

Ballerina



NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAM



Synopsis

1884. Felicie, 11, is living in an orphanage in Brittany. Her life is dull, regimented and severe. But none of that matters because she has one dream in her life: to dance. Dancing is what makes her feel alive and connects her to her late parents. But in her grey and strict orphanage, dancing is off-limits.

But that all changes. One night she meets the young, funny and mischievous Corentin, who is also chasing his dream: to become a world famous inventor. He compels her into carrying out an incredible orphanage escape, and suddenly Felicie finds herself with him on a train... a train to Paris!

Paris in 1884 is becoming the city that everyone knows and loves today. But to two country kids just off the train, it is a real jungle. The city is an open air construction site, all the sectors are developing at full speed, and the two kids have never seen anything like it.

And when Felicie stumbles upon the Opera Garnier and sees an Etoile dancing on the stage she realizes that her dream could be at her fingertips. She absolutely needs to be part of this world!

Mentored by the tough and mysterious cleaner, Odette, Felicie discovers that her innate talent is not enough: she is also going to have to work hard to become the dancer she wants to be!

Felicie swears to herself that she will get the part, especially as the music is the same as the tune on her music box, given to her by her parents.

Just as Odette and Felicie become closer whilst training, Corentin returns like a bad smell. Their friendship blossoms, as they bicker and fight their way through more adventures. As time passes, Corentin sees her as more than a best friend, which is why he gets this strange jealous feeling when Felicie takes a liking to Rudolph, a rich Russian dancer at the school.

Both our friends will have to fight for their dreams: Felicie to remember who she is and why she dances, and Corentin to prove to Felicie that he is not just a small, irritating boy.

Ballerina is a funny, exhilarating adventure centered round the beautiful and opulent landscape of the Opera Garnier, and the incredible backdrop provided by the city of Paris. Ballerina is also a moving story about friendship, self-belief, self-transcendence, and family.





Note of Intent

BALLERINA is first and foremost the adventures of Felicie, a truly charismatic and compelling movie heroine. She has a universal quest: a passionate dream to fulfil – dancing – and she is ready to fight and struggle for it. The chaotic path she will have to follow to reach that dream is punctuated with strong and inspirational themes: self-knowledge, friendship, and love. Her story is about personal growth, encounters that change your life, distraction on the road to glory and finally success, in spite of everything.

BALLERINA is a heart-stopping odyssey, filled with twists and turns, humour, surprises and revelations. It's both a sassy romantic comedy and an action movie set in the world of dancing. The heroine is unstoppable and on her journey, you laugh, you cry, you get scared, you choose sides, you break down and finally you breathe a sigh of relief, when all ends well.

The setting of Corentin and Felicie's adventures is just as huge as their exploits. In 1884, Paris was an exploding city: it was in transition from the "ancient" to the "modern" world... Economy, transport and arts were all developing at break-neck speed. Parisians wanted to have fun and forget about the past chaos. But misery was still lurking and children were cast off: forced to work, most of the time orphans, left to their own devices... The Paris of our story is therefore a surprising and unexpected place, a place never before seen in cinema. Our film is the result of a period of research and it describes with great authenticity a city which is growing beyond recognition...

Based on true events, BALLERINA is inspired by the Ballet "La Korrigane" created by Merante who was an acclaimed choreographer at that time. La Korrigane premiered in 1880 at Paris Opera with the Etoile Rosita Mauri in the main part. Set in Brittany at the 17th-century, it tells the story of an orphan who is bewitched by the Queen of the Korriganes. Not far from Felicie's adventures... A hugely popular ballet, La Korrigane received over 100 performances at the Paris Opera.

All these elements build the setting for our heroes' adventures and only an animated movie can fully create the necessary sense of visual excess and fantasy. From the glinting, golden Opera roof tops, to the frozen Seine river, the grandiose abandoned Italian theatre and the warehouse that houses the Statue of Liberty under construction, animation brings an indispensable element to every fairy tale: magic! The buildings are defying architectural rules and the blocks, monuments and streets take on a life and distinctive character of their own.

The characters too are visually distinctive. Unimaginable and improbable in real life, they get all of their flavour, soul and emotion thanks to animation. As for the choreography performed by Felicie and her opponents, it truly defies gravity. The dance sequences, just like the action sequences, are spectacular, delirious, greater, and more beautiful and epic than in real life.

BALLERINA is an irresistible story about friendship which promotes the idea of pushing yourself to be the best you can. And Felicie and Corentin, in their striving, in their dreams and passions are truly timeless heroes.

Felicie

“I’m going to be a dancer and tour the world.
The world will be... my world!”





Corentin

“Nice to meet you sugar.
I’m Corentin otherwise known as...
the PANTHER!”



Odette

“You need to live the music,
feel it.”





Merante

“Try to introduce your left foot
to your right foot.
See if they can one day get along.”





Regine Le Haut

“I am going to crush her!
I’m going to crush her and eat
her for breakfast!
I’m going to crush her,
eat her and then spit her puny,
little peasant bones out!”

Camille Le Haut

“Don’t be insolent, you can’t afford it.
You can train, steal my identity,
you will always be
a stinking Breton sardine.”



Secondary Characters

Albert

Bastien

Mathurin



Austerlitz Train Station

“ It’s now morning.
The train steams into the busy station and screeches
to a juddering halt. ”





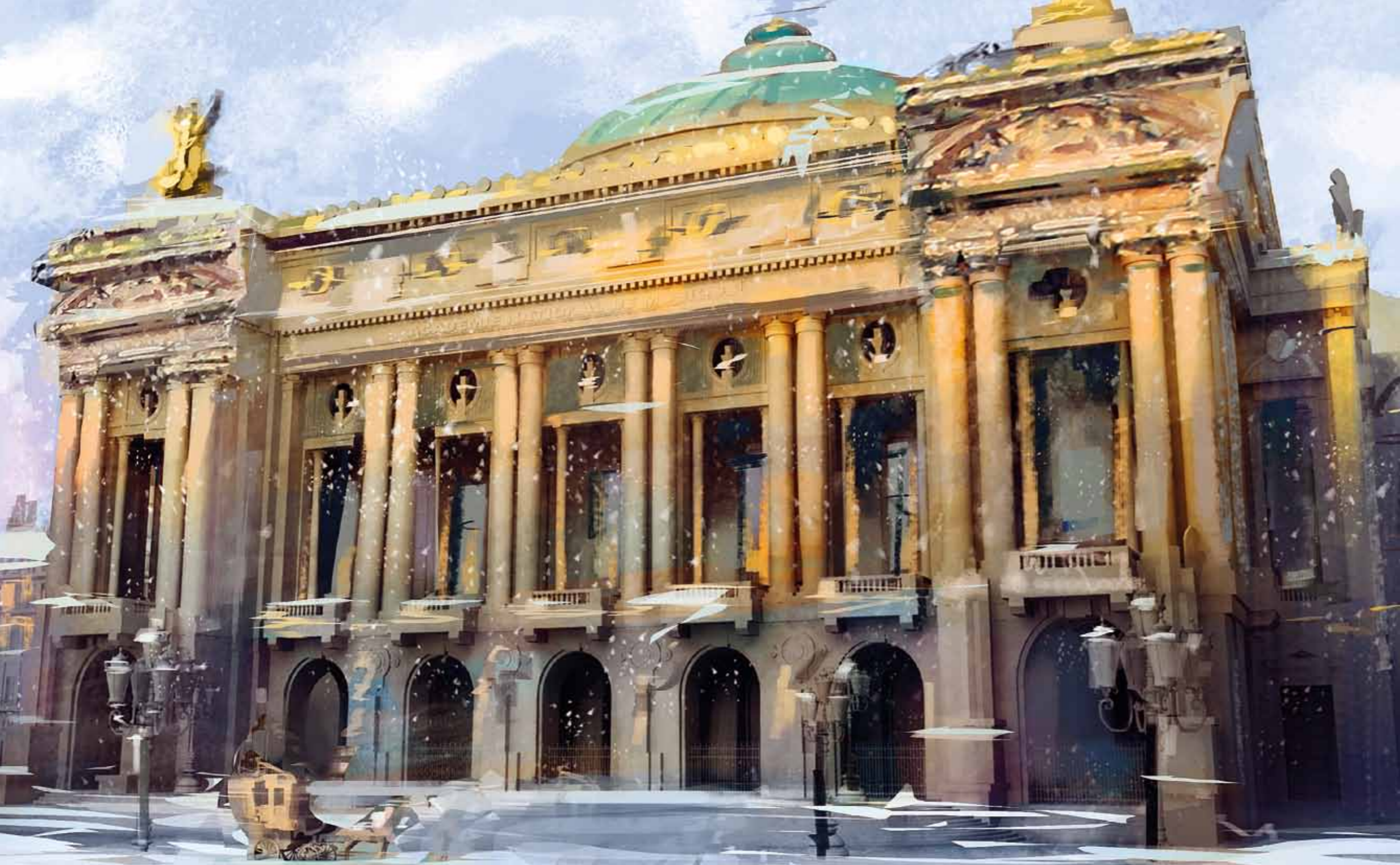
The Train to Paris

“ Felicie swings out and uses all of her agility to land safely in the carriage. ”

The Le Haut Building

“ This building is a shiny new
Haussmanian building, slap-bang in the middle of the
ramshackle ‘old’ Paris buildings. ”





The Paris Opera

“The pedestrians are slipping, the shopkeepers sweep the floor,
the hackneys are paralysed under the snow.
Felicie is laughing with joy.

She enters the building which looks like a giant cake.”

Eiffel's Studio

Corentin

“The workshop of my new boss.
Engineer. Genius.”





The Breton Bar

“Felicie

I love it here! Let's party!!!!

Felicie breaks away from Corentin and lets the music sweep her away.

Corentin watches her for a second.

Corentin

Did you say you loved me or the bar?

But Felicie is already lost in the music.”

Les Halles Market

“Odette climbs the stairs towards the ceiling of Les Halles

Odette

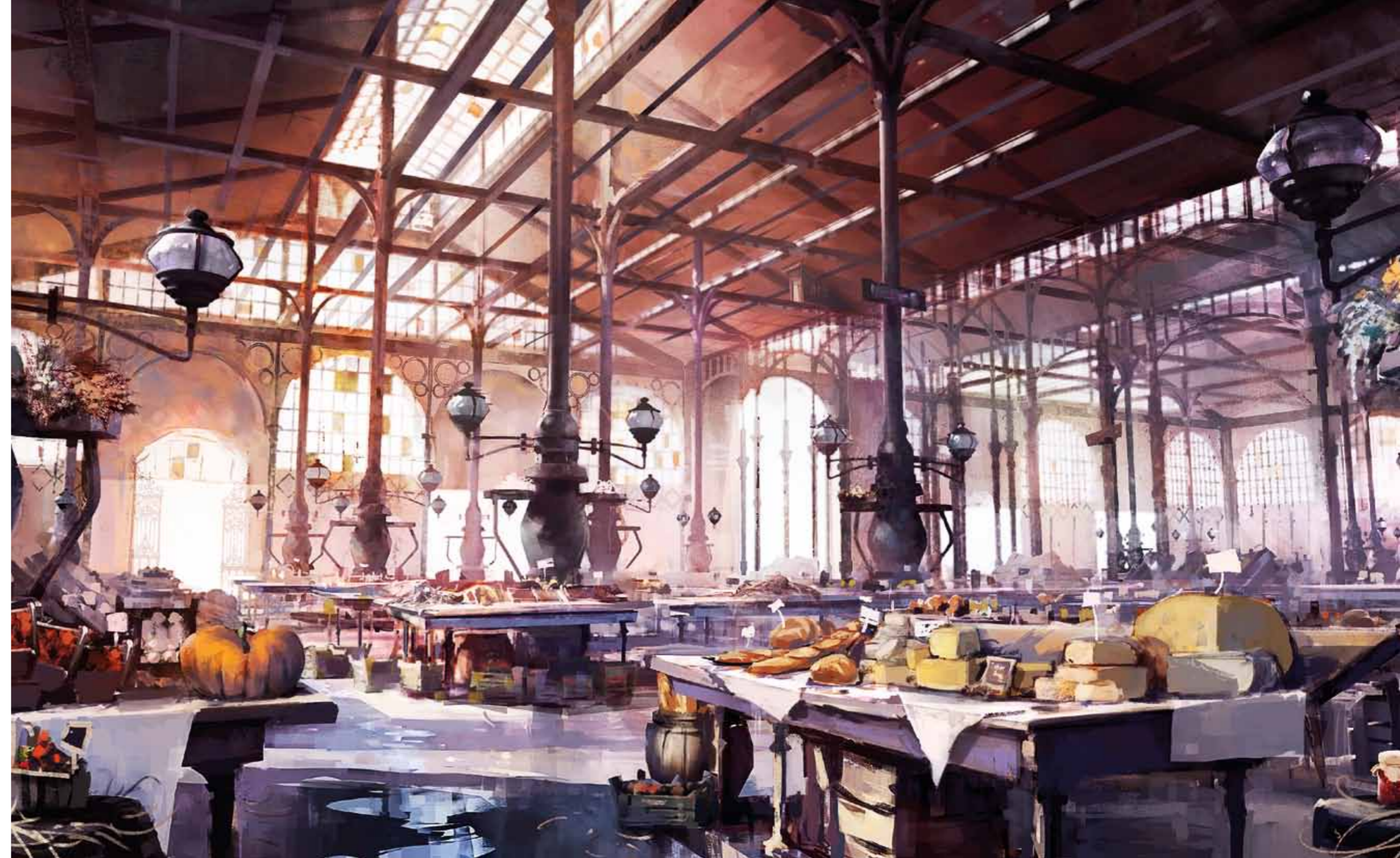
When you are ready, jump from girder to girder.

Felicie

I'm ready...

Odette

And I'm the Empress Josephine.”





Hotel Du Plessis-Belliere

Rudolph

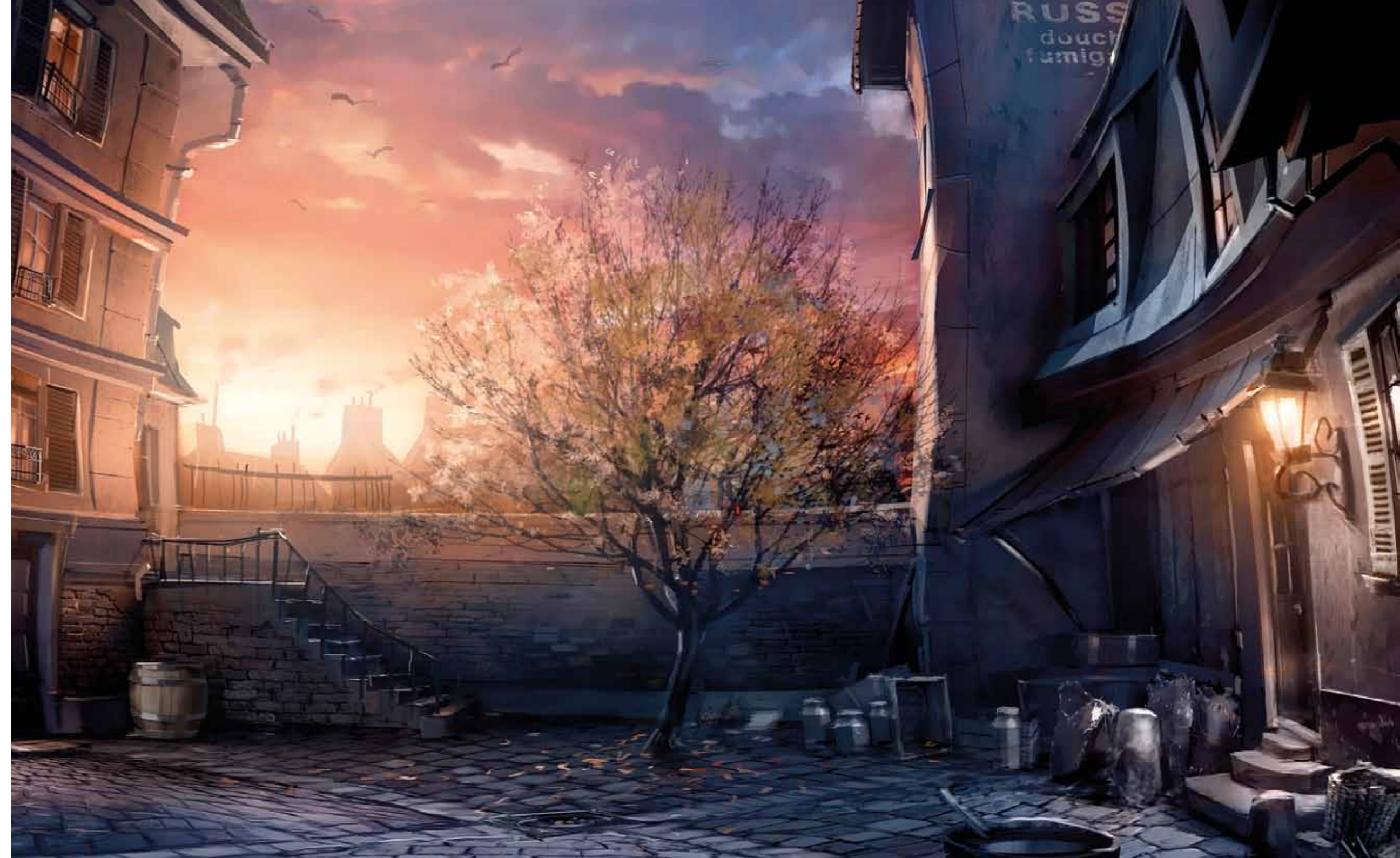
“ Baboushka!

You look like a million francs. And tonight we shall party.
Somewhere spectacular.

Me, you and some like minded rebels. ”

Le Haut Building / Courtyard

“ Felicie, almost in tears, scrabbles to find the pieces of smashed music box. Above, Odette looks out of the window of the Le Haut apartment and sees her. ”





Opera / Auditorium Stage

“ Felicie sees an Etoile (Rosita Mauri) dancing a solo on the stage. Her moves are so graceful. Felicie is totally caught up in what she sees. ”

The Dancing Classroom

Felicie

“I want to enter the
Opera and learn how to dance.”



The Crew



Quad (The Producers)

Nicolas Duval Adassovsky

Nicolas is the founder of Quad Group. With 20 years experience in the production process, including pre and postproduction, his expertise in itself is a guarantee for projects developed by QUAD.

Laurent Zeitoun

Screenwriter for I DO: HOW TO GET MARRIED AND STAY SINGLE, HEARTBREAKER and FLY ME TO THE MOON, Laurent supervises all projects in development and ensures the artistic coherence of the company's slate. Laurent is also one of the screenwriters on Ballerina.

Yann Zenou

Seven years experience in distribution with Mars Distribution and then handling development and co-productions at Studio Canal have given Yann full knowledge of the market and of French and European financing networks. Yann joined QUAD in 2007 where he works on financing all company projects.

Selected Filmography

THE INTOUCHABLES FLY ME TO THE MOON
HEARTBREAKER THOSE HAPPY DAYS

Eric Warin & Eric Summer (The Directors)

Eric Warin started his career in animation, and has notably collaborated on the conception of animated feature THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE by Sylvain Chomet in 1999. He then moved on to video games working for UbiSoft where he created characters and storyboards for the "Prince of Persia, Sands of Time". From 2003 to 2010 he was Artistic Director for Canadian video game company A2M where he worked with studios such as Warner and Dreamworks on game projects for HAPPY FEET, RANGO and others. In 2009 he co-wrote and co-directed 3D animation short ALEX ET LES FANTOMES.

Eric Summer started off his career by directing commercials, documentaries, and then international TV shows, with 120 episodes from a wide panel of genres including the creation and direction of the acclaimed French TV series "Profiling". He moved to Montreal in 2001 where he met Eric Warin, with whom he has created a production entity specialising in animation.

Benjamin Millepied (Choreographer)

Benjamin Millepied's repertoire includes lead roles in ballets choreographed by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and Peter Martins. He has also danced in works by Peter Martins, Angelin Preljocaj, Mauro Bigonzetti and Alexei Ratmansky.

In addition to being a celebrated dancer, Mr Millepied is also a renowned choreographer who has created works for some of the world's most well-known dance companies and artists, including the New York City Ballet, the Paris Opera Ballet, American Ballet Theater, Mikhail Baryshnikov.

In 2010, Benjamin Millepied choreographed and starred in the Darren Aronofsky film BLACK SWAN, which was nominated, among others, for Best Film at the Oscars.

Lately, Benjamin Millepied has been named the new Director of Dance at the world renowned Paris Opera Ballet.

Aurelie Dupont (Dancing Motion Capture)

She joined the Paris Opera Ballet School at the age of 10. At the end of a performance of Don Quichotte (Rudolf Nureyev), she was named Etoile. She worked, among others, with Pina Bausch, Maurice Bejart, William Forsythe, Benjamin Millepied, John Neumeier.... She has won several prizes during her career.

Fred Remuzat (Creative Producer)

Art Director for Quad Production
LOL
THOSE HAPPY DAYS
DIOR, CARTIER (Advertising Campaigns)

Bruno Coulais (Composer)

FAREWELL, MY QUEEN
OCEANS
CORALINE
THE CHORUS
THE TRAVELLING BIRDS

Carol Noble (Screenplay)

POSTMAN PAT
BABY JAKE
PET SQUAD
BIG AND SMALL – BAFTA - Best New Series
CHARLIE AND LOLA – BAFTA - Best Screenwriting
GIRLS IN LOVE – BAFTA - Best Screenwriting

Eric Gagnon (Art Director)

Art director for gaming and digital software,
with Gameloft / Ubisoft and AMM
(SPLINTERCELL, DEUSEX 3 HUMAN REVOLUTION...)

Ahmed Nasri (Lead Storyboarder)

THE PRODIGIES – Storyboard
THE LITTLE PRINCE – Storyboard + Concept Artist

Eric Gervais (Effects Supervisor)

Animation
GNOMEO & JULIET– Effects Supervisor
HERCULES – Technical Director
MULAN – Technical Director
TARZAN – Technical Director
FANTASIA 2000 – Technical Lead Layout/Background
DINOSAUR – Technical Director
ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE – Technical Lead Layout/Background
LILO & STITCH – Technical Lead Layout/Background
Feature Films
FANTASTIC FOUR – Pipeline Manager and R&D

Marc-André Baron (Animation Director)

THE NUT JOB (3D senior animator)
THE SMURFS (3D senior animator)
THE LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS (3D senior animator)
SUCKER PUNCH (3D senior animator)
9 (3D senior animator)

Henry Yim (Layout Lead)

MAYA THE BEE (TV series) – Layout Supervisor
9 – Compositor

Steve Jubinville (Character Supervisor)

Animation
PUSS IN BOOTS – Character/Environment Modeler & Texture
THE MUPPETS – Character Modeler
Feature Films
RIDDICK – Freelance Creature Modeler
MISSION : IMPOSSIBLE 4 – Environment Modeler
Video Games
The Hobbit (Character Supervisor : DD & Meduzarts) - Cinematic
Lara Croft and the Guardian of Light (Lead Character Artist: Meduzart)
Assassin’s Creed 1 & 2 (Lead character modeler: Meduzarts)
Prince of Persia (digital sculptor: Ubisoft)

Marie-Ève Tétrault (Surfacing Supervisor)

THE NUT JOB – Surfacing Supervisor
GNOMEO AND JULIET – Surfacing Artist

Jean-Luc Abiven (Lead Character Designer)

OGGY ET LES CAFARDS
LUCKY LUKE (Feature film & Series)
LES ZINZINS DE L’ESPACE (Series)



Ballerina

A film by Eric Summer & Eric Warin

Produced by Quad

An English language 3D animation adventure

Budget: 35 million US\$

DELIVERY: 2015

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