THE MOVIE

MUTA FUKAZ

THE MOVIE
ANGELINO is just one of the thousands of deadbeats living in Dark Meat City, a ruthless megalopolis in sunny California. At day, he runs the streets of the city delivering pizzas; at night, he squats a seedy hotel room with his homie Vinz and an army of cockroaches that are now part of the family.

Following a scooter accident caused by the heavenly vision of Luna, a girl with jet-black hair, the young man starts experiencing violent headaches doubled with strange hallucinations. Hallucinations? Maybe not ... Chased by men in black suits, Angelino has no doubts: he is a target. Why him? Following a terrifying manhunt, he is finally captured and learns the truth about his origins: he is half human and half Macho, a creature from the dark matter of the universe.

Will he join the ranks of those who secretly exploit the world's resources...or choose another path?
Angelino

ID: Angelino is a young misfit, just like as thousands of others in Dark Meat City, a squalid megalopolis sweating under the Californian sun. 
Distinguishing marks: onyx color skin.

Everyday Life: Angelino lives in a room in a run-down hotel in the Latin neighborhood Rios Rosas. His monotonous days are made of crappy part-time jobs, channel-hopping, Mexican wrestling and philosophical discussions with his buddies under the stars.

Friends: Vinz and Willy.

Enemies: Bruce Maccabee and the men in black; Mister K and the Machos.

Status: ever since his scooter accident, Angelino has been tormented by worrying hallucinations. He eventually convinces himself that evil beings in human forms are controlling the world, and discovers he has extraordinary unbelievable powers.

Vinz

ID: Vinz is Angelino’s roomie and best friend. 
Distinguishing marks: his burning head.

Everyday Life: he lives with Angelino even though they don’t share the same affection for the hundreds of cockroaches that colonized the walls of their apartment.

Friends: Angelino and Willy.

Enemies: Angelino’s enemies are his enemies.

Status: suspicious and anxious by nature, Vinz is worried about Angelino’s mental health. Since the accident, his friend seems to be making less and less sense. But when he tries to pull him out of his funk, it doesn’t take long for him to realize the truth: there’s a genuine threat hanging over them, and the fate of mankind itself is in danger.
**El Diablo**

ID: El Diablo is the charismatic leader of La Lucha Ultima, a group of masked fighters whose members claim to be descended from eagle warriors and Aztec jaguars. **Distinguishing marks:** the mask? The tattoos? His sharp teeth. **Everyday Life:** their spiritual mission is to fight the forces of the netherworld that have threatened the earth for millennia. **Friends:** the fighters of the Lucha Ultima. **Enemies:** the Machos. **Status:** despite being impulsive and bad-tempered, El Diablo is good at heart and demonstrates unerring loyalty to his friends, no matter what happens.

**Bruce Macchabee**

ID: Bruce Macchabee is the leader of the men in black. **Distinguishing marks:** blessed with unwavering cold blood. **Everyday Life:** legend has it that he has nine lives like a cat, and that even bullets won’t bring him down. It’s also said that around 20 years ago, he personally executed an illegitimate Human/Macho couple, whose hybrid child has been missing ever since. **Friends:** he has a few allies but no real friends. **Enemies:** anyone on his way. **Status:** pitiless and capable of unthinkable brutality when carrying out his elimination missions, Macchabee is feared by both his enemies and his allies.

**Willy**

ID: Willy is the gang’s third musketeer. **Distinguishing marks:** he is a bat. **Everyday Life:** to survive in the urban jungle that is Dark Meat City, he does not hesitate to dabble in a whole host of illegal activities, often rubbing shoulders with objectionable characters. **Friends:** Angelino and Vinz. **Enemies:** the list is endless. **Status:** selfish, shameless and a total chicken, Willy somehow manages to be an endearing character that we want to help... even if he does drive his companions crazy with his incessant whining.

**Luna**

ID: Luna is a bewitching young Latina who has stolen Angelino’s heart. **Distinguishing marks:** jet black hair. **Everyday Life:** it is difficult to figure her out. **Friends:** Angelino? **Enemies:** Angelino? **Status:** Luna and Angelino’s paths seem to cross and uncross throughout the adventure. Is it just a coincidence? Or... destiny? Unless the lovely young lady is actually an agent, following orders from some dark authority.
The men in black are a secret governmental organisation which aims to prevent humanity from hindering the Machos’ progress. They usually masquerade as agents working for America’s federal government. They all dress in the unchanging regulation black suit, except their leader, Bruce Macchabee, who’s the only man in black to wear white. Most of the agents are humans working for the Machos. (Some of them don’t even know it.) However, a few Machos have infiltrated the group’s core and quietly ensure that everything is running smoothly. They drive 1964 Cadillacs - black, naturally.

Section Z-7 is a branch of the police force that specialises in high-risk operations. Armed to the back teeth, these elite soldiers were created in laboratories to conform to the Machos’ genetic ideals. Macho/human hybrid prototypes are considered to make perfect soldiers, obedient in all circumstances. These monstrous powerhouses are an important asset in the Machos’ desire for supremacy. However, first-generation prototypes tend to be unstable in extremely tense situations.
Mr K is the head honcho of the Machos and a puppeteer in the running of the White House. Sinister and uncompromising, he rules his subjects with an iron fist. His authority is never called into question, despite his sometimes irrational fits of rage. He is highly suspicious of his human allies, believing them to be untrustworthy. He dreams of replacing them with hybrids one day to assure his complete control. Mr K was a polymorphic Macho himself, until a fire confined him to his human form forever.

The Machos are cosmic entities formed from the dark matter of the universe. Their goal? Just to achieve planetary domination and exploit all the world’s resources. The Machos are protean beings which can mutate at will into any animal or human form. They have managed to infiltrate all levels of society and even occupy a number of important positions, thanks to the kind help of corrupt, power-hungry politicians. There is a Macho base on the dark side of the moon. Every Macho is required to train here before infiltrating Earth’s society, in order to observe and understand the humans’ behaviour and learn to imitate them perfectly.
LOS ANGELES HAS ALWAYS FASCINATED ME...

Yet, during my first trips there, I didn’t really enjoy this city, but for some kind of irrational reason I always felt like an urge to go back there. I was aware that I was missing out on something, I didn’t get the true essence of this city. Then I learned to love Los Angeles for what it truly is, leaving behind the idealized image that Hollywood fed me while I grew up, and despite the fact that it is also a concentration of everything wrong with postmodern cities: horrendous traffic, pollution, lack of pedestrian areas, division among communities, from the richest jet-setters to the most intimidating gangs.

**MUTAFUKAZ** is, in its own way, a stirring tribute to this challenging city. I love the dynamism coming from L.A: its history, its atmosphere, its multiculturalism... The city’s graphic identity, with its tall palm trees and wide streets, have always thoroughly fascinated me. And like all little French kids who grew up in the 80’s, I was raised on American movies and television shows. This scenery, in fact, has always seemed very familiar to me. So it was only natural for me to create **Dark Meat City**, L.A.’s evil twin, which allowed me to explore all of the fantasies that the city inspires in me. **DMC** is a condensed exaggeration of Los Angeles’ varied strengths and weaknesses, where the main characters, three orphan losers, live. They are all very different from one another, and they don’t belong to any particular community. Since the trio is so out of phase with the world around them, we end up identifying with them. Like Los Angeles, **Dark Meat City** is a global city, and the neighborhoods that make it up reflect the diversity of the Earth’s inhabitants. The citizens of **Dark Meat City** also live in the constant fear of an imminent cataclysm, but here, it is more of a supernatural threat than a physical one, like the so-called Big One.

"TIP THE WORLD OVER ON ITS SIDE AND EVERYTHING LOOSE WILL LAND IN LOS ANGELES"

- FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Beneath a bright blue sky, the city is the home of several million inhabitants, and as the absolute symbol of the American Dream, it is one of the world’s most important migratory cities. And yet, beneath the facade of a tolerant city, one might sometimes feel a suspicious feeling while walking around some of L.A neighborhoods, as if what is sometimes considered to be the pinnacle of western societies could go down at any moment, just like in the greatest John Carpenter movies.

The main character’s name is **Angelino**, which is also the name given to a person who lives in L.A. **Angelino** also means “little angel”, but when we see what the character actually looks like, we could easily refer to him as “Diabolito” as well. If David Vincent, with his perfect hair and stunning blue eyes, was unable to convince the authorities of the existence of alien **Invaders** back in his day, then one wonders how **Vinz**, **Angelino**, and **Willy**, three ghetto misfits who are as ugly as they are mediocre, could possibly solve the same problem.

**UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL**

Through this animated film, which resolutely focuses on action, I try to address deeper issues: the search for identity, each person’s place in society, friendship, and, of course, love. I played around with all the pre-conceived ideas conveyed by pop culture, with many nods to this American imagery that struck my French teenager imagination. From masked **Luchadores** to Latino and Afro-American gangs (directly inspired from the war between **Bloods** and **Crips** that shook South Los Angeles in the 90s), including Men in Black directly inspired by ufology myths... Nobody get spared in **MUTAFUKAZ** (thus, the title). But the famous Machiavellian saying “divide and rule” will slowly give way to “united we stand”. Final salvation will come from the coalition of the city’s different gangs, despite their community, and all colors shall unite against evil, as many new guardian angels for Dark Meat City.

The art style, inspired by **West Coast culture**, is sporadically tinted with references from **B-movies** and the golden age of **American Sci-fi**, which give Mutafukaz a singular, unique atmosphere that is sometimes dark, sometimes flashy, often paranoid, yet always fun and full of off-beat humor.
I have immediately been captivated by the unusual world created by Run.

When I met him, his pencil stroke and dark atmosphere, very urban, had already aroused my curiosity. For me it was clear: Angelino and the environment he was evolving in had great potential. So it is with confidence that I gave “carte blanche” to Run for the creation of his comic Mutafukaz. Today I can say I am very happy I made this decision.

The specificity of Ankama Editions is to give a chance to authors who would have not necessarily had any with other publishing houses.... Mutafukaz opened the door to the eclecticism that now characterizes our different labels. Since then, other heroes and books have been developed. I guess you could say that Angelino and his crew allowed the Label 619 and its unique atmosphere/world to emerge.

Faced with the growing success of the comic Mutafukaz, a film adaptation was a no brainer. The short film Mutafukaz - Operation Blackhead and the many awards it received definitely convinced us to embark on the feature film adventure.

Ankama has come a long way since the WAKFU series. We’ve launched another animated series for a younger audience: DOFUS: Kerub’s Bazaar, a 52 episodes series whose old main hero was once a great adventurer.

Since then, new perspectives have aroused, and we released our first feature film in theaters: DOFUS - Book I: Julith, which premiered in February, 2016. Those who follow us know that the 3rd season of the WAKFU series is in production, with a worldwide release on Netflix planned for the beginning of 2018. Today, our experience in the entertainment industry is at a turning point with the movie Mutafukaz and thanks to Studio 4°C. It’s a real pleasure to work with this Japanese company that gathers so many talents.

The quest for one’s origins is a subject that has always been dear to my heart and I have often explored. No doubt: Angelino’s story fits perfectly into this line. Add to that a clever mix of humor, suspense and action, and you’ll get a story that, in my opinion, is absolutely at its place in the world of feature film.

I hope you will take as much pleasure in discovering Mutafukaz the movie, as we had in producing it.

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Producer
Shojiro Nishimi is a director of animated films known for his realistic productions and spectacular action scenes. His use of original characters with distinctive proportions immediately attracts his viewers’ attention, and his unique, delicate universe is the culmination of his artistic brilliance. He worked as director of animation on Tekkonkinkreet, which was rewarded Best Animated Film at the Japanese Academy Awards.

MAIN PRODUCTIONS:
Akira: Animator
Mind Game: Key frame animator
Tekkonkinkreet: Character designer, director of animation
Shimotsuma Monogatari: Director of the animated section
Batman, Gotham Knight OVA: Producer and director of animation

Shinji Kimura’s art, which brought him international recognition and accolades, is a combination of digital and traditional techniques. Blending audacity and perfectionism, the artistic texture of his work never fails to immerse viewers into a totally unique atmosphere. His short film Ani Kuri 15: Attack of Higashi Ni-chome was nominated at the Annecy International Animation Festival in 2008.

MAIN PRODUCTIONS:
Akira: Decorator
Project A-ko: Lead decorator
Steamboy: Lead decorator
Tekkonkinkreet: Lead decorator
Genius Party, Death tic 4*: Director, character designer and lead decorator
Hipira: The Little Vampire series: Director
The Mutafukaz universe was officially born online in 2000, with a dynamic site packed with animations introducing the characters.

**A 7 MIN SHORT FILM NOMINATED AT SUNDANCE FESTIVAL**

The site quickly gained popularity, and in response to the growing interest of visitors, a 7-minute film called Mutafukaz: Operation Blackhead, was released in 2002 as a general introduction to the universe. Directed by Run & Yan Blary, this short was created with a mix of Flash and 3D, making it a first in the world of graphics. Animation festivals from around the world discovered this gem, which received several awards and was nominated in 2003 at the Sundance Festival, the mecca of independent cinema.

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**MUTAFUKAZ: OPERATION BLACKHEAD AWARDS**

2002
- SIGGRAPH (San Antonio, USA)
2003
- Sundance Festival selection (Salt Lake City, USA) / Mouviz Festival Best Short Sci-Fi Animation (Nantes, FR) / Trash Film Festival Best Animation (Pompidou Centre / Paris, FR) / Rencontres Animations (Lille, FR) / Emma Awards (London, UK) / Krakow Film Festival (Krakow, PL) / Reanimate Festival Best Animation (Rotterdam, NL) / Anima 2002 (Brussels, BEL) / Cartoons on the Bay (Positano, IT) / Ferencbenk Boldt Schen (Leipzig, GER) / Festival Cinema Nouvelle Generation (Lyon, FR) / Anima Mundi (Sao Paulo, BRA) / Tashbang (Atlanta, USA) / Cinema Paradize Film Festival (Hawaii, USA) / Dotchov Festival (Sapporo, JAP)

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In 2017, the first Spin-Off of the series is published in a monthly issued six-part comics of 32 pages each. This exclusive new story takes the reader through the youth of one of the main characters of Mutafukaz.

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**OVER 135,000 COPIES SOLD!**

The first volume of the comic books, which relates the (mis)adventures of the infernal duo, Vinz and Angelino, was released by Ankama Editions in 2006. The series has sold over 135,000 copies to date.

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For the past 10 years, Run has developed with the Mutafukaz IP a faithful and highly engaged community of fans through sign-in sessions and social media.
A POSTMODERNIST VIRTUOSO, Run is a bit like the Tarantino of comics, and Mutafukaz is his Kill Bill.
Les Inrocks

A graphic novel whose story and graphics are TOTALLY FRESH. Run has got Modern comics down to a fine art.
TECHNIK’ART

A GROUNDBREAKING graphic quest. One of the most talented illustrators of his generation.
L’OPTIMUM

Run has claimed his place as the leader of a tribe of authors who are both TALENTED and ORIGINAL.
BODOI

Without a doubt, Mutafukaz belongs in the UNMISSABLE category of 21st-century graphic novels.
LE SOIR

Graphically IMPECCABLE. A venture that leaves the beaten track far behind.
GEEK MAG

A graphic MASTERPIECE, […] Mutafukaz is an ABSOLUTE GEM.
PLANETE RAP

Mutafukaz is THE VERY BEST of urban culture.
CASEMATE

NEXT NARRATIVE ARC TO START IN 2018
COMIC BOOKS AVAILABLE IN FRENCH, ENGLISH, ITALIAN

technical INFORMATION

MAIN CREDITS
Production: ANKAMA / STUDIO 4°C
Producers: Anthony Roux (Ankama)
Based on: The comic series MUTAFUKAZ
Screenplay: Run
Directors: Run and Shojiro Nishimi
Lead Animator: Shojiro Nishimi
Lead Decorator: Shinji Kimura
Artistic Director: Run

TECHNICAL ASPECTS
Running Time: 90 Minutes
Animation Technique: 2D Hand Draw / Computer Animation
Languages: English, French
Delivery: 2017