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## La Boîte de Poudre

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★★★★★★

Quenelle's critically acclaimed oeuvre finally gets another deserved outing, this time in its entirety. Largely unseen by modern audiences the story centres around the appearance of a bloody stain on a white silk chemise. Those familiar with Quenelle will, of course, recognise this as the metaphor present in all his work, the battle between good and evil. The stain's appearance is after all the result of a visitation by barbarian hordes. The iconic scene when Attila fires the blood-drenched arrow required two weeks and 50,000 extras on horseback. It is also the cue for our heroine to begin

her epic journey to rescue humanity from the abyss. On the way she must find Shangri-la and wrestle Mephistopheles on the edge of the Angel Falls. The 29-minute tracking shot along her husband's left boot, at the height of her desperation, remains a cinematic masterpiece. The film, of course, finds redemption in its final scene when the chemise is pulled out of the gloriously deadpan washer/drier, and is spotlessly clean. Quenelle's epic Homeric odyssey finally gets its long overdue reward. (When first released the full 3 hours 27 minutes running time got cut down to 20 seconds.)

Film4 and Campaign are getting together to reward those ads that are mini masterpieces in their own right. There are two categories: contemporary, from 2001 onwards, and vintage from 1956 to 2000. The ads don't even have to have run. They just have to be 60 seconds or more. So if your homage to Kurosawa (a 10 second dogfood cutdown in a test market) deserves to be seen in all its glory, download your entry form at [www.film4directorscut.com](http://www.film4directorscut.com)

