



# The Monk (Le Moine)

Autumn  
Season  
2012

**Release:** 2011

**Cert (UK):** 15

**Runtime:** 101 mins

**Director:** Dominik Moll

**Cast:** Vincent Cassel, Déborah François and Joséphine Japy



'The Monk' is a French film, based on the controversial 1776 gothic novel by English writer Matthew Lewis. This was an international best seller at the time, inspiring many from the Marquis de Sade to Luis Bunuel.

Set in Spain, it tells the story of Ambrosio, who is abandoned as a baby outside a Capuchin Monastery. The monks take him in and bring him up. As an adult, he becomes a charismatic preacher, drawing large crowds.

But this is a story of temptation, of falling from grace, so the life of this Saintly monk inevitably has to take a turn for the worse. In this case, he is lured from the straight and narrow by the arrival of a monk wearing a mask, supposedly because of a fire, who is not what he seems. Even a Saint can be tempted, and Ambrosio is no exception. His life becomes a struggle against the forces of the Devil...

Brother Ambrosio is played to great acclaim by Vincent Cassel, most famous in the UK for his more upbeat roles in 'Black Swan' and 'Ocean's Twelve' and 'Ocean's Thirteen' In this case he has to be far more restrained, but the energy of his performance powers through.

The Director, Dominik Moll, is German born but works in France. He has been nominated for the Palme D'Or at Cannes for both his most famous films - the psychological thrillers 'Harry, He's Here to Help' and 'Lemming' - and has been compared to Alfred Hitchcock and Harold Pinter in his style. He has avoided the temptation (!) of making this movie into a Ken Russell, 'The Devils' replay, instead attempting to take Gothic fantasy back to its original roots

