



**27<sup>TH</sup>**  
**EUROPEAN**  
**FILM AWARDS**

**EUROPEAN ANIMATED FEATURE FILM 2014**

**THE NOMINATIONS**

# JACK AND THE CUCKOO CLOCK HEART

## JACK ET LA MECANIQUE DU CŒUR

**DIRECTED BY:** Mathias Malzieu & Stéphane Berla

**ORIGINAL SCORE:** Dionysos

**WRITTEN BY:** Mathias Malzieu

**ANIMATION:** Nicolette Ceccoli, Stéphane Martinez & Robert Cepo

**PRODUCED BY:** Virginie Besson-Silla



pictures: © Europacorp - Duran - Francez Cinema

Edinburgh, late 19th century. Little Jack is born on a day so cold that his heart remains frozen. In her house on top of a big hill, Madeleine the midwife replaces the defective organ with a cuckoo-clock. It will work, she warns him, as long as Jack doesn't touch the hands of the clock, doesn't lose his temper and, above all, doesn't fall in love. But Jack's encounter with a fiery-eyed little girl singing on a street corner and his decision to chase after her across Europe to Andalusia test the resistance of his makeshift heart to breaking point...

**Production:**

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[www.facebook.com/jacklefilm](http://www.facebook.com/jacklefilm)



### JACK AND THE CUCKOO CLOCK HEART

**Festival Participation/Awards:**

Berlin IFF

New York Int'l Children FF

Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film



**Mathias Malzieu**

**Mathias Malzieu**

Born in 1974, Mathias Malzieu co-founded the French band Dionysos in 1993 when he lived in Valence in Drôme. He as lead singer and three of his school friends (Eric Serra Tosio, Michael Ponton and Guillaume Garidel) comprised the original band. Mathieu has written the following books: "38 mini westerns avec des fantômes" (2002), "Maintenant qu'il fait tout le temps nuit sur toi" (2005), "La mécanique du cœur" (2007) (English translation titled "The Boy with the Cuckoo-Clock Heart", released in September 2009), "Métamorphose en bord de ciel" (2011), "Le Plus Petit Baiser Jamais Recensé" (2013).



**Stéphane Berla**

Stéphane Berla is a French director combining live-action and animation technics. He has worked with other great artists like -M- and Gaétan Roussel and his videos have received several awards and been nominated at several international festivals (including the Golden Prize at the Protoclip Festival, Grand Prix at the International Art of Music Video, Imagina, Anima 2008, Bimini, Ottawa, Annecy, and Animac...).

**Stéphane Berla**



# MINUSCULE – VALLEY OF THE LOST ANTS

## MINUSCULE – LA VALLÉE DES FOURMIES PERDUES

**WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY:** Thomas Szabo & Hélène Giraud

**PRODUCED BY:** Philippe Delarue

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** Dominique Fausset

**EDITOR:** Valérie Chappellet

**PRODUCTION DESIGN:** Hélène Giraud

**SOUND DESIGN:** Côme Jalibert & Emmanuel Guionet

**ORIGINAL SCORE:** Hervé Lavandier

**ANIMATION:** Nozon & 2D3D Animations



In a peaceful little clearing, the remains of a picnic hastily abandoned spark warfare between two tribes of ants. A bold young ladybug finds herself caught in the middle of the battle. He befriends one of the black ants, Mandible, and helps him save the anthill from the assault of the terrible red ant warriors, led by the fearful Butor. A fantastic journey at ground level...

#### Production:

Futurikon  
Philippe Delarue  
12, rue de Turenne  
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futurikon.com

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#### Directors' Statement:

MINUSCULE is the story of an abandoned picnic and its consequences on the lives of insects, ants, as it happens, who are going to fight for a sugar box. It's a little bit like the butterfly effect across a valley. A little ladybug is the hero of the film, through her we discover a universe of scenery and characters. There's a chase, confrontation, a duel, very nasty or nice protagonists. But there is also love and romance - all the ingredients to make an adventure movie. The film was inspired by the insects' behaviour in an offbeat documentary. To make this documentary principle work we had to play with real images, and then suddenly we see a small insect and we forget everything and we tell a story.

Nature has an important place in the movie. From the beginning, we are surrounded by mountains and forests. Nature is a character in the movie. We feel really small, like insects in a giant universe.

People who watch the movie in winter will have a breath of nature, greenery, saturated colours, and relaxation. It's going to make them feel good. That was part of the concept because it makes the immersion into the insects' universe easier. It's a family movie, not written only for children. We first write stories we like and those cater to everyone.

#### Thomas Szabo

Thomas Szabo graduated from the Duperré High School of Design, Fashion and Creation in 1987 and began his career as a sound editor. He then became storyboard artist for animation series and was soon offered his first series, SPACE GOOFS, a world-wide success. At the same time he worked on the development of the STUPID INVADERS video game and on the storyboard for RENAISSANCE. In 2002, he directed MOUCHE A MERDE, a short film mixing real shot and animation, based on which seasons 1 & 2 of the animated series "Minuscule" were produced.

#### Hélène Giraud

Hélène Giraud graduated from ESAT Graduate School of Arts and Techniques. Starting out as production designer and art consultant, she quickly took on larger projects as concept designer, starting with THE FIFTH ELEMENT by Luc Besson. In 1994, she created the storyboards for the Hanna-Barbera animation series JOHNNY QUEST. Back in France in 1997, she took on art direction for the animated feature VERTIGO. Then, in 2002, she worked on the art development of the 3D animated feature RENAISSANCE.

## MINUSCULE – VALLEY OF THE LOST ANTS

#### Festival Participation:

Jerusalem IFF  
Tallinn Black Nights FF



**Hélène Giraud & Thomas Szabo**



# THE ART OF HAPPINESS

## L'ARTE DELLA FELICITÀ

**DIRECTED BY:** Alessandro Rak

**WRITTEN BY:** Alessandro Rak & Luciano Stella

**PRODUCED BY:** Luciano Stella

**EDITOR:** Marino Guarnieri

**PRODUCTION DESIGN:** Alessandro Rak & Dario Sansone

**SOUND DESIGN:** Luigi Scialdone, Andrea Cutillo,

Dario Della Monica & Francesco Omodeo

**ORIGINAL SCORE:** Antonio Fresa, Luigi Scialdone &

Antonin Stahly

**ANIMATION:** Alessandro Rak, Ivan Cappiello,

Dario Sansone, Marino Guarnieri, Annarita Calligaris,

Ivana Verze, Laura Sammati, Antonia Emanuela Angrisani,

Corrado Piscitelli, Flavio Di Biase, Giorgio Siravo,

Sergio Chimenti, Ilaria Jones, Antonio Funaro, Danilo Florio,

Mirko Prota, Alberto Panico, Paolo Acampora &

Marco Iannaccone



Under a leaden sky, among the apocalyptic presages of a Naples at the height of its degradation, Sergio, a taxi driver, receives news which overwhelm him. Nothing can ever be as it was. Now Sergio looks at himself in the mirror and what he sees is a forty-year-old man, who has turned his back on music and has become lost in the limbo of his city.

The taxi becomes the microcosm within which he withdraws to escape his world but into which the world comes and goes through his passengers.

As the storm rages outside, the car begins to crowd with memories, hopes, regrets, and new opportunities. Now he knows who the passengers are: they are souls, ghosts, memories, paths. Or they are messengers of a sun rising elsewhere, bringing with it the revelation of what is beyond the confines of his windshield.

Sooner or later the rain will cease and the sky will open. And from there, the end will come. Or the music will return.

### Production:

Big Sur  
Paola Tortora  
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### World Sales:

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### Director's Statement

This story begins from below, as from below rises what one yearns for and then fills with that which breathes without forgetting what it was aspiring to. For if happiness came from above it would greatly grieve those who with open arms have waited long, not to mention those who, on the other hand, have patiently worked hard never chancing the leap. And then, facing certain subjects, which measure so many metres, of which we see merely the feet, one feels too low and it serves little to raise our voices if one is not ready to clamber up. And if happiness is the craft of those who sow smiles, clambering up is certain to be the art of those who envy the craftsman. Thus one starts from what one has: one's own land, experiences, the expectations of relatives and friends, to narrate the dilemma of a life: whether it be nobler to cram into the soul the suggestions and ghosts of an inauspicious city life or to take arms against a sea of feelings and by narrating, end them.

The story begins from a title, chosen by a producer, taken perhaps from a book, and then it goes backwards, in search of its author and beyond, of inspiration, but then leaves again to talk about the one who is far from the light and thanks only to the awareness of pain, does he decide at last to go seeking him. Therefore this is the story of a revolution, of a useless journey around one's own sun, or, better still, of a revelation, of what the world is when it ceases to turn. And every scene, and every selection, and every sign, are impressed on the screen like damage which must be remedied, before the sense of things loses sense, loses time and then its scalp.

And while the king loses his sceptre and the people take back the realm, I lose the thread and for rhymes I refer you to the score in which a director's notes find respite, saving you from this illiterate anxiety. Enjoy the film.

### Alessandro Rak

Born in Naples in 1977, Alessandro has always sketched, devoting his time to drawing cartoons and illustrations, to later arrive at animation. After high school, he was admitted to an animation course in Rome, from which he graduated in 1999. Returning to Naples in 2000 to teach illustration at the National School of Comix, he began collaborating with his friend and colleague Andrea Scoppetta. From 2001 to 2011 he put on art exhibitions at the Not Gallery, published comics and illustrated books and the storyboard for the film LA VOLPE A TRE ZAMPE by Sandro Dionisio.

### THE ART OF HAPPINESS

#### Festival Participation:

Anima Festival (Brussels)  
Anney Int'l Animation FF  
Cartoon Movie (Lyon)  
CPH:PIX  
Goa IFF of India  
Istanbul IFF  
Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film  
Venice IFF



### Alessandro Rak

#### Filmography:

2005 VÁ, short  
2005 TESTE AL MURO, short





Founded in 1988, the European Film Academy (EFA) now unites more than 3,000 European film professionals with the common aim of promoting European film culture. Throughout the year, the EFA initiates and participates in a series of activities dealing with film politics as well as economic, artistic, and training aspects. The programme includes conferences, seminars and workshops, and a common goal is to build a bridge between creativity and the industry. These activities culminate in the annual presentation of the European Film Awards.



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LATVIJAS TELEVĪZIJA

