

# ANIMATION FIRST

January 25-27  
2019

NYC's Festival  
of French Animation

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.....  
*Chers amis,*

Following the great success of our inaugural Festival last year, I am thrilled to present the second edition of FIAF's *Animation First*.

This year's Festival will celebrate France's prominent role as Europe's largest producer of animated film. We will present a wide array of provoking films and exciting shorts. In addition, there will be immersive exhibits, video game demonstrations, panels with leading animators and film executives, and much more.

*Animation First* highlights the Best of Bordeaux, putting a spotlight on the City of Bordeaux's animation industry. In recent years, the city has become a burgeoning market for animation, gaming, and virtual reality, attracting the Cartoon Movie industry forum and a new Ubisoft studio.

Michel Ocelot, our Guest of Honor and legendary director, will open *Animation First* with a screening of his groundbreaking feature, *Kirikou and the Sorceress*, celebrating its 20th anniversary. He will share the stories of his successful career.

.....  
We are excited to present an exclusive work-in-progress showcase of *The Swallows of Kabul*, directed by French filmmakers Zabou Breitman and Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec.

You will discover the unique Pinscreen animation instrument through shorts, a panel, and workshops.

Throughout the weekend, you can immerse yourself in the worlds of virtual reality, video games, and augmented reality.

We will close out the Festival with a program of shorts nominated for 2019 César Awards. Join us for this rare opportunity to see these acclaimed works on the big screen.

I look forward to welcoming you to *Animation First* 2019 and celebrating the richness of French animation!

À bientôt,

Marie-Monique Steckel  
President

.....  
**Animation First  
2019  
Curated by**

**Catherine  
Lamaire**  
Founder  
of Focus  
on French  
Cinema

**Delphine  
Selles-Alvarez**  
FIAF Film Curator

.....  
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- Feature Film
- Shorts, Shorts, Shorts!
- Discussions
- Work-in-Progress
- VR, AR, Workshops
- ☺ For Kids Too!



## Animation First Focus on Bordeaux

Bordeaux is not only the wine capital of the world and a UNESCO world heritage site, it also fosters a rich cultural community.

Home to many graphic artists, Bordeaux has opened its doors to the worlds of animation and graphic novels. Bordeaux-based publishers (Cornelius, Requins Marteaux), producers (Capricci, Marmitifilms, SchmuBy Productions), and schools regularly collaborate in the region on exciting projects in their fields.

Since 2017, Bordeaux has hosted Cartoon Movie, Europe's premier professional pitching and co-production event for animated features.

In addition to this vibrant ecosystem, companies from the video game industry such as Ubisoft, Asobo Studio, and Nova-box, as well as studios like SolidAnim, which specializes in special effects and virtual reality, play a major role in the animation industry.

Bordeaux is also home to one of the only cinemas in Europe exclusively devoted to animation. For the last 28 years, this unique cinema, Le Festival, has organized *Les Nuits Magiques*, a popular animation festival under the patronage of Michel Ocelot, *Animation First's* Guest of Honor this year.

**"It's an honor to be able to showcase Bordeaux's talented artists and filmmakers on this side of the Atlantic. It has been a priority of mine to support the creative industries within our region, so I am delighted that they will be presented as part of FIAF's *Animation First* festival."**

—Alain Juppé,  
Mayor of Bordeaux

### Highlights from Bordeaux

#### Le Port de la Lune

An UMANIMATION VR short  
Part of VR Exhibition all weekend  
in the FIAF Gallery

#### Late Night Chills

Shorts from Marmitifilms and  
SchmuBy Productions, and  
selection by *Les Nuits Magiques*  
Sat, Jan 26, 10:30pm

#### Robinson & compagnie

Distributed by Capricci  
Sun, Jan 27, 11am

#### Videos Games

Produced by Asobo (*A Plague Tale*),  
Nova-box (*Seers Isle*) and Ubisoft  
Sat, Jan 26–Sun, Jan 27, 11am–6pm

#### White Fang

Presented at Cartoon Movie  
and produced in Angoulême  
Sun, Jan 27, 12:45pm

#### Mastering Special Effects

A presentation with SolidAnim  
on motion capture and virtual  
reconstruction  
Sun, Jan 27, 4:30pm

## Michel Ocelot

### Guest of Honor

#### Azur & Asmar: The Princes' Quest

Inspired by the folklore of North Africa and the Middle East, this original fairy tale takes place in a staggeringly beautiful fantasy world. Michel Ocelot surprises and disturbs in a powerful call for tolerance.

#### L'Image Originelle by Pierre-Henri Gibert

This extract from a documentary series detailing the formative experiences of master filmmakers making their first films captures Michel Ocelot discussing the process behind *Kirikou and the Sorceress*. This 26 minute clip will loop throughout the weekend.

#### Kirikou and the Sorceress

Steeped in popular African folktales, Ocelot brings to life the exquisite adventures of little Kirikou—a smart and courageous boy who must save his village. This enchanting film fuses African mythology and stunning imagery, which broadened the scope of what animation could accomplish on screen.

#### Ivan Tsarevitch and the Changing Princess

Using his gorgeous trademark silhouetted style, Michel Ocelot conjures far-away lands of Indian palaces and Slavic castles in this film. He plays with traditional fairy tale tropes and reinvents them.

#### Only Yesterday (Souvenirs goutte à goutte) Homage to Takahata

Michel Ocelot presents one of his favorite films by Isao Takahata, the renowned filmmaker and co-founder of Japan's famed Studio Ghibli. Takahata, who passed away in 2018, was greatly inspired by French animation and helped introduce works such as Ocelot's *Kirikou* to Japanese audiences.

#### Conversation with filmmaker Michel Ocelot

Ocelot discusses his career, from the critical success of *Kirikou and the Sorceress* to his most recent feature *Dilili in Paris*, which premiered in France in June 2018.

#### Michel Ocelot Selected Shorts

In this program of eclectic shorts handpicked by Michel Ocelot for the Festival, audiences can discover the influences which shaped and inspired Ocelot's career as a filmmaker.

**Fri, Jan 25 at 11am**

**FIAF Florence Gould Hall**

*Part of FIAF's*

*Young Audience Program*

**Fri, Jan 25–Sun, Jan 27**

**FIAF Tinker Auditorium**

**US Premiere**

*In French with English subtitles*

*Courtesy of Caimans Productions,  
Ciné+ and the Gan Foundation  
for Cinema.*

**Fri, Jan 25 at 7pm**

**FIAF Florence Gould Hall**

**Sat, Jan 26 at 11am**

**FIAF Florence Gould Hall**

**Sat, Jan 26 at 12:45pm**

**FIAF Florence Gould Hall**

**Sat, Jan 26 at 3pm**

**FIAF Skyroom**

**Sun, Jan 27 at 3:30 pm**

**FIAF Florence Gould Hall**



## Michel Ocelot

### Guest of Honor

*Animation First* celebrates filmmaker Michel Ocelot, a master of French animation, on the 20th anniversary of the release of *Kirikou and the Sorceress*. The film marked a turning point in the industry when it was released in 1998.

#### Biography

Born on the Côte D'Azur in France, Michel Ocelot spent his childhood in Guinea and his adolescence in Anjou. He studied decorative arts in Paris and attended CalArts in Los Angeles, before settling in Paris to devote his entire career to animated cinema.

In 1998, the public discovered Michel Ocelot with his first feature *Kirikou and the Sorceress*. His other animated features include *Princes and Princesses*, a fairy tale told through silhouettes, and *Kirikou and the Wild Beasts*, co-directed with Bénédicte Galup. His fourth feature film *Azur & Asmar: The Princes' Quest* (2006), set on the banks of the Mediterranean Sea, was selected by the 2006 Cannes Film Festival as part of the Directors' Fortnight.

His short films include *The Three Inventors* (BAFTA for best animated film, London, 1980), *The Legend of the Poor Hunchback* (César for best animated short film, Paris, 1983).

His latest feature, *Dilili in Paris*, set during the Belle Époque, was released in France in the fall of 2018.







## Animation First

### Events for Professionals and Students

#### Professional Workshop

Digital technology innovators—**Aymeric Castaing, Emmanuel Linot, and Olivier Palmieri**—will speak about France's place at the frontier of new storytelling tools in entertainment & beyond.

#### Masterclasses

**Michel Ocelot** will present and discuss *Azur & Asmar: The Princes' Quest* with students in SVA's History of Animation class.

**Zabou Breitman** will discuss her career as an actress, filmmaker, and stage director with students at Fordham University.

**Michèle Lemieux** will speak about the pinscreen instrument for Pratt's Digital Art Lecture Series and review student work.

#### Young Audience Program

**Azur & Asmar: The Princes' Quest**  
**Post-screening Q&A with Michel Ocelot**  
 Dir. Michel Ocelot, 2006, 99 min  
 Special screening for school groups throughout the tristate area.

**Fri, Jan 25 at 4:30pm**  
**FIAF, Le Skyroom**  
 Introduced by Fabien Robert,  
 Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux.

**Thu, Jan 24 at 12pm**  
**School of Visual Arts (SVA)**

**Fri, Jan 25 at 10am**  
**Fordham University**

**Wed, Jan 30 at 12:45pm**  
**Pratt Institute**

**Fri, Jan 25 at 11am**  
**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
 Part of FIAF's  
 Young Audience Program

**Friday, January 25**  
 Films & Party

**Kirikou and the Sorceress** p.8  
**Erotic Shorts** p.9

**Opening Night**



## Kirikou and the Sorceress ☺ Kirikou et la Sorcière

*Kirikou and the Sorceress* is one of France's most iconic animated films. Released in 1998, this enchanting tale fuses African myth and stunning imagery and possesses a sophisticated sensibility which delights adults and children alike.

Drawing on popular African folktales, director Michel Ocelot—who spent his childhood in Guinea—brings to life the exquisite adventures of little Kirikou, a smart and courageous boy who must save his village from a flesh-eating sorceress and her terrible curse. Kirikou encounters friends and foes, including a monster, a skunk, squirrels, wise men, and the sorceress Karaba's army of watchmen.

The film's gorgeous animation is accompanied by an original score by acclaimed musician Youssou N'Dour.

Preceded by:

**Le port de la Lune**  
Short produced by Umanimation

Join us at 8:30pm for  
the Opening Night Party  
in FIAF, Tinker Auditorium

**Fri, Jan 25 at 7pm**

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Ages 6–adult**

70 min. DCP Restored.  
Dir. Michel Ocelot, 1998.  
In French with English  
subtitles.

**Highlight from Bordeaux**

2 min 10 sec  
Dir. Aymeric Castaing, 2017  
No dialogue.



## Erotic Shorts

Erotic Shorts returns to *Animation First* with sensual, naughty, poetic, and risqué works. This year's selection celebrates passion and desire.

*69SEC*  
Dir. Laura Nicolas, 2016

*Biciklisti* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Veljko Popović, 2018

*Do it yourself*  
Dir. Agnès Clarie, Chloé Masure,  
Louise Petit, 2017

*Hamam*  
Dir. Florence Miaihle, 1991

*Intimity*  
Dir. Élodie Dermange, 2017

*La joie de vivre*  
Dir. Anthony Gross  
& Hector Hoppin, 1934

*Le clitoris*  
Dir. Lori Malépart-Traversy, 2016

*Pixel Joy*  
Dir. Florentine Grelier, 2012

*Simbiosis Carnal*  
Dir. Rocío Álvarez, 2017

*Vibrato*  
Dir. Sébastien Laudenbach, 2017

Join us at 8:30pm for  
the Opening Night Party  
in FIAF, Tinker Auditorium

**Fri, Jan 25 at 9:30pm**

**FIAF, Le Skyroom**  
**Mature Audiences**

60 min. Digital.  
In French with English  
subtitles, or no dialogue.



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Saturday, January 26

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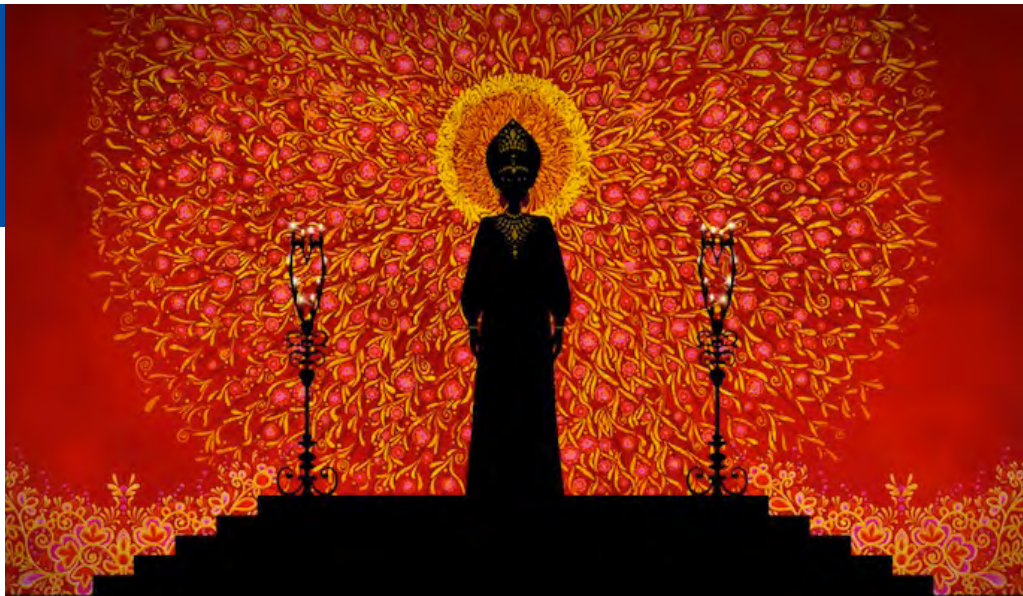
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## Ivan Tsarevitch and the Changing Princess ☺

Michel Ocelot conjures far-away lands of Indian palaces and Slavic castles in a film named after a figure from Russian folklore. Every night, two children meet with an old cinema projectionist, and together they let their imaginations run wild, becoming adventurers in their own fairy tales.

With delightful and delicate imagery, using his gorgeous trademark silhouetted style, Ocelot subtly probes gender stereotypes and plays with traditional fairy tale tropes. Whimsical and beautifully crafted, *Ivan Tsarevitch and the Changing Princess* possesses both a childlike sense of wonder and striking sophistication.

**Sat, Jan 26 at 11am**

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Ages 6–adult**

53 min. DCP.  
Dir. Michel Ocelot, 2016.  
In French with English subtitles.

## Documentary Shorts

*Animation First* presents a selection of student-made documentary shorts marking the tenth anniversary of the partnership between the Angoulême-based EMCA school of animation and CREADOC, a prominent university program dedicated to training future documentary filmmakers. At times touching and tender, sometimes crude and harsh, these films offer an insightful look at French society.

**Sat, Jan 26 at 12pm**

**FIAF, Le Skyroom**  
**Mature audiences**

70 min. Digital.  
In French with English subtitles.

*Comme une vraie famille*  
Dir. Edgar Collin, Camille Halepin, Mathilde Lathière, Paul Wasilewski, 2017

*Culture du vivant*  
Dir. Patrick Arnault, Ariane Teillet, Clarissa Dorival, Emmeline Barc, 2017

*Dernier âge*  
Dir. Charlène Bijou, Alice Lahourcade, Isis Leterrier, Thibaud Llonch, Linxi Zhang, 2017

*De silence et de bruit*  
Dir. Anne Escot, Claire Messenger, Romane Pauvert, Gaëlle Roques, 2017

*Ici cet ailleurs*  
Dir. Alexandre Arnold, Pierre Cassel, Corentin Cholley, Noémie Gauthier, 2017

*Itinéraire Bis*  
Dir. Clémentine Lathelier, Naomi Birot, Lorédane Chun Hung Kee, 2017

*Le leveur de maux*  
Dir. William Gloria, Hugo Malezieux, Adèle Le Gouvello, Tommy Tahir, 2017

*L'invisible*  
Dir. Louise Grébaut, Laurine Kotte, Gautier Paille, Robin Val, 2017

*Vifs*  
Dir. Nicolas Mayeux, Clémentine Campos, Manuel Morvant, 2016

*One After the Other*  
Dir. Nicolas Pégon, 2018

*Lupus*  
Dir. Carlos Gomez Salamanca, 2016

*Haenyo, les femmes de la mer*  
Dir. Eloïc Gimenez, 2018



## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRODUCERS,  
DIRECTORS, ARTISTIC TEAMS AND STUDENTS FOR  
THEIR SUCCESSFUL CREATIONS SELECTED BY FIAF  
FOR 2019 ANIMATION FIRST

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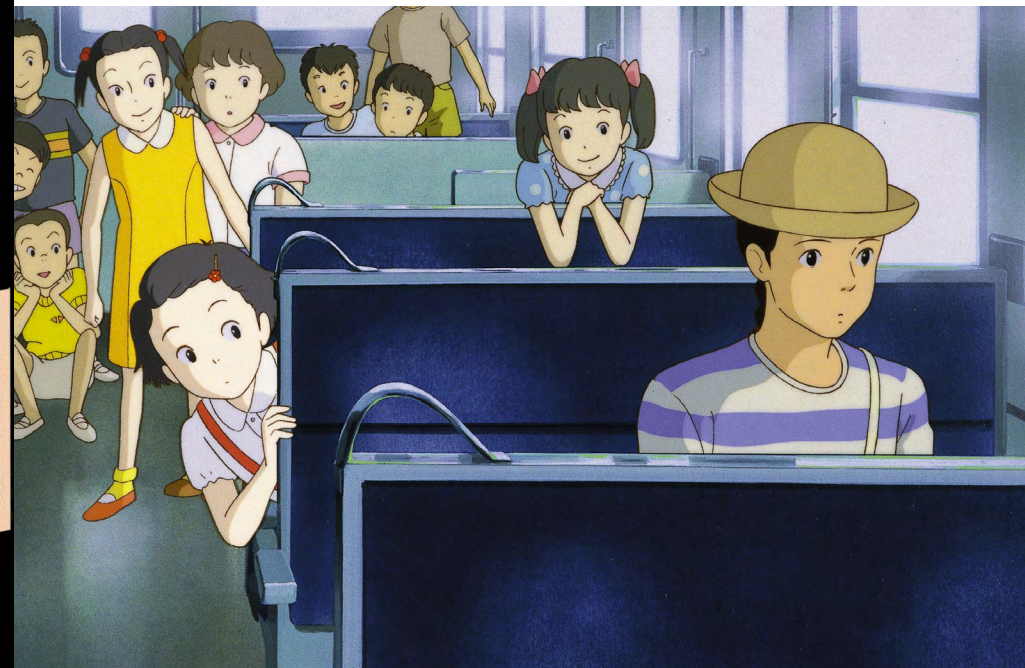
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## Only Yesterday ☺ Homage to Takahata

Animation First's Guest of Honor, Michel Ocelot, presents *Only Yesterday*, one of his favorite films by Isao Takahata, co-founder of the famed Studio Ghibli who passed away in 2018.

*Only Yesterday* follows Taeko, a 27-year-old unmarried woman who has spent her whole life in Tokyo. Taeko decides to visit her relatives in the countryside to take part in the safflower harvest.

As her train travels through the night, memories of her childhood rush back. Upon her arrival in the countryside, she is met by Toshio, a young farmer. Her stay turns into a period of longing and questioning, as Taeko is consumed by memories of growing up and events that have shaped her as a woman.

Switching between past and present, *Only Yesterday* is a beautiful and subtle film, emotionally honest and rich with humor.

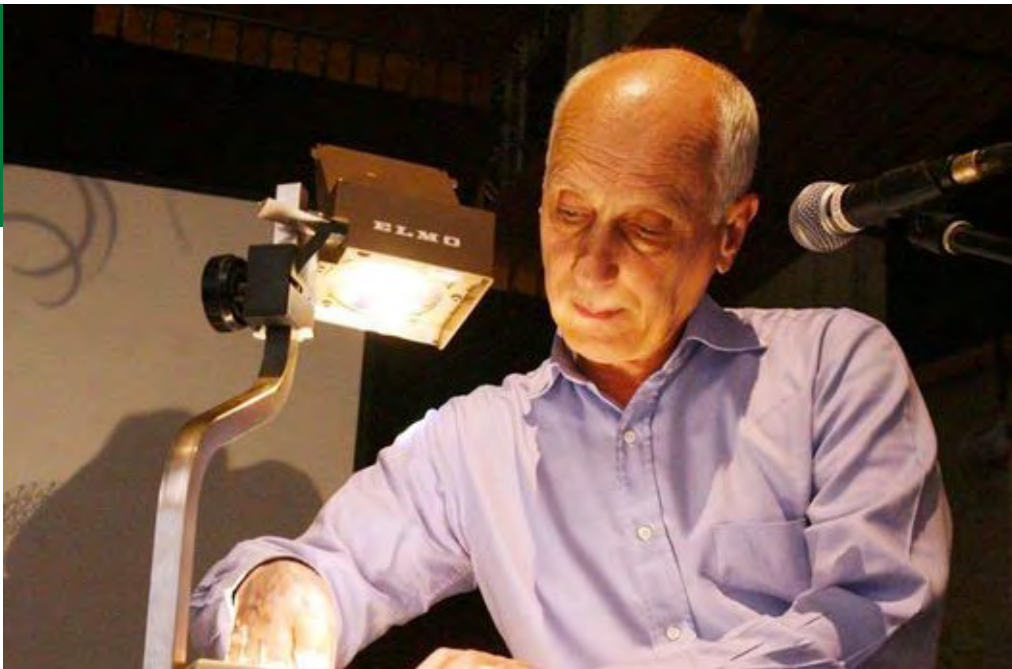
Introduction  
by Michel Ocelot

Sat, Jan 26 at 12:45pm

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
Ages 10–adult

120 min. DCP.  
Dir. Isao Takahata, 1991.  
In English.





## Conversation with Michel Ocelot

### Guest of Honor

In a conversation with filmmaker Candy Kugel, Festival Guest of Honor Michel Ocelot will discuss his career from the critical success of *Kirikou and the Sorceress* to his most recent feature, *Dilili in Paris*. Short films from his early career will be screened.

## Video Game Panel

With the development of new technologies, video games have evolved into one of the most fascinating sectors of the entertainment industry, merging visual artistry, musical prowess, and captivating narratives.

Join Frédéric Chesnais, CEO of Atari, and Olivier Palmieri, Director of Atelier XR and Game Director at Ubisoft Montréal, as they discuss the history of video games, current trends, and predictions for the industry.

Panelists will also address various steps in making a video game, and skills needed to work in the industry both currently and in the future.

**Sat, Jan 26 at 3pm**

**FIAF, Le Skyroom**

75 min. In English.  
Moderated by filmmaker  
Candy Kugel

**Sat, Jan 26 at 5:30pm**

**FIAF, Le Skyroom**  
**Ages 13-adult**

75 min. In English.  
Moderated by Jean-Michel  
Blottière, President of Game  
for Change Europe.



## Best of Annecy Shorts

The Annecy International Animation Film Festival is the biggest animated film festival in the world. Every year, it brings thousands of people to southeastern France to discover the latest animated gems, current and future trends, and to meet filmmakers and creators.

Straight from the 2018 edition, *Animation First* presents the best shorts from across the globe, selected by Annecy Festival curators. The opening sequence is created by students of Gobelins, l'école de l'image in Paris.

*Bom Dia Rio*  
Dir. Simon Cadilhac, Victor Chagniot,  
Nathan Crabot, Dongsan Kim,  
Théo Tan Ngoc, 2018

*Weekends* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. Trevor Jimenez, 2017

*Hybrids*  
Dir. Florian Brauch, Matthieu Pujol,  
Kim Tailhades, Yohan Thireau,  
Romain Thirion, 2017

*Egg* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. Martina Scarpelli, 2018

*Biciklisti* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Veljko Popović, 2018

*Inanimate* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Lucia Bulgheroni, 2018

*Barbeque* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. Jenny Jokela, 2017

*Afterwork* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. Luis Usón and  
Andrés Aguilar, 2017

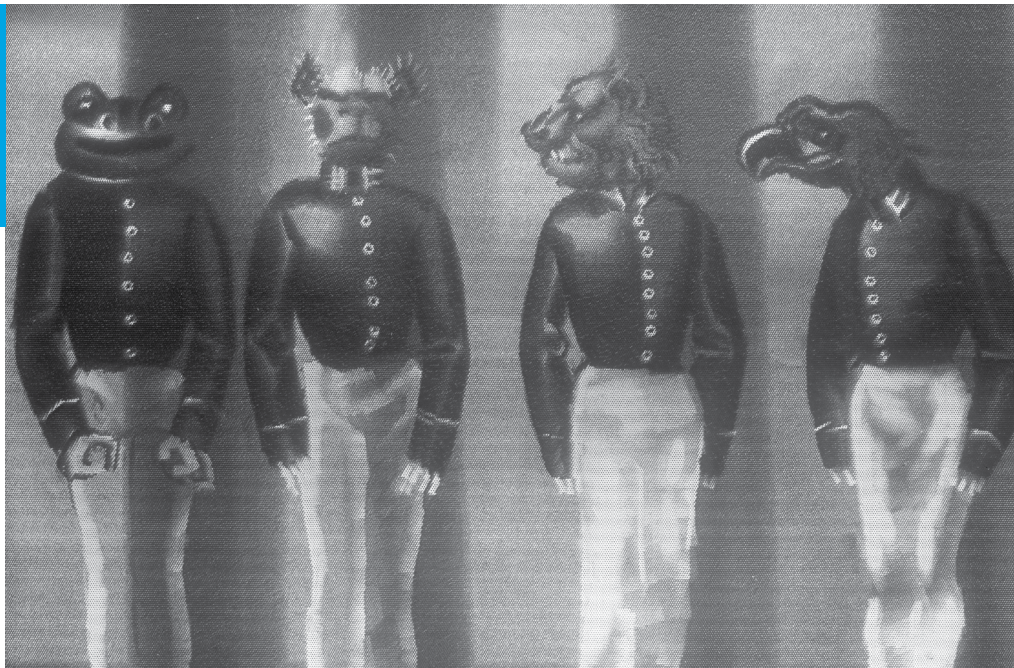
*Bloeistraat* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. Nienke Deutz, 2018

**Sat, Jan 26 at 3:30pm**

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Mature Audiences**

70 min. Digital.  
In French with English  
subtitles, or no dialogue.





## Pinscreen Magic Shorts ☺

The pinscreen instrument, highlighted throughout this year's Festival, produces beautiful and lyrical black and white short films.

This program showcases the first film made with the pinscreen in 1933 by its creators, Alexeïeff and Parker; films from Canada by Drouin and Lemieux; as well as the most recent pinscreen film made in 2018 by Justine Vuylsteker.

This program is curated in collaboration with the CNC and ONF.

*Une nuit sur le mont chauve*  
Dir. Alexandre Alexeïeff,  
Claire Parker, 1933

*En passant*  
Dir. Alexandre Alexeïeff, 1943

*Le Nez*  
Dir. Alexandre Alexeïeff,  
Claire Parker, 1963

*Tableaux d'une exposition*  
Dir. Alexandre Alexeïeff,  
Claire Parker, 1972

*Le Paysagiste*  
Dir. Jacques Drouin, 1976

*Une leçon de chasse*  
Dir. Jacques Drouin, 2000

*Here and the Great Elsewhere*  
Dir. Michèle Lemieux, 2012

*Étreintes* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. Justine Vuylsteker, 2018

Followed by a Q&A  
with special guests

**Sat, Jan 26 at 5:30pm**

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Ages 12–adult**

70 min. Digital.  
In French with English  
subtitles, or no dialogue.

Post-screening Q&A:  
Alexandre Rockwell, filmmaker  
(*In the Soup*) and grandson of  
Alexandre Alexeïeff;  
Michèle Lemieux, filmmaker  
(*Here and the Great Elsewhere*);  
Jean-Baptiste Garnerio &  
Sophie Le Tétour, CNC–  
Direction du patrimoine  
cinématographique.



## Funan ☺

Inspired by the life of his mother, Denis Do's first feature film *Funan* is a beautiful story of resilience in the face of unspeakable hardship.

Set in 1975 under Cambodia's brutal Khmer Rouge regime, *Funan* follows Chou, a young Cambodian mother searching for her 4-year-old son who was taken away from her. Facing the same fate as millions of Cambodians, Chou and her family live through years of separation, starvation, and forced labor.

Despite her circumstances, Chou finds the strength to survive and remains determined to find her son. Chou's harrowing path is set amidst the sweeping beauty of Cambodia's countryside, lending a powerful backdrop to this wrenching ordeal.

The film is the winner of the Crystal Award, Annecy International Animation Film Festival's top prize, and the Grand Prize and Audience Award at Los Angeles's Animation is Film Festival.

Post-screening Q&A  
with director Denis Do

**NY Premiere**  
**Sat, Jan 26 at 7:45pm**

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Ages 12–adult**

84 min. Digital.  
Dir. Denis Do, 2018.  
In French with English  
subtitles.

# Sunday, January 27



## Late Night Chills A Nuits Magiques Festival Selection

These spooky and enchanting French shorts were selected by *Les Nuits Magiques*, an international animation festival based in Bordeaux and one of the oldest of its kind. The shorts, many of which were produced in Bordeaux, represent a collection of imaginative, surreal, and gripping works which have expanded the science fiction and suspense genres in animation.

*Mon Homme (Poulpe)* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Stéphanie Cadoret, 2016

*Peripheria* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. David Coquard-Dassault, 2015

*Fin de Loup* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Stéphanie Cadoret, 2010

*Saison Mutante* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Jimmy Audoin, Delphine Chauvet, 2009

*A l'intérieur* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Amélie Poirier, 2018

*La nuit des sacs plastiques* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Gabriel Harel, 2018

*Le jardin de minuit* (US Premiere)  
Dir. Benoît Chieux, 2018

*The Bolt Connection* (NY Premiere)  
Dir. Claire Cartier, Mathilde Dourdy, Maurine Lecerf, Shih-Hui Pan, Nicolas Lebas, Thibault Grunenberger, 2018

*Xian*  
Dir. Roxane Campoy, Pauline Ledu, Myriam Belkheyar, Gwenaëlle Bavoux, 2017

### Highlights from Bordeaux

Sat, Jan 26 at 10:30pm

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall  
Mature Audiences**

70 min. Digital.  
In French with English subtitles, or no dialogue.

Robinson & compagnie [p.22](#)

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## Robinson & compagnie ☺

.....  
Jacques Colombat offers a poetic, whimsical, and original take on the Daniel Defoe classic, *Robinson Crusoe*. The film is made with traditional 2D techniques and celluloid characters.

To fulfill his dreams of traveling around the world, Robinson joins the crew of a majestic ship departing from London. When a storm causes the ship to capsize, Robinson is suddenly the sole survivor on a deserted island with only a tight-lipped dodo bird at his side. As Robinson settles into his new surroundings, he comes across a motley crew of pirates, a tribe of cannibals, and other odd characters including his eventual companion, Friday.

.....  
Preceded by:

### Pantoufle

Short from ECV Bordeaux, school of animation

## Highlights from Bordeaux

.....  
**Sun, Jan 27 at 11am**

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Ages 6–adult**

73 min. DCP. Restored.  
Dir. Jacques Colombat, 1991.  
In French with English subtitles.

.....  
3 min.  
Dir. Maïa Esquerre, 2018,

## White Fang ☺ Croc-Blanc

.....  
Based on the eponymous 1906 novel by Jack London, this elegantly animated adaptation follows White Fang, a young wolf-dog pup, through a series of encounters with animals and humans in the Yukon Territory during the 1890s Gold Rush.

For his first feature film, Alexandre Espigares, who co-directed the Oscar-winning short *Mr. Hublot* (2013), captures the essence of London's rugged tale but softens the edges for a younger crowd. The detailed oil-painting-textured visual technique makes for a strikingly beautiful and vivid retelling of White Fang's story.

The film's extensive and expert use of motion capture for humans and dogs will be discussed in a panel on special effects in the Skyroom on Sunday at 4:30pm (see page 24).

.....  
Preceded by:

### Le chant des cigales

Short from ECV Bordeaux, school of animation

## Highlights from Bordeaux

.....  
**Sun, Jan 27 at 12:45pm**

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Ages 10–adult**

85 min. DCP.  
Dir. Alexandre Espigares, 2018.  
In English.

.....  
2 min.  
Dir. Florent Tailhades  
& Gabriel Romain, 2018



## Panels

### The Legacy of the Pinscreen

Canadian filmmaker Michèle Lemieux and representatives from France's national agency for cinema (CNC) join us for an in-depth conversation of the pinscreen instrument. Weaving in film clips and photos, the discussion will guide the audience through the history of the pinscreen—from its creation in the 1930s by artists Alexandre Alexeïeff and Claire Parker, to filmmaking on the pinscreen in Canada since the mid-1970s, and more recent efforts in Canada and France. Panelists will discuss the restoration of the last original pinscreen made by its creators and training a new generation of filmmakers on the device.

## Mastering Special Effects: Motion Capture and Virtual Reconstruction

Emmanuel Linot, CEO of French-based virtual production studio SolidAnim, and Jean-François Szlapka, its General Manager, will discuss two techniques they used to create visually stunning effects for the film *White Fang* and others. The first technique, motion capture, accurately depicts the movements of men and dogs in *White Fang*. The second, virtual reconstruction, transports audiences to meticulously detailed historical settings such as the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1889.

**Sun, Jan 27 at 12:30pm**

**FIAF, Le Skyroom**  
**Ages 13–adult**

75 min. In English.  
With filmmaker Michèle Lemieux, and Jean-Baptiste Garnero and Sophie le Tétour (CNC–Direction du Patrimoine cinématographique).

**Highlights from Bordeaux**

**Sun, Jan 27 at 4:30pm**

**FIAF, Le Skyroom**  
**Ages 13–adult**

75 min. In English.  
With Emmanuel Linot and Jean-François Szlapka



## Work-in-Progress:

### The Swallows of Kabul

Co-directors Zabou Breitman and Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec present an intimate behind-the-scenes look at the making of *The Swallows of Kabul* (*Les Hirondelles de Kaboul*).

This film, to be released in 2019, is based on the bestselling novel by Yasmina Khadra and produced by Les Armateurs (*Persépolis*, *Kirikou* and *the Sorceress*).

Using clips and film stills, Breitman and Gobbé-Mévellec will discuss various aspects of bringing this animated feature to life, including the genesis of the project, adapting the book in animation, their visual choices and graphic universe, as well as working with living actors.

**Sun, Jan 27 at 2:30pm**

**FIAF, Le Skyroom**  
**Ages 13–adult**

75 min. In English.  
With Zabou Breitman and Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec





## Michel Ocelot Selected Shorts

Introduction  
by Michel Ocelot

Animation First's Guest of Honor, Michel Ocelot, presents a personally curated program of eclectic shorts for the Festival. These films inspired him as a filmmaker. Selections include Jean-François Laguionie's César-award-winning *Rowing Across the Atlantic* (1978), as well as puppet master Jiří Trnka's *The Hand* (1965).

*Haut Pays des neiges*  
Dir. Bernard Palacios, 1989

*Rowing Across the Atlantic*  
Dir. Jean-François Laguionie, 1978

*Une bombe par hasard*  
Dir. Jean-François Laguionie, 1969

*The Hand (Ruka)*  
Dir. Jiří Trnka, 1965

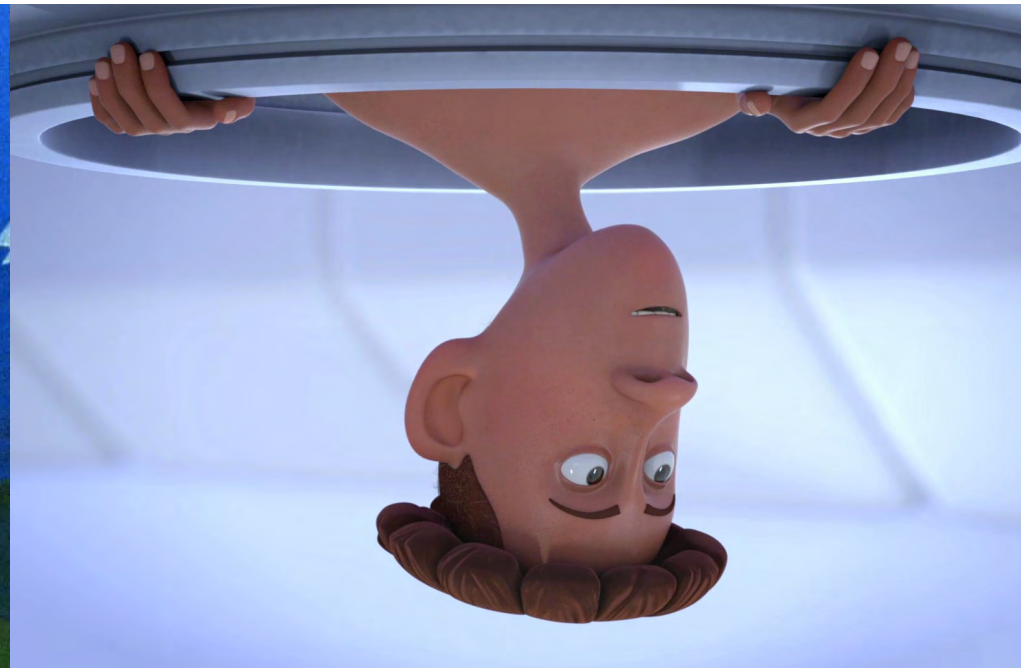
*Sientje*  
Dir. Christa Moesker, 1997

*Le Petit Soldat*  
Dir. Paul Grimault, 1948

Sun, Jan 27 at 3:30pm

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Ages 12–adult**

75 min. Digital.  
In French with English  
subtitles, or no dialogue.



## Comedy Shorts

This program brings together a diverse selection of comedic shorts featuring witty, burlesque, absurd, and darkly humorous works. Films include shorts from Nicolas Deveaux's new TV series *Athleticus* about the summer Olympic games.

*Oktapodi*  
Dir. Julien Bocabeille, François-Xavier Chanioux, Olivier Delabarre, Thierry Marchand, Quentin Marmier, Emud Mokhberi, 2007

*Los Días de los muertos*  
Dir. Pauline Pinson, 2017

*Voyagers*  
Dir. MoPa, 2017

*Hors Piste*  
Dir. Léo Brunel, Loris Cavalier, Camille Jalabert, Oscar Malet, 2018

*La Mort, Père et Fils*  
Dir. Denis Walgenwitz, Vincent Paronnaud, 2017

*Athleticus*  
Dir. Nicolas Devaux, 2017

*Wild Love*  
Dir. Paul Autric, Quentin Camus, Maryka Laudet, Léa Georges, Zoé Sottiaux, Corentin Yvergniaux, 2018

*The Crab Revolution*  
Dir. Arthur de Pins, 2004

Sun, Jan 27 at 5:30pm

**FIAF, Florence Gould Hall**  
**Mature Audiences**

65 min. Digital.  
In French with English  
subtitles, or no dialogue.



# All Weekend

Exhibitions • Video Games • Workshops

## César-Nominated Shorts

.....  
This special closing-night program celebrates some of the best animated short films from the past year.

On January 23, the nominees for the 2019 César Awards, France's equivalent to the Oscars, were announced.

*Animation First* will screen all four finalists in the Best Animated Short category, alongside shortlisted films. This is a rare opportunity for New Yorkers to see these acclaimed works on the big screen.

### Vote For Your Favorite!

.....  
*Animation First* audience members will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite short. Those who select the official winner announced at the 42nd César Awards on February 22, 2019, will be eligible for a prize.

## Festival Closing Night

.....  
**Sun, Jan 27 at 7:45pm**

***FIAF, Florence Gould Hall***  
***Mature Audiences***

~70 min. Digital.  
In French with English subtitles, or no dialogue.

**Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality p.30**  
**Video Games p.31**  
**Pinscreen Workshops p.32**





## Exhibitions

### Augmented Reality 😊

.....

This exhibition presents the work that Angoulême-based students created during their final year at EMCA, one of the top animation schools in France.

Each one of the 20 prints that will be on display contains a hidden animation. With the help of a specially developed augmented reality app, beautiful and surprising animations will reveal themselves from within the artwork.

### Virtual Reality

.....

A half-dozen virtual reality experiences will be available to the general public in the FIAF Gallery. Visitors will be transported to digital worlds imagining the past and future.

#### Featuring

*Cités Millénaires* (US Premiere), Institut du Monde Arabe & UNESCO / Ubisoft, 2018  
*A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, ARTE/IKO, 2018  
*The Wedding of Cana*, Les Poissons Volants, 2017  
*I saw the future*, Da Prod, 2017  
*Port de la Lune*, UMANIMATION, 2018  
*Jurassic*, Nayade, 2018

.....

**Sat, Jan 26–Sun, Jan 27**  
**11am–6pm**

**FIAF, Tinker Auditorium**

Viewing instructions  
provided.

Presented with Magelis.

FREE

.....

**Sat, Jan 26–Sun, Jan 27**  
**11am–6pm**

**FIAF Gallery**  
**Ages 13–adult**

FREE

## Video Games 😊

.....

A selection of video games and demos from Bordeaux-based studios and Ubisoft in Montreal will be available for free to the general public in the FIAF Gallery throughout the weekend.

Follow the adventures of two siblings in 14<sup>th</sup> century Aquitaine in *A Plague Tale-Innocence*. Go on a quest through the fantasy medieval world of *Seers Isle*, then head to futuristic Paris, abandoned by its inhabitants, in the VR game *Eagle Flight*. Explore Ancient Egypt with the Discovery Tour version of Ubisoft's bestselling game *Assassin's Creed: Origins*. Children can relive their favorite moments from Pixar's beloved film *Ratatouille*, and enjoy the critically acclaimed *Rayman Legends*.

*A Plague Tale: Innocence*, Asobo Studio, PG-18  
*Ratatouille*, Asobo Studio, E–Everyone  
*Seers Isle*, Nova-box, T–Teen  
*Assassin's Creed: Origins* – Discovery Tour, Ubisoft, T–Teen  
*Eagle Flight*, Ubisoft, Age 13+  
*Rayman Legends*, Ubisoft, E–Everyone 10+

### Highlights from Bordeaux

.....

**Sat, Jan 26–Sun, Jan 27**  
**11am–6pm**

**FIAF Gallery**

FREE

.....

**Related Event**  
**Video Game Panel**  
**with Special Guests**  
**from Atari and Ubisoft**

**Sat, Jan 26 at 5:30pm**  
Details on page 16



## Pinscreen Workshops ☺

### Discover the Pinscreen Instrument

Animation enthusiast Alexandre Noyer created his own version of a pinscreen instrument, a device developed in the 1930s by artists Alexandre Alexeïeff and Claire Parker. The pinscreen uses pins to create finely textured images that can be captured through stop-motion animation. Throughout the Festival, audiences will be able to try their hands at Noyer's machine. Children and adults will discover the magic of creating their own images through shadows and light and animating them through stop motion. An assortment of tools will be available to create effects.

### Make a Pinscreen Short

Alexandre Noyer will lead eight participants in the creation of a collective short film using a pinscreen. The workshop will start by familiarizing participants with the device. Each participant will then have the opportunity to create a segment of a *cadavre exquis* or exquisite corpse. An assortment of tools will be available to create imagery, which will then be animated using stop-motion software.

**Sat, Jan 26**  
**11am–12:30pm, 4–6pm**

**Sun, Jan 27**  
**11am–1pm, 2–3:30pm,**  
**4–6:30pm**

**FIAF, Tinker Auditorium**  
**Suggested for ages 7+**

Workshop entry will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Sat, Jan 26**  
**1pm–3:30pm**

**FIAF, Tinker Auditorium**  
**Suggested for ages 12+**

Workshop entry will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Ticket & Venue Info

### Festival Passes

#### Full Festival Pass

This pass entitles one person entry to all events over the 3-day festival weekend.

*General:* \$120  
*FIAF Members:* \$100  
*Students with ID:* \$80

#### Opening Night Pass

This pass entitles one person entry to the Opening Night films and party.

*General:* \$40  
*FIAF Members:* \$20

#### Five-Film Pass

This pass entitles one person entry to any five films of their choice over Saturday and Sunday.

*General:* \$50

### Individual Tickets

#### Feature Films & Shorts

*Adults:* \$16  
*Kids < 14:* \$10  
*Students with ID:* \$10

#### Opening Night Films

*Adults:* \$25  
*Kids < 14:* \$15  
*Students with ID:* \$15

#### Discussions, Exhibitions, Video games, and Workshops

*Free and open to everyone on a first-come, first-served basis.*

### Venue Info

**Florence Gould Hall & Tinker Auditorium (Level A)**  
55 East 59th Street, NYC

**Le Skyroom (8th Floor) & FIAF Gallery (1st Floor)**  
22 East 60th Street, NYC

### Will Call Day of Event

Pick up or purchase tickets for events in Florence Gould Hall at the Box Office.  
(55 East 59th Street)

Pick up or purchase tickets for Skyroom events in the FIAF Lobby.  
(22 East 60th Street)

### Ticket Info

**Buy Tickets Online**  
[fiaf.org/animation](http://fiaf.org/animation)

**Buy Tickets by Phone**  
1 800 982 2787

**Box Office Location**  
55 East 59th Street, NYC

### Festival Box Office Hours

Fri, Jan 25: 12pm–10pm  
Sat, Jan 26: 10am–11pm  
Sun, Jan 27: 10am–8:30pm



## Biographies

### Festival Guests



#### Zabou Breitman

Zabou Breitman is an award-winning film, television, and theater actress. Since the early 80s, she has been in more than 70 films including Diane Kurys's *La Baule-les-Pins* (1990), Coline Serreau's *La Crise* (1992), Pierre Jolivet's *Ma petite entreprise* (1999), and Alexandre Arcady's *24 Heures* (2014). In 2006, she made her directorial debut with *Se souvenir des belles choses*, and has since made two other feature films. She recently directed and starred in the TV series *Paris etc. The Swallows of Kabul* is her first foray into animation.



#### Aymeric Castaing

With more than fifteen years of experience in entertainment, Aymeric Castaing has worked as a music producer, music publisher, and animation producer (co-founder and CEO for 10 years of the kids animation production company I Can Fly).

Always interested in new ways of telling stories, Castaing specializes in transmedia content and shares his expertise and passion through diverse mediums.

Castaing is the founder and president of transmedia cluster Cats (le-cats.fr), a founding member of the French national transmedia association PXN (pxn.fr), and brought Cartoon Movie

to Bordeaux. He founded and now runs UMANIMATION as Chief Content Officer (umanimation.com), an XR company developing a catalogue of narrative and immersive content designed for new media (TV, VR, AR, MR).



#### Denis Do

Denis Do is a film director and graduate of Les Gobelins, l'école de l'image. He has been passionate about the creative process, pictures, and drawing since his childhood. *Funan*, his first feature film, which won the Crystal Award in 2019 for Best Feature Film at the Annecy film festival, is inspired by his mother's true story that he adapted into a strong and intimate film.



#### Sophie Le Tétour & Jean-Baptiste Garnero

For the past fifteen years, Sophie Le Tétour and Jean-Baptiste Garnero have collected and presented collections entrusted or belonging to the CNC (French National Center for Cinema). They have overseen several projects designed to reassess the value of France's film heritage in France and abroad through cultural initiatives and organizations such as festivals, cinémathèques, museums, professional schools, and UNESCO.

They are currently working to promote the Alexeieff-Parker collection (films, exhibitions, and conferences) and are providing

support to return the last pinscreen, made by Alexandre Alexeieff and Claire Parker, to production so that it can be used to once again make films in France.



#### Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec

Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec studied animation at Les Gobelins, École de l'image in Paris for three years, where she completed two short films: *Madame* (2005), a musical short about children, screened in several animation festivals; and *Traintamarre* (2006), which was made with three other students and screened at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival.

From 2006 to 2008, she made *Escale* for Nostromo Production and directed TV spots for the company. She was a character animator on the feature films *Le chat du rabbin* (2009) and *Le jour des corneilles* (2010). She also worked on the widely popular French series *Lastman*. She is currently working on *The Swallows of Kabul*, now in post-production, which she is co-directing with Zabou Breitman.



#### Michèle Lemieux

Michèle Lemieux is an illustrator, author, filmmaker, and internationally renowned artist. Lemieux has devoted herself to the pinscreen technique and remains one of the leading experts behind the mechanism of the last working pinscreen in the world. Her award-winning short film, *Here and the Great Elsewhere*, shows the vast chimerical quality of the pinscreen and her affinity for experimenting with mediums.

Lemieux's art has been displayed in New York, Tokyo, Czechoslovakia, Germany, France, Italy, and Canada. Her books have been published in many languages such as French, English, and German. Her canvases, both diaphanous and bright, evoke a timeless, even mystical world, which seems to attract the viewer to the heart of the narrative.



#### Emmanuel Linot

Chief Operating Officer at SolidAnim, Emmanuel Linot has more than fifteen years of experience in motion capture and 3D animation with companies such as ExMachina, Quantic Dream, and Herold & Family. He founded his own studio in 2007 with Isaac Partouche and Jean-François Szlapka, collaborating on video game projects and feature films such as *The Crew*, *Cafard*, and most recently *White Fang*.

In 2010, the founders launched SolidTrack, an innovative system that renders special effects in real time which was used in major American productions such as *The Walk*, *A Monster Calls*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Rogue One*.



#### Alexandre Noyer

Alexandre Noyer is an electronic engineer and computer scientist by profession, but he devotes a large part of his time to his passion: traditional animation. Born and currently living in Annecy, France, he never misses the Annecy International Animated Film Festival. As an autodidact experimenting with various animation techniques, Noyer discovered the pinscreen, created

in the 1930s by the filmmakers Alexandre Alexeieff and Claire Parker. However, the tool had become so rare (in 2015 there were only two in the world) that Noyer decided to reinvent pinscreens by leaning on modern technologies.

Since 2016, he has been selling and renting pinscreens, while also leading conferences and workshops all over the world in order to help bring this intricate technique back to life.



#### Emmanuel Quillet

Emmanuel Quillet is associate producer at MarmitaFilms, a French production and distribution company located in Bordeaux.

He manages the animation department, which is devoted to producing series, shorts, and features in an artistic laboratory that fosters the creation of unusual visual worlds (marmitafilms.fr).



#### Jean-François Szlapka

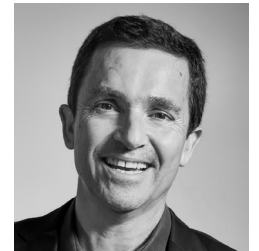
General Manager of SolidAnim since its creation in 2007, Jean-François Szlapka has had experience in motion capture since 2001 and has worked on various projects in the video game, film, and television industries.

He also specializes in character animation by combining motion capture and keyframe. He is currently responsible for creating technical workflows in virtual production projects at SolidAnim.



#### Fabien Robert























Born and raised in the Aquitaine region, Fabien Robert attended college in Bordeaux, majoring in political science. Attracted by the desire of serving his community, he began his political career by joining one of France's centrist parties. There, he found a like-minded group of individuals who promoted their values of humanism and generosity through actions. While still a student, Robert was elected Vice President of the CROUS, an organization that advocates for students, where he engaged with issues surrounding employment, startups, and other initiatives. Upon graduation, he began to work with Alain Juppé, Mayor of Bordeaux, and is currently Deputy Mayor in charge of Culture and Heritage.



#### Fred Chesnais

Frédéric Chesnais is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Atari. Under Chesnais's leadership, Atari continues to publish interactive games and expand the Atari brand into various business sectors such as casinos, entertainment, and decentralized platforms. Mr. Chesnais is based in New York City.

## Festival Schedule

Time	Friday, January 25	Venue	Type	pg.
7–8:30pm	Kirikou and the Sorceress	Florence Gould Hall	☺ 	8
8:30–9:45pm	Opening Night Party	Tinker Auditorium		8-9
9:30–10:45pm	Erotic Shorts	Florence Gould Hall		9
Time	Saturday, January 26	Venue	Type	pg.
11am–12pm	Ivan Tsarevitch	Florence Gould Hall	☺ 	12
12–1:30pm	Documentary Shorts	Le Skyroom		13
12:45–2:45pm	Only Yesterday	Florence Gould Hall	☺ 	15
3–4:30pm	Conversation with Michel Ocelot	Le Skyroom		16
3:30–5:15pm	Best of Annecy Shorts	Florence Gould Hall		17
5:30–7:30pm	Pinscreen Magic Shorts (Q&A)	Florence Gould Hall	☺ 	18
5:30–7pm	Video Game Panel	Le Skyroom		16
7:45–9:45pm	Funan (Q&A)	Florence Gould Hall	☺ 	19
10:30–11:45pm	Late Night Chills	Florence Gould Hall		20
Time	Sunday, January 27	Venue	Type	pg.
11am–12:15pm	Robinson & compagnie	Florence Gould Hall	☺ 	22
12:45–2:45pm	White Fang	Florence Gould Hall	☺ 	23
12:30–1:45pm	The Legacy of the Pinscreen Panel	Le Skyroom		24
2:30–3:45pm	WIP: The Swallows of Kabul	Le Skyroom		25
3:30–4:45pm	Michel Ocelot Selected Shorts	Florence Gould Hall		26
4:30–5:45pm	Mastering Special Effects Panel	Le Skyroom		24
5:30–6:45pm	Comedy Shorts	Florence Gould Hall		27
7:45–9pm	César-Nominated Shorts	Florence Gould Hall		28
Time	All Weekend	Venue	Type	pg.
11am–6pm	Augmented / Virtual Reality	Gallery		30
11am–6pm	Video Games	Gallery	☺ 	31
11am–6:30pm	Pinscreen Workshops	Tinker Auditorium	☺ 	32

Color Index    **Feature Film**    **VR, AR, Workshops**  
**Shorts, Shorts, Shorts!**    For Kids Too! ☺  
**Discussions**  
**Work-In-Progress**

## Sponsors and Thanks

### Festival Presenting Sponsor



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### Supporting Sponsors



Animation First is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

### Special Thanks to the City of Bordeaux

**Alain Juppé** Mayor of Bordeaux, **Fabien Robert** Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux in charge of Culture, **Claire Andries-Roussennac** Director of Cultural Affairs City of Bordeaux, **Lilian Saly** Deputy Director of Cultural Affairs City of Bordeaux, **Ludovic Martinez** Chief of Staff of the Mayor of Bordeaux.

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*Bordeaux  
cultural  
season*

June  
20<sup>th</sup>  
August  
20<sup>th</sup>  
2019

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