

= Mélanie Laurent =

Mélanie Laurent (French pronunciation : [melani lo?? ?] ; born 21 February 1983) is a French actress , singer , screenwriter and director . Born in Paris to a Jewish family , she was introduced to acting at the age of sixteen by French filmmaker Gérard Depardieu , who cast her in a minor role in the romantic drama *The Bridge* (1999) . The recipient of two César Awards , a Étoiles d 'or du cinéma français , and a Lumières Award , Laurent has established herself as an accomplished actress in the French film industry .

Laurent gained recognition for her supporting work in several French films , most notably the 2006 Franco @-@ Belgian comedy *Dikkenek* for which she won Étoiles d 'Or for Best Female Newcomer . Her breakthrough role came in the 2006 French drama film *Don 't Worry , I 'm Fine* for which she later won the César Award for Most Promising Actress , and the Prix Romy Schneider . Laurent made her Hollywood debut in 2009 with the starring role as Shosanna Dreyfus in Quentin Tarantino 's blockbuster war film *Inglourious Basterds* . She garnered critical acclaim for her performance in the film and won the Online Film Critics Society and the Austin Film Critics Association Award for Best Actress .

While she has worked mainly in independent films , including *Paris* (2008) and *Enemy* (2013) , Laurent has also appeared in commercially successful Hollywood films including , the comedy drama *Beginners* (2011) , and the caper film *Now You See Me* (2013) , the former earning her a nomination at the San Diego Film Critics Society Award for Best Supporting Actress . Laurent 's other notable works include the art @-@ house drama *The Round Up* (2010) , the comedy drama *Et soudain , tout le monde me manque* (2011) , and *Night Train to Lisbon* (2013) . She is also known for voicing Mary Katherine and Disgust in the French dubs of *Epic* (2013) and *Inside Out* (2015) respectively .

In addition to her film career , Laurent has appeared in stage productions in France . She made her theater debut in 2010 in Nicolas Bedos 's *Promenade de santé* . The short film *De moins en moins* (2008) marked her debut as a filmmaker . Her feature film directorial debut *Respire* (2014) was screened at the International Critics ' Week section at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival . She made her singing debut with a studio album *En t 'attendant* in May 2011 ; the album contains twelve songs , five of which are co @-@ written and co @-@ produced by Irish folk musician Damien Rice .

= = Early life = =

Laurent was born in Paris , France the daughter of Annick , a ballerina , and Pierre Laurent , a voiceover actor (who dubs the character Ned Flanders in the French version of *The Simpsons*) . She is Jewish , of both Ashkenazi (from Poland) and Sephardic (from Tunisia) ancestry . Her grandfather survived deportation by the Nazis . Her maternal grandparents were film poster editors . She grew up in the 9th arrondissement of Paris . Her Jewish grandfather was deported from Poland during the Nazi occupation .

Laurent visited the set of *Asterix and Obelix* with her friend and the latter 's father . Her acting career began when actor Gérard Depardieu , seeing Laurent there , asked her if she wanted to be in films . Laurent replied , " Why not ? " . He strongly advised her not to take acting classes because he believe she already had the necessary skills . When Laurent was 16 , Depardieu gave her a part in *The Bridge* , a drama he starred in and co @-@ directed with Frédéric Auburtin . Laurent played the role of Lisbeth Daboval , the daughter of one of the protagonist of the film , Claire Daboval .

= = Career = =

= = = Debut and early success (2006 @-@ 2008) = = =

Laurent played minor roles in a number of films early in her career . She appeared in Michel Blanc 's drama *Summer Things* , Jackie Chan 's comedy @-@ drama *Rice Rhapsody* , Jacques Audiard 's

drama *The Beat That My Heart Skipped* and the war film *Days of Glory* about the Free French Forces .

Laurent breakthrough role came in 2006 , when she played a sullen 19 @-@ year @-@ old who longed for her lost twin brother , in Philippe Lioret 's *Don 't Worry , I 'm Fine* . She won a César Award for Most Promising Actress for her performance . In a review for *Variety* , Ronnie Scheib praised Laurent and wrote that she , " makes her vibrant character 's downward spiral totally believable without indulging in moody sullenness " . That same year , she and Belgian actor Jérémie Renier were awarded France 's Romy Schneider and Jean Gabin Prizes for most promising actor and actress . Laurent then starred in the Franco @-@ Belgian *Dikkenek* , a comedy directed by Olivier Van Hoofstadt that has attained a cult film over the years owing to its Belgian @-@ style humour . For her performance in the film , Laurent won the Étoiles d 'Or for Best Female Newcomer .

In 2007 , Laurent appeared in films including *Le tueur* and *Hidden Love* . She was nominated for the Lumières Award for Best Actress for her performance in *La Chambre des morts* . Laurent next appeared in Cédric Klapisch 's 2008 comedy drama *Paris* , a French film concerning a diverse group of people . The film has an ensemble cast including Laurent , Juliette Binoche , Romain Duris , Fabrice Luchini , and François Cluzet . The film was well received by the critics with praise directed majorly towards Laurent and the rest of its cast .

Laurent made her directorial debut with *De moins en moins* , which she also wrote , a 7 @-@ minute film about a patient who " remembers less and less " in front of her psychiatrist . The film was nominated for Best Short Film at the 61st Annual Cannes Film Festival . She also directed *À ses pieds* , an erotic short film aired on the French television channel Canal + on 25 ? 26 October 2008 , as part of a series of short films , called *X Femmes* .

= = = Hollywood debut and breakthrough (2009 @-@ 2010) = = =

Laurent was scheduled to direct her first play , *Mi @-@ cuit c?ur pistache* (the name of a dessert she particularly likes) in January 2009 at the Théâtre Marigny in Paris . She had to abandon the project when she was cast as Shosanna Dreyfus , a Parisian theater owner whose family was killed by Nazi Colonel Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz) , who seizes the opportunity to lure the S.S. into her theater for murderous revenge in the Quentin Tarantino film *Inglourious Basterds* alongside Brad Pitt , Diane Kruger and Christoph Waltz . It was a French @-@ language role for which she learned to speak English for a few scenes . The film was a huge commercial and critical success , grossing over \$ 321 million in theaters worldwide . Laurent 's performance was praised by several critics . Kyle Buchanan of *Movieline* wrote : " Mélanie Laurent provides *Inglourious Basterds* its heart and soul . It falls to the 26 @-@ year @-@ old French actress to anchor some of the World War II film 's most challenging scenes as Shosanna . "

Owen Gleiberman of *Entertainment Weekly* wrote that Laurent should have received the nomination at the 16th Screen Actors Guild Awards saying , " In drawing attention to one performer , in particular , whom they left out of the Best Supporting Actress category , [...] I flat @-@ out adore this performance and I suspect that many others do too , " and further lauding Laurent 's performance added , " [Laurent] is radiant and , in a unique Tarantino way , heartbreaking . Sexy and luminous in the heat of her valor . Putting out fire ? and setting it . It becomes an anthem of noirish dread and excitement , a sign that Laurent , as Shosanna , has found her destiny . "

In an interview , Laurent said that she went into *Inglourious Basterds* with an adoration for Quentin Tarantino . " [The French] don 't see him like an independent director ; we just see him as the best director , ever , [from the United States] . " About the process of auditioning , Laurent said that she knew right from the start that this was a film she had to be in as she felt a connection to her role in the film , because the history of her Jewish family .

In addition , Laurent won a number of accolades for her portrayal of Shosana including Austin Film Critics Association Award for Best Actress and Online Film Critics Society Award for Best Actress , and nominations at the Detroit Film Critics Society Awards , Empire Award for Best Actress , and Saturn Award for Best Actress among others . The highly anticipated film , which had been in

development since 1998 , marked Laurent 's first major role in an American film and Laurent found herself pushed into mainstream success in North America .

Laurnet 's partner Julien Boisselier , as well as Marie Denarnaud , Mélanie Doutey , and Louise Monot were to act in the production while short film clips were to be projected on stage , some of them shot at the nightclub Le Baron , which Laurent used to frequent during the writing period .

In 2010 , Laurent starred in *The Round Up* , a French film directed by Roselyne Bosch , and produced by Alain Goldman , alongside Jean Reno , Sylvie Testud , and Gad Elmaleh . Based on the true story of a young Jewish boy , the film depicts the Vel ' d 'Hiv Roundup , the mass arrest of Jews by French police who were Nazi accomplices in Paris in July 1942 . The film and the Laurent 's performance was well received by the critics , with Peter Bradshaw of *The Guardian* deeming it " well acted " . John Anderson of *Newsday* lauded Laurent saying that she gave an " inspiring performance as a gentile nurse " .

= = = Continued success (2011 ? present) = = =

Laurent had also planned another feature film , *Putain de pluie !* , produced by Alain Attal 's Productions du Trésor , whose script she co -@- wrote with Morgan Perez and which she intended to direct . Originally set for filming in the spring of 2009 , it was postponed because of her work on *Inglourious Basterds* . Knowing that she could speak French , and had already acted in French in one of the short films in Paris , *je t 'aime* , she offered the first role to Natalie Portman , who declined because of the script 's language .

Laurent played the part of the violinist in Radu Mihăileanu 's *Le Concert* ? she called it " a smart movie and a popular movie " , and added that she was , " glad because French people wanted to watch a movie with classical music . " Mick LaSalle of *San Francisco Chronicle* called it a " role with great technical demands " and praising Laurent wrote , " she 's extremely subtle and reserved [...] " *The Concert* " constitutes a breakthrough for her , in that it unlocks her emotional floodgates " .

Laurent hosted both the opening and closing ceremonies of the 64th Cannes Film Festival . In 2011 , she teamed with Mike Mills , appearing opposite Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer in *Beginners* , a comedy drama that marked Laurent 's second English @-@ speaking role in Hollywood . Laurent plays Anna , an irreverent French actress . Loosely based on Mills ' own life , the film depicts the story of a father coming out of the closet at the age of 75 after the death of his wife of 45 years . The film opened to critical acclaim and Laurent 's performance was well received , with Calvin Wilson of *St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch* remarking that Laurent imbued a " soulful charisma " into the role .

Laurent made her singing debut in May 2011 with a studio album *En t 'attendant* , under the label of Atmosphériques . Produced by Joel Shearer , the album contains twelve songs , five of which are co @-@ written and co @-@ produced by Irish folk musician Damien Rice . The album peaked at number 22 and number 35 on the Belgian Albums Charts and French Albums Charts respectively . She recorded the album with Rice , living between Woodstock , New York and his home in Ireland . In an interview , Laurent revealed that spending time at Rice 's home in Ireland inspired her to maintain a compost heap and eat organic food .

Laurent then starred opposite Jeremy Irons in *Night Train to Lisbon* , a 2013 drama film based on the novel of the same name directed by Bille August . Jessica Kiang of *Indie Wire* noted that Laurent was " given less to do " but lauded her performance writing that she , " makes the most of her truncated screen time " .

Laurent appeared in the Louis Leterrier 's 2013 caper film *Now You See Me* as a French Interpol agent who investigates the bank theft alongside Mark Ruffalo and an ensemble cast . The film was a major commercial success grossing over 351 @.@ 7 million dollars , receiving mixed reviews but praise for the performances of the entire cast . Todd McCarthy of *The Hollywood Reporter* gave Laurent the highest praise and wrote , " [Laurent] is responsible for the only measurable amount of warmth the film exudes . "

Laurent 's next release , the Canadian @-@ Spanish psychological thriller film *Enemy* , directed by Denis Villeneuve , was screened at the Special Presentation section at the 2013 Toronto

International Film Festival . Loosely adapted by Javier Gullón from José Saramago 's 2002 novel The Double , the film opened to critical acclaim . The film starred Jake Gyllenhaal as two men who are physically identical , but different in terms of personality . Laurent and Sarah Gadon co @-@ star as the romantic partners of the men .

In 2014 , Laurent appeared in Aloft , a 2014 drama film written and directed by Claudia Llosa , alongside Jennifer Connelly and Cillian Murphy . The film premiered in competition at the 64th Berlin International Film Festival . Laurent voiced Mary Katherine in Blue Sky Studios ' Epic , and Disgust in Pixar 's Inside Out in the French dubs of the animated films .

In 2015 , Laurent starred alongside Laurent Lafitte , in François Favrat 's French drama film Boomerang adapted from the bestseller entitled A Secret Kept by Tatiana De Rosnay . The film released on 23 September 2013 to positive critical reviews . The Hollywood Reporter wrote , " Boomerang is a solid if somewhat conventionally made whodunit that benefits from a strong cast and a plot that hooks you for most of the running time . " Laurent then starred as Léa in Angelina Jolie 's By the Sea , an American drama film , written and directed by Jolie . The film also stars Jolie and Brad Pitt , and was released on 13 November 2015 , by Universal Pictures .

= = Personal life and off @-@ screen work = =

Laurent was in a long @-@ term relationship with fellow French actor Julien Boisselier which ended in 2009 . In March 2013 , she revealed that she had married but refused to name her spouse . She told The Independent , " he was a crew member and I was an actress . " Her first child with her husband , a son named Léo , was born in September 2013 . Laurent described recording artist Damien Rice and filmographer Quentin Tarantino as two " masters " in terms of their art .

The men 's web portal AskMen ascribed Laurent 's sex appeal to her " pixie @-@ like charm and big , expressive eyes " and added that she " radiates a natural , understated magnetism on screen " . She has established herself as a major young talent in French cinema . In a 2009 interview , Laurent explained that she does not have ambitions to be a crossover actress . She stated that she loved France , her street , her café , and not having to use a car . Rather than go on to work on a big budget American film after Inglourious Basterds , her next role was in a small theater piece in France .

Laurent has written and directed several French films and in an interview with Indiewire admitted she loves writing : " [Writing is] especially super exciting because you have everything to do and most of your ideas come from that first part ? you just imagine things , and you imagine actors . " She described the shooting process as " the fun part " because of : " working with people I love ? it ? s always a great human moment because we ? re sharing things and it ? s good to see people who are here for you and your story , to tell your story . It ? s really beautiful , it ? s why I love making movies . "

Laurent has visited a Climate Defenders Camp in the peatlands of the Indonesian Rainforest with Greenpeace activists . She is one of the Climate Ambassadors for Kofi Annan 's Global Humanitarian Forum " Tck Tck Tck " Campaign . Laurent has also joined the campaign against overfishing at the invitation of the Blue Marine Foundation , and was cast for the voice @-@ over of the documentary The End of the Line . She was one of the leading celebrities in the successful campaign Fish Fight France , which asked for a new European law lowering the level of fish discards in European seas .

= = Filmography and awards = =

= = = Selected filmography = = =

= = = Accolades = = =

For her role in Don 't Worry , I 'm Fine Laurent won the César Award and Lumières Award in the Most Promising Actress category . She received numerous accolades for her role in Inglorious Bastards including Best Actress Award at the Austin Film Critics Association Awards and Online Film Critics Society Awards among others . Laurent 's film Demain won the César Award for Best Documentary Film .

= = Discography = =