacques Rivette's oeuvre, the circus becomes the image of the danger that art compels us to confront in order to release our fears. Unlike the heroines of *Haut Bas Fragile* who develop "terrifying games" because "there's no bigger thrill than fear", Vittorio, the accidental stage director, gives himself the mission of saving princesses.

In this respect, *Around a Small Mountain* is an encapsulation or even, to employ an expression rarely used today, poetic art: Jacques Rivette provides his audience with a stunning opportunity, in 84 magical minutes, to experience the existential test to which art (occasionally) confronts us.