



"This Magnificent Cake is my favorite film of the year."

- DIRECTOR BARRY JENKINS

THIS MAGNIFICENT CAKE!

A film by
MARC JAMES ROELS & EMMA DE SWAEF

UNE PRODUCTION BEAST ANIMATION & VIVEMENT LUNDI | & PEDRI ANIMATION | EN COPRODUCTION AVEC EMMA DE SWAEF & MARC JAMES ROELS
AVEC LA PARTICIPATION DE ARTE AVEC LE SOUTIEN DU FONDS AUDIOVISUEL FLAMAND (VAF), TAX SHELTER DU GOUVERNEMENT FEDERAL BELGE,
CNC, PROCIREP, ANGOA, RÉGION BRETAGNE, NETHERLANDS FILM FUND. RÉALISÉ PAR EMMA DE SWAEF & MARC JAMES ROELS
SCÉNARIO EMMA DE SWAEF & MARC JAMES ROELS. SON BRAM MEINDERSMA. PRODUIT PAR KOEN VERMAANEN, BEN TESSEUR, STEVEN DE BEUL,
MATHIEU COURTOIS, JEAN-FRANÇOIS LE CORRE, PETER MANSFELD, PAUL MATHOT, EMMA DE SWAEF & MARC JAMES ROELS



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THIS MAGNIFICENT CAKE!

SYNOPSIS

An official selection at Cannes Directors' Fortnight, Toronto International Film Festival and Telluride Film Festival, *THIS MAGNIFICENT CAKE! (CE MAGNIFIQUE GÂTEAU!)* is an unforgettable work of stop-motion animation exploring the bitter milieu of Belgium-occupied Congo. In the late 19th century, keen to compete with other European imperial powers on the continent, King Leopold II of Belgium proclaimed, "I do not want to miss a good chance of getting us a slice of this magnificent African cake." The subsequent occupation of the Congo would come to attract a contingent of servants, merchants and miscellaneous bourgeois driven by everything from insatiable greed to existential fear. From the intimate stories of these characters – many of whom pass through a luxury hotel in the middle of the jungle – emerges a greater narrative concerning the imperialist mentality. In a film by turns surreal, darkly comic and brutal, directors Marc James Roels and Emma de Swaef ultimately turn their critical gaze on the colonists themselves in a work of stunning, mysterious beauty.

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TECHNICAL CREW

Directors

Marc James Roels & Emma De Swaef

Screenwriters

Marc James Roels & Emma De Swaef

Producers

Beast Animation: Ben Tesseur, Steven De Beul, Koen Vermaanen

Vivement Lundi ! : Jean-François Le Corre, Mathieu Courtois

Pedri Animation: Peter Mansfelt, Paul Mathot

Director of Photography: Marc James Roels

Character Design: Emma De Swaef

Art Direction

Marc James Roels & Emma De Swaef

Production Design: Jean-Marc Ogier

Sound Design: Bram Meindersma

First AD: Dorien Schetz

Animation

Elodie Ponçon

Patricia Sourdès

Iris Alexandre

Mirjam Plettinx

Andreas De Ridder

Puppet Makers:

David Roussel

David Thomasse

Anna Deschamps

CAST

The King: Jan Declair

Georges: Bruno Levie

Voice-over: Paul Huvenne

Ota: Gaston Motambe

Little Phillippe: Alexander Rolies, August Rolies

Angry Neighbor: Jamal Tahri

Ota's Brother: Michael Kossi

Van Molle: Wim Willaert

Bolenge: Goua Grovogui

Louis' Mother: Anna Schoonbroodt

Louis: Angelo Tijssens

Pierre: Sébastien Dewaele

Lonely Man on Boat: Dirk Rypens

Running Time: 44 minutes

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/ Pedri Animation - 2018





MARC JAMES ROELS & EMMA DE SWAEF | DIRECTORS



Marc James Roels is a live-action director, making award winning shorts *Mompelaar* in 2007 and *A Gentle Creature* in 2010. Emma De Swaef specializes in stop-motion and doll-making, her preferred working materials include wool, felt and textile. Together they made the short film *Oh Willy...* in 2012, a stop-motion short that was selected for 300 festivals and won 80 international awards including the Cartoon d'Or for Best European Short, and a C ezar nomination. They are based in Antwerp, Belgium and *THIS MAGNIFICENT CAKE!* is their latest production.



FILMOGRAPHY

2012 *OH WILLY...* (ANIMATED SHORT)





PRODUCTION

Beast Animation | Belgium

Beast Animation was founded in 2004 as an executive company specializing in stop motion animation. Initially, Beast focused primarily on providing services for short and medium length author films.

With the establishment of Beast Productions in 2007, however, Beast became an independent producer on the market. Their first co-production was the feature film *A Town Called Panic*. Since then, Beast Animation has been creating and producing high-end stop motion films for cinema, television and web. Past productions include the award-winning short *Oh Willy...*, directed by Emma De Swaef and Marc James Roels, the series *Dimitri*, directed by Agnès Lecreux and co-produced and co-directed by Beast Animation, *Rusty*, directed by Ben Tesseur and Steven De Beul, and *George & Paul*, directed by Joost van den Bosch and Erik Verkerk.

Beast Animation is currently creating exciting new content, including TV-series and feature films aimed at various target audiences.

Vivement Lundi ! | France

In 1998 in Rennes, Vivement Lundi ! began to cultivate flowers in clay and paper, and build castles in the air of Brittany. The same year, *L'Homme aux bras ballants*, a short by Laurent Gorgiard, won the Jury Award at Annecy's Animation Film Festival, inaugurating a production of short movies and series which has now garnered more than 200 national and international awards.



In 2011, the company produced *Pok&Mok*, its first long animated series and won the prestigious Procirep Prize for the Best French TV Producer in Animation. In 2014, Vivement Lundi ! produced the stop-motion series *Dimitri* created by Agnès Lecreux and, one year later, the company delivered *Welcome to Bric-and-Broc*, a 2D pre-school animated series. In 2015, *Storm hits jacket* by Paul Cabon won the award for Best Animated Short at Sundance Film Festival and Vivement Lundi ! received the Cartoon Tribute for Best European Animation Producer of the Year.

In September, the animated kids program *The Horn Quartet* was released in French theatres, and the second season of 'Dimitri' will arrive on France Télévisions, VRT Ketnet and RTS Kids.

Vivement Lundi ! also produces documentaries and is co-producing the feature animated documentary *FLEE* with Final Cut For Real (Denmark) and ARTE France. *FLEE* is a selection for Annecy Goes To Cannes 2018.

Pedri Animation | The Netherlands

Pedri Animation is a studio specialising in stop-motion animation. Founders Peter Mansfelt and Paul Mathot, together with freelance specialists, work to create high quality stop-motion productions and to educate new talent.

For more than a decade, Pedri Animation has been delivering animations using stop-motion techniques (pixilation, clay, cut-out, puppets) for commercials, children series, leaders, corporate productions and short films, broadcast worldwide. Two well-known examples are the children's series *Miffy and Friends* and *Animal Shelf*.

Pedri Animation has all the facilities and expertise to create state of the art animation puppets, sets, props and small special FX. In its own studios, Pedri Animation uses professional digital equipment and the latest computer software, making Pedri Animation's touchable world look more exclusive - perfect to deliver content for media platforms like television, internet, mobile phone and game consoles.

Along with the realisation of stop-motion productions, Pedri Animation started to develop and co-produce its own stop-motion productions, most notably the short animation film *Under the Apple Tree* by Erik van Schaaik, which was awarded the Golden Calf for Best Dutch Short Film in 2015.





ABOUT GKIDS

GKIDS is a distributor of award-winning feature animation for both adult and family audiences. The company has scored ten Best Animated Feature Academy Award® nominations – the most for an independent distributor – with these acclaimed films:

- *The Secret of Kells* (2010)
- *A Cat in Paris* (2012)
- *Chico & Rita* (2012)
- *Ernest & Celestine* (2014)
- *The Tale of The Princess Kaguya* (2015)
- *Song of the Sea* (2015)
- *Boy and the World* (2016)
- *When Marnie Was There* (2016)
- *My Life As A Zucchini* (2017)
- *The Breadwinner* (2018)

GKIDS also handles North American theatrical distribution for the Studio Ghibli library of films, one of the world's most coveted animation collections with titles *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Howl's Moving Castle* and others.

www.gkids.com    @gkidsfilms

www.ThisMagnificentCake.com