

**The Big Blue to play on Romania's largest screen
in the presence of Jean-Marc Barr**

One of the most important films of the 1980s, Luc Besson's *Le grand bleu / The Big Blue* (1988) returns to Romania 30 years after its premiere, this time on the largest screen, in the Unirii Square in Cluj, as the closing night film for the 17th edition of the **Transilvania International Festival**. The screening will take place on June 3rd, 2018, at 9:45 PM, in the presence of lead actor **Jean-Marc Barr**, and will be presented as a double feature with Lefteris Charistos's spectacular *Dolphin Man* (2017), which tells the story of legendary diver Jacques Mayol, Besson's inspiration for the film.

Based on a true story, *The Big Blue* follows Jacques Mayol (Jean-Marc Barr) and Enzo Maiorca (Jean Reno), two divers whose friendship, traced back to their Greek childhoods, turns into a legendary sports rivalry. Their love for the oceans' depth and drive to new mark new records, even at the price of their own life, are rendered in breath-taking images accompanied by a memorable score by Eric Serra. Shown out of competition at Cannes in 1988, the film received eight César nominations and became one of the biggest box office successes in France, with over 9 million entires sold. Jacques Mayol, who himself contributed to the script, was described upon his death by President Jacques Chirac as "an immortal symbol of the *Big Blue* generation."

Born in West Germany to a French mother and an American father, **Jean-Marc Barr** was nominated for an acting César for his role in *The Big Blue*. He is also one of Lars Von Trier's favorite actors, having worked with him on *Europa, Breaking the Waves, Dancer in the Dark, Dogville*, and *Nymphomaniac*. In 1999 he made his directorial debut with *Lovers*, which he also wrote and produced. Jean-Marc Barr is one of TIFF's special guests this year, and he will be present for both the screenings of *The Big Blue* and of the documentary that inspired it.

In fact, Jean-Marc Barr narrates *Dolphin Man*, a documentary on Jacques Mayol, the revolutionary diver who reconnected the depths of the oceans with the depths of human consciousness. Rare archival images from the 1950s combine with spectacular underwater footage and testimonies from those who knew Mayol. Lefteris Charistos's documentary was launched last fall at the Thessaloniki Film Festival, and is nominated for the Greek film academy awards which will be handed out next month.

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The Transilvania International Film Festival is organized by the Association for the Promotion of Romanian Film and the Association for the Transilvania Film Festival.