

©2022 - HEAD - Genève - Département Cinéma - Nathan Clément - musique originale GEORGES ZYZ RAZAFINTSOA - montage SIMLO ANATRIELLO - avec ARNAUD DOUGÉ GEORGES ZYZ RAZAFINTSOA LAURENCE GARGANY



LA VÉRITÉ SUR ALVERT LE DERNIER DODO

un film de
NATHAN CLEMENT



— HEAD
Genève

Département Cinéma

THE TRUTH ABOUT ALVERT, THE LAST DODO
a film by Nathan Clement

PRESS KIT: ABOUT THE FILM

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Synopsis

In Reunion Island, little Lunet and his grandfather Dadabé set on a quest to turn a chicken into a dodo bird, whose magic feathers might save the sick mother of the kid.



Dadabé and Lunet carrying 'water from the sacred blower' *(still from the film)*

A confidence.

If I want to make films, it's because I haven't yet seen the one I wished I had seen when I was eight years old. It would be set somewhere where people look like me, with offbeat humor and characters who don't talk much. They'd be crouched down a lot and there would be a great deal of wind.

My desire to make films is like an impulse towards those who are growing up right now, a form of duty almost. One night my mother told me *'if you choose to tell stories, never forget that as a storyteller you owe an alternative to the people behind those faces that look like yours'*. Alternative stories to the ones plastered on our complexion, where we can be ourselves - whoever we want to be - in all our depths and nuances.

I will pursue this movement, one step at a time, throughout my whole life. Because cinema, as popular entertainment, plays a major role in the construction of the representations of a society, in the perception we have of one another. And in a time when the image of the 'other' feeds many fantasies and hatreds, it is more than necessary to propose other points of view.

The truth about Alvert, the last dodo, answers this desire.

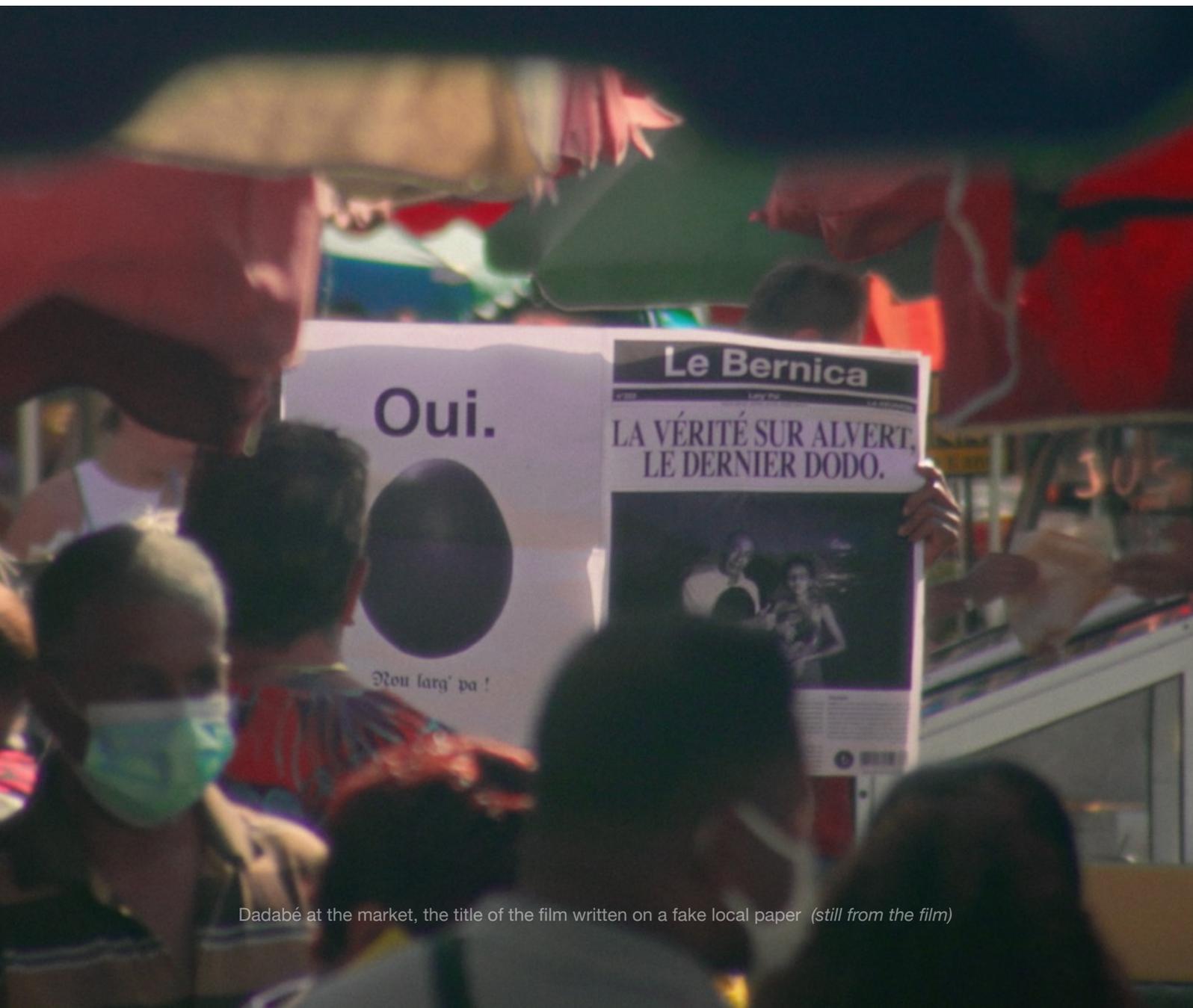


Dadabé looking for Alvert during a hurricane (still from the film)

Intent note

The truth about Alvert the last dodo, is the first film I made in my home island. Creole-spoken, it is a tale reminiscent of my childhood afternoons. Soccer on the local field, Saturdays at the market, hot hurricane nights cooped up inside, and boredom unfolding the imagination

I wanted to tell a story of caregiving within a Creole family. How to provide care through storytelling when faced with the prospect of loss. This grandfather clumsily building a world for his grandson in which he can have hope. It's an optimistic ode to faith, an invitation to recount stories to get through the struggles of life.



Dadabé at the market, the title of the film written on a fake local paper (still from the film)

My desire for this film started with an encounter, the one I made in the summer of 2021 with Georges Razafintsotra known as 'Zyz'. A Malagasy musician, multi-instrumentalist and storyteller of indefinable age, with whom I had the chance to befriend over the recording of a jazz album at Lémurie Studios.



Lead actor and original score composer Zyz in the backyard during shooting

Zyz at the Lémurie Studios.



I wrote this film for him.

For his soft voice, his weathered face and his frantic walk which makes him a movie character in everyday life.

Also to give him a story in exchange for the countless tales he told me. I wanted to portray him through his music, which is both the soundtrack and a narrative element of the film. For two weeks before starting the shoot, he composed, I recorded and arranged, we sang.



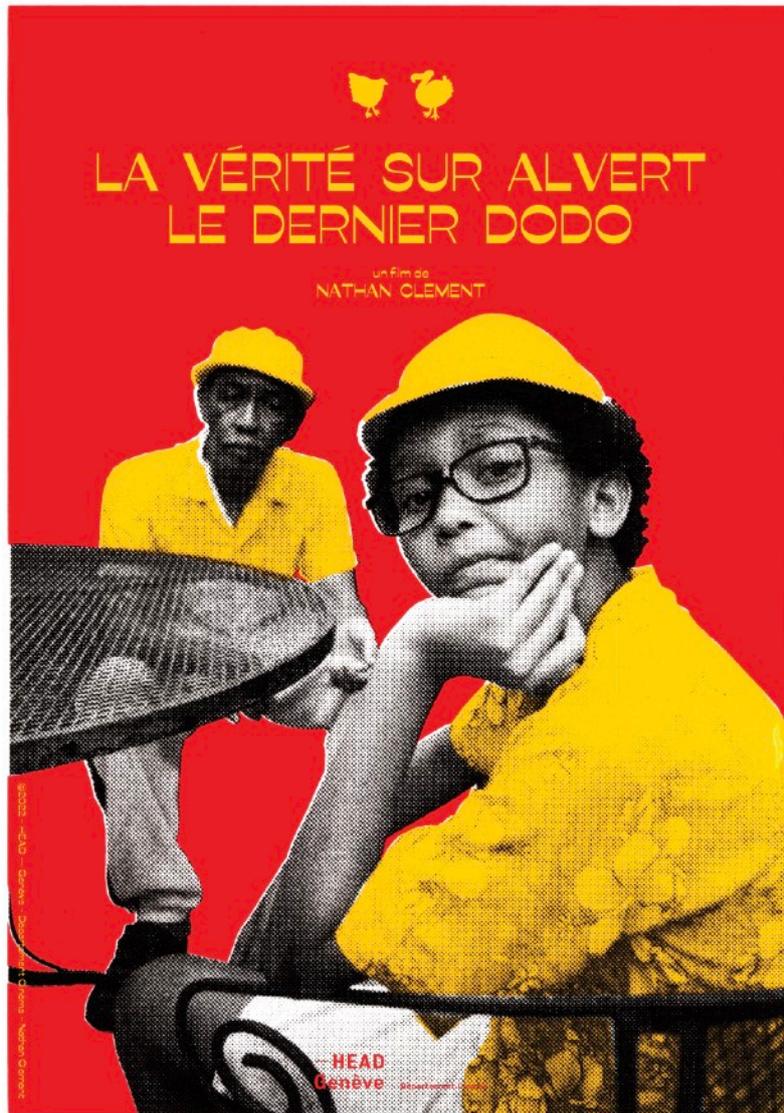
BTS photo taken during 'the failed revenge' scene.



Nicole, my mother and 1st AD with the leads



Scouting photo taken while casting the kids



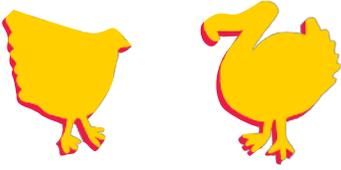
THE FILM

(open on chrome)

<https://vimeo.com/736813527>

password: **thetruth2022**

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Technical Data

Year of Production	2022
Country of Production	Switzerland
Genre	Fiction
Spoken Language	Reunionese Creole
Length	16 min
Color	Yes
Filming Format	Digital
Screening Format	DCP or H.264
Image Format	1,85:1
Frame Rate	25fps
Sound	Stereo/5.1

Credits

Scenario & Direction	Nathan Clement
1st AD	Nicole Amangoua-Clement
DoP	Nathan Clement
Costumes Supervision	Claude Payen de Lapierre
Musique Originale	Georges Razafintsotra et Nathan Clement
Sound & Technical Help	Matthieu Clement et Florian Robert
Editing	Emilio Anatriello
Grading	Sylvain Marco Froidevaux
Sound Mixing	Philippe Ciompi



Nathan Clement (2002. Réunion) is a filmmaker and musician from Reunion Island.

He studied cinema in Switzerland at HEAD-Genève, where he made *Walk under the trees* and *Max and the Freaks*.

In July 2021 he was among eight young talents mentored by Samuel Ross, as part of the Dazed x Converse Open to Change program.

He graduated in 2022 with his diploma film *La vérité sur Alvert, le dernier dodo* set on his home island.

FILMOGRAPHY (*selection*)

- **The Truth about Alvert, the Last Dodo** - fiction - 16'37" - 2022

In Reunion Island, little Lunet and his grandfather Dadabé set on a quest to turn a chicken into a dodo bird, whose magic feathers might save the sick mother of the kid.

Festivals: 58th Solothurn International film — 69th Oberhausen Short Film Festival — 30th New York African Film Festival —

- **Max and the Freaks** - fiction/experimental - 17'37" - 2021

Max goes thru an odd night across a hazy city to discover his true self. He encounters with inhabitants of a dreamy underworld who guide him thru it, teaching him the value of love.

Festivals: Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) — 68th Oberhausen Short Film Festival Filmadrid 2022 — Lago Film Fest 2022 in Príncipe Award — 61st Ann Arbor Film Festival (Kodak Cinematic Vision Award Winner)

- **Walk Under the Trees** - documentary/fiction - 19'01" - 2020

Made during the first confinement from a reflection on the eponymous book by Philippe Jaccottet, the film follows the trajectories of five characters during a spring day in Provence.

Festivals: 67th Oberhausen Short Film Festival — Filmadrid 2022

