



# OCCIDENTAL

2011 - 73 minutes - Comedy  
A film by Neïl Beloufa

With Idir Chender, Paul Hamy,  
Anna Ivacheff, Louise Orry-Diquéro,  
Hamza Meziani, Brahim Tekfa  
Production : Bad Manner's

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# SYNOPSIS

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The streets of Paris are taken by barricades and furious protesters. Antonio and Giorgio, an eccentric and improbable couple, take refuge in the Hotel Occidental. Diana, the hotel manager, instantly suspects their attitude and calls the police.

With no proper evidence, the officers and the hotel crew find themselves on a series of absurd anecdotal events involving homophobia, racism, misogyny, terrorist threats and political manipulations.

The situation unfolds on a funny and tangled story that reflects satirically the uneasy context of our time.

HOTEL OCCIDENTAL



# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

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Year : 2011

Production country : France

Duration : 73 minutes

Language : French

Subtitles : French, English

Director : Neïl BELOUFA

1st director assistant : Antoine ALESANDRINI

Director of photography : Guillaume LE GRONTEC

Editor : Ermanno CORRADO

Sound : Arno LEDOUX et Francois BAILLY

Set : Florian FOURNIER et Sarah PHILOUZE

Composer: Grégoire BOURDEIL pour GRADUATION

Alexandre GEINDRE pour FLESH STUDIOS

Costumes : Mariette NIQUET-RIOUX

Production : BAD MANNER'S & Atelier Neïl Beloufa

Producer : Jacques-F. DODART

Coproduction : Le Fresnoy studio national des arts contemporain





**IDIR CHENDER** has played in William Shakespeare Richard III at Théâtre de Belleville in 2015, he was also part of the the french tv series Engrenages as Marouane. He recently played in Olivier Marchal's next full length Carbone.



**ANNA IVACHEFF** is a contemporary dancer, she was part of musicals Cleôpatre (2010) and Les Dix Commandements (2000)



**PAUL HAMY** was nominee for best young male actor for 2014 C sar ceremony for his role in Katell Quill v r 's Suzanne. He recently played in french tv serie Un Fran ais by Alban Lenoir and is part of the casting for Fanny Ardant and Philippe Grandrieux next full-length.



**LOUISE ORRY DIQUERO** is student at Conservatoire National Sup rieur d'Art Dramatique, *Occidental* is her first full-length film.



**HAMZA MEZIANI** is a young french actor, he was part of Bertrand Bonelo's Nocturama, and Michel Gondry's Microbe & Gasoil (2015). He is named as best new actor for 2017 Cesar ceremony.



**BRAHIM TEKFA** is a french theater actor. He has played in Rainer Fassbinder's Antitheatre at Bastille theater.



# NEÏL BELOUFA

Born in 1985, Neïl Beloufa is a french and algerian artist and director who lives and works in Paris and New-York. He studied at École National Supérieur des Beaux Arts and École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, at CalArts (Valencia, USA), Cooper Union (New-York, USA) and Le Fresnoy - Studio National des Arts Contemporain (Tourcoing, FR).

His videos have been shown in festivals like Rotterdam IFFR (2013, 2010), Toronto TIFF (2012), London Film Festival (2009, 2012), and Paris Cinéma du Réel (2016) among others.

Neïl Beloufa's films and videos were awarded at Oberhausen 54th (Arte prize for best short film) and 57th (Grand Prize) festival and Indie Lisboa (Great prize, 2009).

Neïl Beloufa's artworks and videos have been displayed internationally including solo shows at the MoMA (New-York, 2016), the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, 2013), and the Palais de Tokyo (Paris, 2012). He also took part in the 55th Venice Biennale.

Occidental is his first fiction feature film. Self-produced and shot in his studio in Paris suburbs. The set of the movie then became an art center for one year, under the name of Occidental Temporary, before it got dismantled.





# FILMOGRAPHY

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## — OCCIDENTAL

Numeric video - 73' - 2016.

Festivals : Berlinale, Berlin D / Premiers Plans, Angers, FR.

## — DESIRE FOR DATA

Numeric video - 47'39" - 2014.

Festivals : Cinéma du Réel, Paris, FR / MoMA, New-York, USA.

## — TONIGHT AND THE PEOPLE

Numeric video - 80' - 2013.

Produced by Petit Film (FR), Sysmic Films (FR), Turtle Cove (US)

Supported by Audi Talent Award & Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

World sales: Petit Film

Festivals : FID, Marseille, FR / Milano Film Festival, Milano, I.

## — REAL ESTATE

Numeric video - 10'45" - 2012.

Supported by FNAGP in association with Palais de Tokyo

World sales: Petit Film

Festivals : Onion City, Chicago, USA.

## — PARTY ISLAND

Numeric video - 8' - 2012.

Supported by FNAGP in association with Palais de Tokyo

World sales: Petit Film

Festivals : Winnipeg, C / Belo Horizonte, BR / Belgrade, SRB / Bangalore, IND / Nice, FR.

## — WORLD DOMINATION

Numeric video - 28' - 2012.

Supported by FNAGP in association with Palais de Tokyo

World sales: Petit Film

## — SANS TITRE

Numeric video - 15' - 2010.

Supported by Fresnoy / Studio National des Arts Contemporains

World sales : NIMk

Festivals : Rotterdam, NL / TIFF Toronto, C / BFI, London, UK /

Oberhausen, D / IndieLisboa, Lisbon, P / Hors Piste, Paris, FR.

Awards : Oberhausen (Grand Prize, Jury Prize), Prix Studio Collector Le Fresnoy,

Onion City (Special mention).

## — BRUNE RENAULT

Numeric video - 18' - 2010.

World Sales : NIMk

Festivals : BFI, London, UK / IndieLisboa, Lisbon, P / Migrating Forms, New York,

USA / Underground Film Fest, Montreal, C.

## — SAYRE AND MARCUS

Numeric video, (trois épisodes) - 2009.

Festivals : Hors Piste, Paris, FR / Onion City, Chicago, USA.

## — KEMPINSKI

Numeric video - 14' - 2007.

World Sales : NIMk

Festivals : IFFR, Rotterdam, NL / Oberhausen, D / Clermont-Ferrand, FR /

Les Ecrans Documentaires, Arcueil, FR / Ann Arbor Film Fest, Ann Arbor, USA /

LIFF, Leeds, UK / Winterthur, CH.

Awards : Ann Arbor (best narrative), Hamburg (Grand Prize), Oberhausen

(Arte Award), Courtisane (Grand Prix), Clermont-Ferrand (Videformes Award),

IndieLisboa (Grand Prize).



# DIRECTOR STATEMENT

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*Occidental*, is a project I had in mind for a long time. I heard a story in a hotel that fascinated me about robbers that an hotel manager had no proof against besides an empty suitcase.

I had, then, the desire to use hotels as an artifact of « imperial tourism » through there names : Continental hotel, Best Western and others. They are also the places where the world mixes. So the idea came to try and create a micro-geopolitical world inside a hotel. And during our times of populists and identity crisis the word occidental was rising a lot in newspapers. So we mashed every « weird » ideologies from mainstream media (homophobia, racism, identity, communautarism...) and used them as a dramatic trigger.

We wanted the viewers to have an open relation to the film genre : a comedy, a thriller, a western, a social drama, and in the mean time none of these, in order to produce an open ended meaning, and distance to the movie. This effect being underlined by a loose story, a fake scenery, and a non-cathartic way of acting.

Our hopes is that the movie prevents us from taking sides or to use morality as a reading grid and doesn't advocate for any ideology. So that it doesn't reproduce the system it's attempting to take a critical distance from.

