

Hadewijch

Bruno Dumont (France)

The film's name comes from a 13th-century mystic and poet who wrote of her love for God, but French director Bruno Dumont (*L'Humanité*, *The Life of Jesus*) is a contemporary story of fundamentalist extremism in the face of the apparent absence of God. A religious novice and politician's daughter (Julie Sokolowski), is asked to leave the convent for her particularly zealous religious practices. Tortured by her inability to feel Christ's presence, she finds improbable kinship with a Muslim boy and his radical Islamic brother, leading to catastrophic results. In the tradition of Carl Dreyer, Robert Bresson and Ingmar Bergman, *Hadewijch* is about the dilemma of modern spirituality and specifically about one young woman's struggle for transcendent meaning to her life, against a background of contemporary politics, race, class and terror. *L.L.*