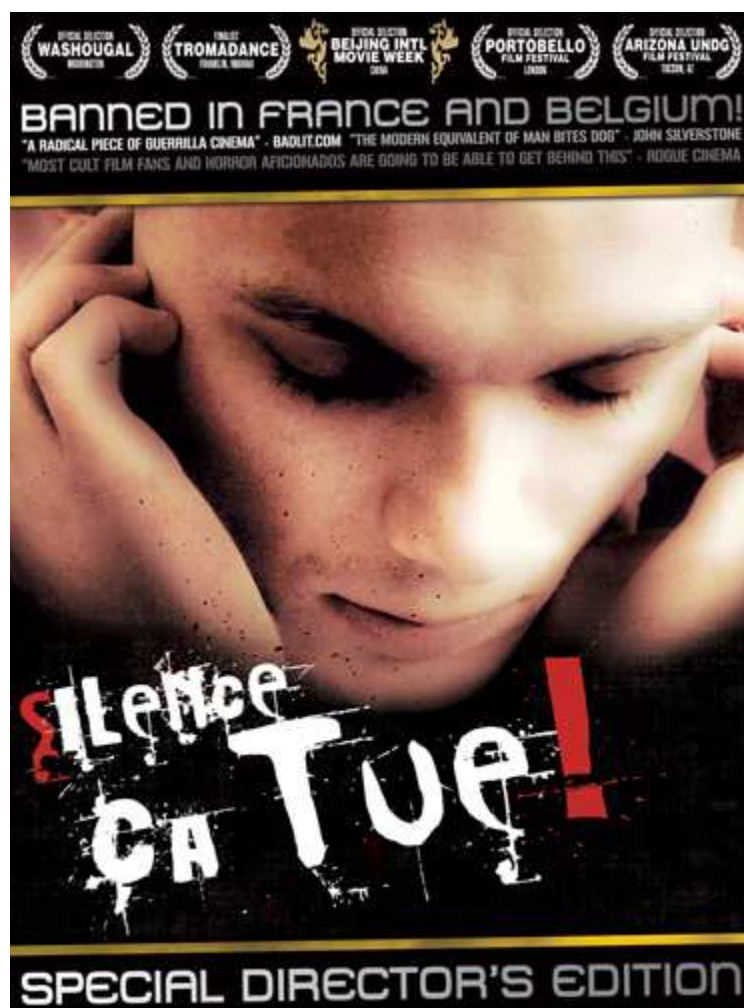


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**Banned Belgian film perfectly utilizes pseudo-documentary style**

*written and directed by Christophe Lamot*

The pseudo-documentary style of filmmaking can be hit or miss. It may be a cheap way to make a movie on a small budget, but it's also a difficult style to execute effectively. Belgian filmmaker Christophe Lamot makes it look easy with his 2008 independent film, **Silence, We Are Shooting!** (also known under its French title,

**Silence ca tue!**) It has been banned in France and Belgium, but it's now available in the United States for the first time via Brink DVD.



The movie follows a pretentious director, Chris (played by Lamot), and his crew of guerrilla filmmakers as they set out to make a “live movie” (that’s a documentary in layman’s terms). They’re fed up with how cinema is run by those with financial and political power, so they rent some equipment and go out on their own to make the movie — by any means necessary. They end up documenting a murder for which they are responsible, and the body count doesn’t stop at just one. (“After one murder why not another one?” remarks a character.) They realize that what they are doing is wrong but always manage to justify their actions.

Comparisons between **Silence** and 1993’s **Man Bites Dog** are inevitable. Not only are they both killer mockumentaries, but the connection is also warranted due to the shared dark humor. Although the plot of **Silence** reads like a horror/thriller, it often comes off as a pitch-black comedy. The bulk of the film is made of up characters’ banter, but it will keep you entertained.



The film is engaging because the viewer never knows what to expect. Very little “happens” throughout the 65-minute duration. Sure, there are deaths and other plot points, but they take a backseat to the study of the character. We follow these engaging personalities and become invested in them. It also helps that the acting is great, particularly by Lamot. As the snide director he manages to come off as both an anarchist and a

megalomaniac. The documentary style is well-executed; the film looks great and makes the viewer feel like a bit of a voyeur. It also gives the film a more organic feel (look no further than the perfect opening credit sequence), allowing for a suspense of belief for a few less-than-logical moments.

The subtitles on the DVD aren't perfect; although it's never a problem, it's still enough to irk a perfection like myself. The disc also includes seventeen minutes of behind-the-scenes footage and a brief featurette about Ljo Menzow, the director alter ego of Lamot. It's clear that Lamot put a bit of himself into his critique of Belgian cinema. The personal touch helps make the low budget effort a fine film.



## 1 Comment(s)

1. *Comment by shufa on September 25, 2009 [1:21 pm](#)*

Greetings Horror Fans, this is John Silverstone, Vice President at BRINKDVD. ([john@brink.com](mailto:john@brink.com))  
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