

Alex Oꝑou

Marc Amyot

a film by
Eugène Dyson

Les fous sont saints d'esprit



ALEX OGOU - MARC AMYOT - "LES FOUS SONT SAINTS D'ESPRIT" - A FILM BY EUGÈNE DYSON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY HUGO VELUDO - SOUND BJÖRN CORNELIUS - FIRST ASSISTANT MARIE-LAURE MAILLAT

EDITING MATHIAS NIEPENBERG - CAMERA ASSISTANT SANDY SCHMID - COSTUMES & MAKE-UP NOÉMIE STALDER

PROPS MÉLINA KUPFER - SET DESIGN SÉBASTIEN WILDI, KYM STAIFF - SOUND DESIGN SYLVAIN COPANS

MUSIC BY JÉRÔME BAUR

WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY EUGÈNE DYSON

Pitch



A man locked up in a psychiatric hospital is having visions. A mandala appears and reveals to him his divine mission. But the man is confronted with his psychiatrist's very down to earth perceptions. Will the man get through it all? A short film balancing between rational mind and mystical madness.

Synopsis



A man is having visions while locked up in a psychiatric hospital. A mandala appears and reveals to him his divine mission. All his attention is focused on the vision when an orderly comes to take him to a consultation.

The man tries to explain his premonition, but he's confronted with his psychiatrist's rational perceptions. Dr Lecoq doesn't want to hear a word he has to say. The tension grows until the psychiatrist calls orderlies to contain him.

Back in his cell, the man wakes up slowly from the chemical restraint he's been locked in. The moment comes. Supernatural elements are calling him. Are we in his head? In his fantasy? Is it a reality beyond understanding or simply a psychotic episode?

In the middle of his ecstasy, a power cut suddenly puts an end to his euphoria. The long-awaited moment has come. And he knows it. The moon appears through the little cell window. It is coming to get him.

The next morning Dr Lecoq is driving to the hospital. Breaking news from the radio announces a ridiculous situation that is disrupting traffic in the area. Five thousand chickens have been released from a chicken battery just a few hours before it caught fire. Lecoq is running late because of the traffic jam and is very angry when he gets to the hospital.

An orderly calls out to him to inform him that Alexander, the patient, is feeling much better. He has become very calm and stable. The psychiatrist decides he wants to see him.

In the consultation the patient seems serene. He's very peaceful and declares to the psychiatrist that he can now help him. Dr Lecoq attempts to argue when he notices a feather. A chicken feather. He begins to understand. A mandala appears again.

A confrontation between two worlds, the rational and the mystical, "Les fous sont saints d'esprit" (Mad men are wholly spirits) seeks to thwart our preconceived ideas on madness and questions our own relationship to the mind.

Director's statement



This project came to life following an act of psychomagic. I was then in search of inspiration for a personal film project I wanted to realize. I went to Paris to meet Moreno, one of Alejandro Jodorowsky's assistant of. He gave me a task to accomplish. It is called an act of psychomagic because it enables the resolution of psychological problems buried deep in the unconscious mind and inherited by family situations: at midnight, when the bells ring, I had to write three words, three pages and the title of my next project with a black rooster feather and red ink; that is how this short film came to life.

By confronting the rational mind and mystical madness, my idea was to put a critical eye to the Cartesian vision of Western medicine and question what we consider as real. What are the spirit's capabilities? And how our open-mindedness to different potentialities affects our vision of reality?

By leaving the possible interpretations open as much as possible, I wanted to let the audience choose their own perspective. A rational mind will only see in this madness the legitimacy of the psychiatrist, the institution (and in a wider sense, the society) confining the patient. A more esoteric mind will see a connexion with the divine and the Cartesian mind being incapable of understanding a collective consciousness. A subject beyond all of us.

The door is open. It is up to each person to form his own opinion. Are you better off living in a society that is not preoccupied by what lies in our unconscious mind? Or do we need to dive deep inside ourselves to learn more? Whatever the case may be, the liberty to choose is of utmost importance.

Eugène Dyson

Writer, Director, Producer



Eugène Dyson was born in Australia in 1983. He then grew up in Switzerland in Lausanne. Son of an actor and theatre director, he evolved in the world of artistic creation.

At fourteen, Léo Maillard (Le Flair) offered him a lead role in his diploma short film “Un temps de chien”. Eugène fell in love with cinema and turned towards a visual arts degree in college. He is self taught and has 10 years experience mainly as assistant, lighting technician and camera assistant. “Les fous sont saints d’esprit” (Mad men are wholly spirits) is his first professional short film. Particularly interested in consciousness and its development, he is constantly researching means of raising consciousness and sharing his experiences. He is now studying directing at the Australian Film TV and Radio School (AFTRS) in Sydney.

www.eugenedyson.com

Jérôme Baur

Composer



Jérôme Baur has been a film and live performing arts composer since 1987. Of French origin, he left Paris for Lausanne in 2000. His musical training began at the conservatoire with piano when he was nine. He then became a student of the jazz man Michel Sardaby for seven years and then did two years training at the “studio des variétés de Paris“. His career took off at the beginning of the 90’s. When he is not on tour with the many bands he works with, he composes musics for TV (C dans l’air, France 5), advertising, cinema and plays. His many concerts in Europe taught him the musics of the world that today influence his creations. In 2008, Jérôme Baur won the SUIISA Foundation prize for the best soundtrack at the Locarno film festival, with the movie “Les petites vacances” (with Bernadette Lafont and Claude Brasseur). For more than fifteen years he has composed scores for documentaries and plays in Switzerland, Denmark, France, China and soon Japan. Sculpting emotions in music, to merge tradition with new technologies, to meet authors, create alive and vibrating work of art... all this is part of his composing and musical universe.

FILM MUSIC AWARD 2008 Prize of SUIISA Foundation for music, Festival of Locarno 2008, for the music of LES PETITES VACANCES directed by Olivier Peyon.

www.music-baur.com

Alex Ogou



Born in Ivory Coast, he arrived in France at the age of 5. He works and lives in Paris.

Lead actor (“Bibi”) in *IL VA PLEUVOIR SUR CONAKRY* (Cheick Fantamady CAMARA, Guinea, 2007), he also played some lead roles in two of Robert Guédiguian’s movies *LA VILLE EST TRANQUILLE* (2000) with Ariane Ascaride and *A LA PLACE DU COEUR* (1998) with Ariane ASCARIDE, Christine BRUCHER, Jean-Pierre DARROUSSIN, Gerard MEYLAN et Laure RAOUST.

Best actor at Festival du Jeune comédien de Béziers in 1999 for his role in *A LA PLACE DU COEUR* by Robert Guédiguian (France).

FESPACO 2007 (Ouagadougou) : Public Prize RFI - Prize Rur’art 2007 for *IL VA PLEUVOIR SUR CONAKRY* by Cheick Fantamady Camara (Guinea).

Marc Amyot



Born of a Jesuit father and an Irish mother, Marc Amyot grew up in Canada; He then voyaged through theatre via the Conservatoire of dramatic art of Montreal and the Jacques Lecoq school in Paris. He has worked in the street-theatre with Royal de Luxe, Pesce crudo, on stage with Kygel theatre, Oxalis, Theatre de Chambre and on screen with Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Roman Polanski.

Well known for his role of the unknown man of the photo booths in AMELIE (2001), he currently works on a miniseries project called “•363”. He lives and works in Paris.

Production crew



writer, director, producer
Eugène Dyson

actors

Alex Ogou the patient
Marc Amyot Dr Lecoq
Mehdi Djaadi orderly 1
Adrian Filip orderly 2

Emilie Blaser radio voice

director of photography
Hugo Veludo

original music composer
Jérôme Baur

sound
Björn Cornelius

set design
Sébastien Wildi

head of set building
Kym Staiff

props
Mélina Kupfer

original mandala artwork
Melano Sokhadze

editor
Mathias Niepenberg
schnittbüro, Berlin

sound editor
Sylvain Copans
Objectif Son, Paris

sound mixing
Philippe Mercier
PRISM Studio, Lausanne

color grading and VFX supervision
Boris Rabusseau
Freestudios, Geneva

Technical data



original title:	Les fous sont saints d'esprit
english title:	Mad men are wholly spirits
cinematographic genre:	short film fiction
length:	10 minutes
shooting format:	4k Red Epic 2.39:1 scope
screening formats:	2k DCP 2.39:1 scope 5.1 surround media file ProRes .mov DVD PAL région 0 BluRay PAL
rate:	25 fps
original language:	French
subtitles:	English, German, Italian or French
production country:	Switzerland
production year:	2013
websites:	www.LesFousSontSaintsDesprit.com www.eugenedyson.com www.facebook.com/LesFousSontSaintsDesprit

Music © Jérôme Baur (Suisa/Sacem)
www.music-baur.com

Copyright © MMXIII Eugène Dyson (SSA/Suissimage)
www.eugenedyson.com

All rights reserved.