

FUTURiKON

FILMS

presents



minuscule

A Family feature film created and directed by Thomas Szabo and H el ene Giraud



Minuscule (the Movie)

7 years ago Thomas Szabo produced an original short length film, without any dialogue, mixing computer-generated insects set against real-life natural settings with quirky sound effects. As soon as he discovered this short film, Philippe Delarue, producer (Futurikon Films) proposed to both Thomas Szabo and H el ene Giraud to develop a series of shorts for television and a **feature length film for a theatrical release**. This is the genesis of Minuscule.

A first and then a second series went into production and were well received by a wide audience around the world (several 70 million views on the internet, broadcast of the TV series in over 80 countries, more than 450,000 DVD units sold in France).

The film, based on the same original concept, has its sights on bigger and better things with **an epic adventure tone** (imagine "Lord of the Rings" on the scale of tiny insects). More time in the development and writing stage is befitting. The filming, shot in stereoscopic 3D and Cinemascope in the magnificent Mercantour and Ecrins National Parks, began end of August. The shooting will respect the natural setting and the environment of these protected areas.

This hybrid film will mix magnificent real-life nature settings and computer-generated characters, all in stereoscopic 3D, so that from a technical standpoint, this is a first anywhere in the world. All throughout the two-year production period, with a theatrical release planned for 2013 in France (le Pacte) and worldwide, we will communicate with the public and the Minuscule fans through a blog launched last September: www.minuscule-blog.com and via the official Facebook fan page: www.facebook.com/minusculefilm



Minuscule, a unique and wide-reaching universe

The Minuscule world is both original, emanating from a true vision and a sense of personal observation, and universal (inter-generational and international) by its concept and its cartoon humour.

The Origins: which fly bit him?

Thomas Szabo, produced a short film 7 years ago that featured a frenetic chase scene between an annoying ladybug and a herd of touchy and sensitive flies. The originality of the program: the subtle mix of live footage and CGI animated insects – the burlesque and offbeat humour, the absence of any dialogue and the quirky sound effects intrigued Philippe Delarue, the producer of Futurikon Films, who was seduced from the beginning by this visual and audio masterpiece. Minuscule was born...

From the beginning, there was a common desire to produce short formats, poetic and burlesque, and a feature length film in an epic/adventure style.



The film : e-pic!

The feature film, in gestation from the inception of the project, necessitated a much longer development period. Indeed, the challenge was to imagine a story, construct a narration, inspire it with an epic dimension, a grand Show, an adventure, a "Lord of the Rings" from the perspective of insects meets "Once Upon a Time in the Fields of Grass"! The difficult task of producing in S3D, amplified by the hybrid character of the film (animation/real-life images) required a very meticulous, complex and long preparation. The shooting began in early August in the Southeastern part of France. The production will proceed for a 2 year period, with a theatrical release in France (le Pacte) and worldwide circa 2013.



The attack of the black anthill

Synopsis:

In a peaceful little clearing, the remains of a picnic hastily abandoned during a summer storm spark warfare between two tribes of ants. At stake is a box of sugar. A bold young ladybug finds himself caught in the middle of the battle. He befriends one of the black ants and helps him save the anthill from the assault of the terrible red ant warriors.



Excerpt from the storyboard - Birth of the ladybug



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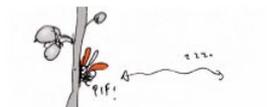
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Excerpt from the storyboard - Birth of the ladybug (continued)



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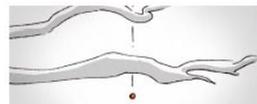
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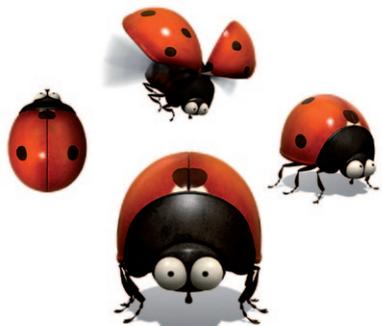


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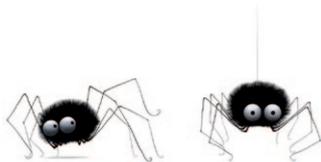


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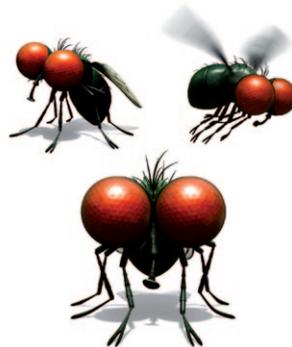
Characters design



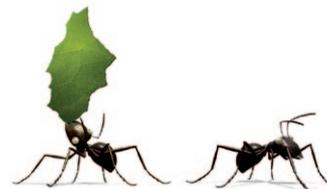
La Coccinelle



L'Araignée Noire



La Mouche



La Fourmi



Minuscule, the Film: in stereoscopic 3D

The film is shot in Cinemascope and in stereoscopic 3D. This is an audacious artistic choice, the worlds' first for a film mixing animation and real-life footage, all in 3D. This choice was obvious because it served the artistic intentions of the authors. Accentuating the realistic side and increasing the sensation of proximity and truth, this technique enables the audience to become immersed in the Minuscule universe. By offering the audience a very real perception of forms, volume and distances, it allows them to experience the sensations of every tiny detail of the backgrounds, movements, organic matter - that's exactly the magic of stereoscopic 3D! The stereoscopic depth of field and the impression that objects and/or things are springing out at the viewer will enrich the possibilities in the scenes where the insects are in flight.

The intent of **Minuscule the film** is to awaken the curiosity in this universe, to sharpen the attention and senses of the spectator, so that they explore up close this immense and infinitely tiny world that surrounds them. The sound track plays a very important role in the film because it'll be used to reinforce the dimension of space with an offbeat tone. The music & effects with unconventional sounds will also bring an additional immersive dimension. With this innovative way to use the stereoscopic 3D technique, this hybrid film mixing real life footage and animation is looking to push the boundaries in film making and go one step further.



With the help of special glasses and a 3D screen, the entire crew checks the synchronisation of the images.

Minuscule the Film: Nature magnified

Nature is the setting for the film: both the scenery and the characters. Nature is revealed in all its splendour through the changing, authentic, varied and plentiful landscapes of the Mercantour and Ecrins National Parks. The authors selected the provincial back country, overflowing with pine trees, clearings, underbrush, and rivers, for the light and the saturated tones that accentuate the sensation of realism. This nature will be amplified by the stereoscopic 3D. Nature appears to be even more imposing when filmed from the minuscule creatures' point of view, at the grass roots level. The film's message is strong: Nature, offered to us, must be protected in order to conserve all its magnificent beauty.

Our commitment to preserving this fragile ecosystem is exemplified in an eco-responsible shooting, we are very aware of our impact and have anticipated our technical needs in order to decrease our energy consumption (shooting done close by, utilisation of natural reflectors, etc). The meals for the production crew are 100% bio and prepared by La Ferme des Merinos.

We have obtained the support and label of AGIR from the PACA (Provence, Alpes, Côte d'Azur) region. The coherence of our approach allowed us to receive the best welcome from the Mercantour Park who granted us the authorization to film, which is rarely given.



Minuscule the Film: the Community

This ambitious and hybrid film is original and universal, with a transgenerational and international fan base... and for all these reasons, we are inclined to communicate prior to the release of the film via a blog and an active presence on social networks, with a view to create and enrich the community around this project. The fans will be informed every week of the advancement of the project, the big phases of production, the obstacles to surmount. A behind-the-scenes view...This space will be a forum for exchanges between the public and the authors.

Blog : www.minuscule-blog.com

Official fan-page : www.facebook.com/minusculefilm



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