

# Tell No One 2008

## (Ne le dis à personne)

Friday, October 3 - Thursday, October 16, 2008



### Film Information

**Written and directed by**  
Guillaume Canet

**Language**  
French with English subtitles

**Running Time**  
125 minutes

### Film Notes

Throughout his life, Alfred Hitchcock suffered from what he described as a “natural fear of police.” It was that fear, and especially the terrifying notion of being accused of a crime someone else committed, that fueled the plots of various Hitchcock films, most obviously *THE WRONG MAN* (1956) starring Henry Fonda, in which the theme is right there in the title. The French directors who would come to form the New Wave in the early 1960s loved Hitchcock, and among them Jean-Luc Godard had a particular fondness for *THE WRONG MAN*.

More than 50 years later, Hitchcock’s influence is apparent in the work of another, very different French filmmaker, Guillaume Canet, though this “wrong man” story also draws upon a more contemporary (and stateside) source. Canet adapted *TELL NO ONE* from the novel by American author Harlan Coben, an international best-seller that’s been translated into 27 languages. As it has with millions of readers worldwide, the novel captivated Canet. “As I read the book, I could picture the film in my mind’s eye,” he says. “I knew exactly what I wanted to do with it and, after we

had written the script, as we were getting ready to shoot, I tried to ensure I never lost sight of those initial emotions.”

While certain elements of the book had to be excised for the screen version—and the action moved from New York to a Parisian setting—Canet relished taking on the novel’s various characters. And it’s a noteworthy cast he brought together to do so, including Cesar Award-winner François Cluzet as Dr. Alexandre Beck, Marie-Josée Croze (last seen here as a nurse in *THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY*) as his wife Margot, veteran actor Jean Rochefort, Marina Hands (last seen here in *LADY CHATTERLEY*), and celebrated British actress Kristin Scott Thomas.

—Casey



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“Tell no one. They’re watching.”

**More Information**

**Based on the novel by**  
Harlan Coben

**Featuring**

François Cluzet  
Marie-Josée Croze  
André Dussollier  
Kristin Scott Thomas  
François Berléand  
Nathalie Baye  
Jean Rochefort  
Marina Hands  
Gilles Lellouche  
Philippe Lefebvre

**Cinematography by**  
Christophe Offenstein

**Film Editing by**  
Hervé de Luze

**Music by**  
Mathieu Chedid

**Distributor**  
Music Box Films

**Country of Origin**  
France

“The difficult thing was tying together all the leads that make book so good. If you take too many out, it becomes a process of deduction and the end-result is explicative, with no emotion. If you’re not lost in the plot, it’s pointless. After you’ve seen the movie so many times, you tend to want to simplify it, but you have to remember the emotion you felt first time round when you wanted to follow each and every lead. On the other hand, the advantage of watching the film over and over is that you are able to cut out actors you admire, even in scenes you really liked, because you know there are plenty of others. It does them a favor, by the way, because you only keep the best scenes. One evening, I was talking with [French musician] Matthieu Chedid, who said that the reason why Beatles songs are so short and so good is that they are so condensed. All that’s left is the best. I’ve always worked with music, so that really meant something for me. The next day, in editing, I took out quarter of an hour of the film.”

—Director Guillaume Canet

**Also Recommended**

The 39 Steps 1935 (Dir. Hitchcock)  
The Wrong Man 1956 (Dir. Hitchcock)  
Vertigo 1958 (Dir. Hitchcock)  
North by Northwest 1959 (Dir. Hitchcock)  
The French Connection 1971 (Dir. Friedkin)  
Chinatown 1974 (Dir. Polanski)  
Marathon Man 1976 (Dir. Schlesinger)  
Memento 2000 (Dir. Nolan)