SERGEANT JAMES

A 360° FILM BY ALEXANDRE PEREZ
IT IS LEO’S BEDTIME.

WHEN HIS MUM GOES TO SWITCH OFF THE LIGHT, THE LITTLE BOY THINKS THERE IS SOMETHING UNDER HIS BED...

LEO :
Will you leave the light on, please?

MUMMY :
Why, darling?

LEO :
I... I think there is something under my bed...

...
A NEW IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE
COMBINING FANTASY WITH REALITY

We are proposing to make a 360° fictional film designed to be viewed through a virtual-reality headset. We do not want a plot which simply showcases the technology so after a great deal of reflection and discussion, we decided to come up with a story that is more emotionally immersive than spectacular.

We were forced to reappraise our knowledge of cinema and deconstruct what we had learnt and seen in traditional films. The absence of any framing, shot cuts and spatial sound to create an even more immersive experience for viewers completely changed our way of working. This was approaching a whole new genre: theatrical practice in an audio-visual work.

We are in a child’s bedroom, under his bed. We represent a presence that might be good or it might be evil. The way the plot unfolds will reveal the key to this relationship.

Our aim is to focus on the feelings and emotions stirred up by this short story set in a seemingly familiar environment.

Our challenge is to create immersive visuals that will evoke childhood memories.
A WORD FROM DIRECTOR

SERGEANT JAMES is from a new genre of immersive, 360° fiction. It draws viewers into the fantasy world or the reality of a 7-year-old boy.

My first thought was: what is the role of the author and filmmaker in this set-up? How do they continue to drive the narrative whilst giving viewers the freedom to see what they want to see, which might differ from the current frame on offer?

There is a direct interface and an invitation to contribute to the story. This is nothing to fear; it is an opportunity. Better still, it is a collaboration. I want to play with my viewers, to anticipate their reactions, to be complicit with them, but also to be able to deceive them. This was the starting point for my desire to make a 360-degree immersive film.

Rather than seeking novel but unreal experiences from immersive films, I want to intensify the experience by basing my film on an emotion or a situation that the viewer will have already experienced. A childhood memory, for example.

I wanted their presence to be nebulous, poetic and magical, so I chose a child’s imagination, the intimacy of a bedroom and the question we have all asked ourselves and fantasised about: “Are there any monsters under my bed?”

This question is the driving force behind our story which tells of the very brief relationship between a little boy and a nebulous presence hiding under his bed. Sergeant James encourages “users” wearing headsets (we prefer to call them “viewers”) to embody that presence by experiencing the film from a 360° angle under a bed.

Alexandre Perez
ALEXANDRE PEREZ

After graduating from the ESEC film school in Paris, Alexandre Perez embarked on a career in directing, starting with the short film PARKING (Best Director Award at the Mobile Film Festival in 2014). He followed that with more award-winning shorts and two collaborations with France Inter’s WEB service – CANNES YOU HEAR (2014) and ROUGE (2015). In 2016 he developed and directed SERGEANT JAMES, his first 360° fiction (VR).

http://alexandreperez.fr

ROUGE Documentary (3’36’’), 2015
Link: https://vimeo.com/138966722
Production: France Inter - Radio France
Distribution: Facebook France Inter - Youtube - Dailymotion

L’ACTE Fiction (1’), 2015
Link: https://vimeo.com/115964629
Web broadcasts: Dailymotion et Youtube, relayé sur plusieurs sites.
TV broadcasts: France Ô (France) - RTV2 (Portugal)
Radio broadcasts: soundtrack played in its entirety and commented on on France Inter by critic and journalist Laurence Peuron

Best director at the Mobile Film Festival 2015 (France – panel of judges led by Gérard Krawczyk), Cinecoup prize at the 2015 Filminute festival
Best cinematography and 2nd jury prize - Cinephone

Kyiv International Short Film Festival (Ukraine), for «100 films in 100 min» «Cannes Films in Bucharest» (Romania) 11th One-Minute Film & Video Festival (Switzerland), International competition Filminute 2015 (Canada)

CANNES YOU HEAR Documentary (series of 8 x 1’), 2014
Link: https://vimeo.com/119685113
Production: France Inter - Radio France
Web broadcasts: (Facebook - Youtube - Dailymotion)

PARKING Fiction (1’), 2014
Link: https://vimeo.com/83452817
Web broadcasts: Dailymotion and YouTube, played on various websites and blogs.

Best director at Mobile Film Festival 2014 (France – panel of judges led by Jean-Pierre Jeunet) Official selection, 11th One-Minute Film & Video Festival (Switzerland) Takavoir Festival in Niort (France)Pocket Film Fest (USA)

JE SUIS UNE VIDEO Fiction (2’50’’), 2011
Lien: https://vimeo.com/119685114
Film of end of study (ESEC - Paris)
### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Léo Mummy</td>
<td>Elliot Daurat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screenplay and directing</td>
<td>Eléonore Joncquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dop</td>
<td>Alexandre Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>Thomas Jacquet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical 360°</td>
<td>Elie Mittelmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designer</td>
<td>Julien Lévy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Music</td>
<td>Antoine Fenske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Wissam Hojeij</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coproducer</td>
<td>Avi Amar (Floréal films)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcaster</td>
<td>MYTF1 VR / RTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Sales</td>
<td>WIDE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Year:** 2017
- **Genre:** 360° fiction
- **Duration:** 7 minutes
- **Languages and nationality:** French, English, Swiss
- **Distribution:** Mobile App, 360° Player, Virtual Reality Headsets
- **Broadcasters:** MYTF1 VR, RTS Radio Télévision Suisse, CNC Nouveaux Médias, Mission Cinéma de la Ville de Paris, YouTube Space Paris, Festival Paris Courts Devant, Cross Video Days (VR)
SERGEANT JAMES

FLORÉAL FILMS
Avi AMAR
F-28 rue du Chemin-Vert, 75011 Paris
Tel : +33(0)1 85 09 17 37
mob : +33(0)6 68 17 88 27
avi@florealfilms.com

WIDE
Paul BOUCHARD
F-9 rue Bleue, 75009 Paris
Tel : +33(0)1 53 95 04 64
mob : +33(0)6 26 62 63 00
pb@widemanagement.com

© Floréal films - Digital Immersion - 2017