

12^{ème}
édition

Festival du film

Merveilleux et Imaginaire

12th Festival du Film Merveilleux
JURY

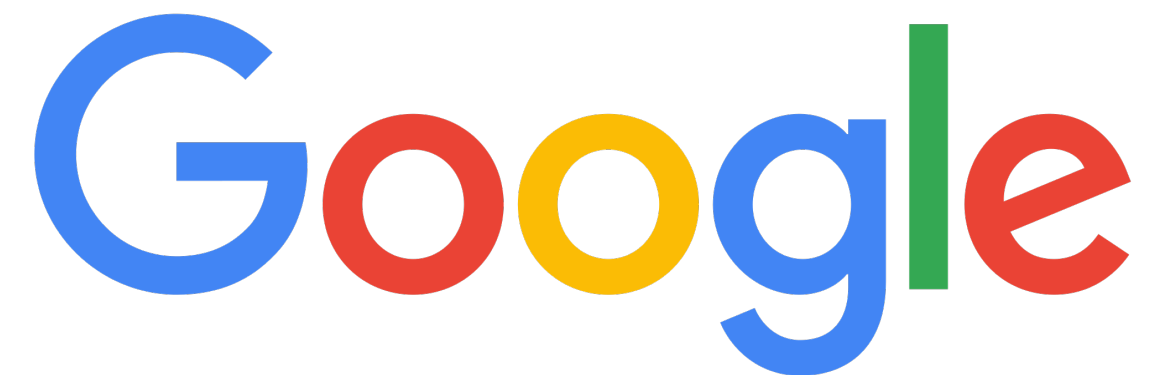
SEPTEMBER 21-23 -2022
Christine Cinéma Club, 4 rue Christine
75006 PARIS

FESTIVAL DU FILM MERVEILLEUX 2022

JURY



CHRISTINE
CINÉMA · CLUB



The president and Jury 2022

Jenna Suru will be the President of the Jury of **the 12th Festival du Film Merveilleux**. Jenna is a French producer, director, screenwriter and actress who has been running the French Film production company Belle Époque Films since 2015.

Jenna will be joined by **Keith Simanton**, IMDbPro Managing Editor; **Blanca Lista**, Head of Feature Films at The Jim Henson Company. Blanca won an Emmy® for Outstanding Children's Program as Co-Executive Producer on 'The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance' for Netflix; she's also Producing 'The Portable Door' starring Christoph Waltz and Sam Neill, as well as Co-Producing Guillermo del Toro's 'Pinocchio' with Netflix. **Kevin McTurk**, filmmaker and Best Movie winner of the 11th edition of the Festival du Film Merveilleux. Kevin began his career in special make-up effects at Stan Winston Studios, working on Batman Returns, Interview with a Vampire, and the Jurassic Park films; **Alix Bénézech**, actress who has worked with directors such as Clint Eastwood, Christopher McQuarrie, Catherine Corsini, Gilles Legrand, Yann Lequellec, Dominique Farrugia; **Mi Kwan Lock**, actress known for A Korean in Paris directed by Soo-il Jeon; **Nicolas Duval**, known for Raging ball, Peter and Urban Jungle; **Mirit Mikhail**, French Egyptian filmmaker. They will be awarded the 2022 Festival du Film Merveilleux Prizes: Best Movie, Best Animated Movie, Best Music, Best VFX, Best Screenplay, and Jury Prize.

Tommy Mitram, a twenty-eight-year-old professional actor and former Festival volunteer, will present the Youth award; **Estelle Baldassin**, also a former volunteer of the Festival will be the Master of Ceremony. Estelle is an actress and has worked on short films, commercials, and Feature movies.



PRESIDENT – Jenna SURU - FRANCE

Festival Director, Producer, Director, Writer, Actor

Jenna Suru started her career at the Int'l Sales Team of Gaumont, SND (M6 Group), then Canneseries, kickstarting the In Development Forum co-organized with MIP Markets at Cannes's Palais des Festivals.

In Paris, Suru runs the Paris International Film Festival which recently presented the Int'l Premiere of Kiss The Ground, the environmental documentary narrated by Woody Harrelson, and Cream, Nóra Lakos's romantic modern tale now streaming on HBO. Suru's directorial debut she wrote and directed in partnership with Gibson on a 60s soundtrack is screening this August at Academy-Award Qualifying Cinequest as an Official Selection.

Suru's work stars A-level talent including The Umbrella Academy star Robert Sheehan and has been sponsored by Canal +, Pathé, France 2, the Northern Ireland Screen, Paris, Saint-Tropez, Ramatuelle, Panavision, Zeiss, Gibson, Allianz and BPCE Group. As an actor, Suru was chosen by Paris City to perform on French National Anthem in their commemorative mini-series at the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the Liberation of Paris. As a professional keynote speaker, Suru is a regular panelist at Cannes, Sundance and Raindance Film Festivals.



JURY BIOGRAPHY - Blanca LISTA- United States of America

Head of Feature Films at Jim Henson Company

Blanca Lista has over twenty years of experience in the entertainment industry overseeing feature film development, production, and post-production. Her top skills are finding and nurturing talent; breaking and developing stories for the screen; creating and packaging high quality teams of creatives; finding and partnering with financiers and studios; and managing budgets to lead successful productions. She is a highly creative producer and tastemaker and has the passion, determination, tenacity, and attention to detail that help bring her and her team's creative visions into reality.

Blanca joined The Jim Henson Company in 2009 and served as a Production Executive on 'Alexander the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day' with Disney and 'The Star' with Sony Pictures Animation. She then won an Emmy® for Outstanding Children's Program as Co-Executive Producer on 'The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance' for Netflix and is now Producing 'The Portable Door' starring Christoph Waltz and Sam Neill, and is Co-Producing Guillermo del Toro's 'Pinocchio' with Netflix.

Prior to joining The Jim Henson Company in 2009, Blanca was a Creative Assistant at Warner Bros. Studios and Sony Pictures Entertainment. Blanca is a graduate of Bard College where she received her undergraduate degree in Film and Asian Studies and she earned her MFA with Honors Distinction from LUCA School of Arts in Belgium. During that time, Blanca was also awarded the prestigious artist-in-residency program at art laboratory, Bains Connective. Blanca has built her career and has grown professionally at The Jim Henson Company while wearing many different hats as a producer and production executive. Her role is truly a one-stop shop of producing in every stage of the film making and storytelling process. A role which has led her to develop a wide and diverse network of creatives and executives that hold her in the highest of regards.

Her international upbringing and focus gave her native fluency in English, Spanish and French and proficiency in Mandarin Chinese which has lent her to seek international film making opportunities and partnerships from around the globe, working modularly in seeking the production models to best fit each individual project.



JURY BIOGRAPHY – Alix BENEZECH - FRANCE

Actress

Alix is a French actress who plays in France and abroad. She has worked under the direction of directors Clint Eastwood, Christopher McQuarrie, Catherine Corsini, Gilles Legrand, Yann Lequellec, Dominique Farrugia. She is a familiar face on television thanks to her role as Dorothée Ariès in the series Nina currently on Netflix. This year she received the Best Actress Award at the Indie Short Fest in Los Angeles in partnership with Imdb for her interpretation of the three female characters in the film ON EST directed by Greg Sankara



JURY BIOGRAPHY - Kevin MCTURK - United States of America

Filmmaker

A professional creature effects artist, cinematographer, model maker, and puppeteer, Kevin McTurk has been working in the effects industry for over 20 years. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film Production, Kevin moved to Los Angeles in 1992 and began his career in special make-up effects at Stan Winston Studios, working on Batman Returns, Interview with a Vampire, and the Jurassic Park films. He has worked for many effects companies over the years, including the Jim Henson Creature Shop, Amalgamated Dynamics, and Spectral Motion. Kevin also worked at New Deal Studios, where he was involved on the miniature effects shots for the Martin Scorsese films The Aviator, Shutter Island, and Hugo.

In 2004, Kevin was contacted by Weta Workshop in New Zealand and moved to Wellington to work on the films King Kong, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, and the gory comedy Black Sheep (in which he also played the Weresh sheep creature).

In 2011, Kevin received a Project Grant from The Jim Henson Foundation to make his first puppet short film “The Narrative of Victor Karloch.” The film played in over twenty international festivals, and won the 2012 Best Animated Film Award at the DragonCon Film Festival. His follow-up film, “The Mill at Calder’s End” was the result of a highly successful Kickstarter campaign and played in film festivals around the world. This film has won several awards including the Grand Jury Award for Best Animated Short at Seattle International Film Festival, the Audience Choice Award for Best Short Film at the H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival, and the Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Award for Best Short Film.



JURY BIOGRAPHY – Keith SIMANTON - United States of America

Managing Editor IMDbPro

Keith Simanton is the Managing Editor of IMDbPro, IMDb's subscription site for professionals, which is part of IMDb, the world's most popular and authoritative source for movie, TV, and celebrity content.

Keith is in the select group of “Experts” on Goldderby.com, prognosticating who will win at the Oscars, Emmys, Spirits, guilds and other major awards. He's quite proud that he's been in the #1 spot for the Oscars and Spirits more than most. He is also a member of the CCA (the Critics' Choice Association) and votes for the Critics' Choice Awards each year, for both film and tv/streaming. Keith is a longtime commentator on movies and the arts, and his expert film commentary has appeared in notable outlets worldwide including Business Week, CNBC, Entertainment Weekly, TIME Magazine, The New York Times, National Public Radio, USA TODAY, and many others. Before the pandemic he travelled to the major film festivals each season including Sundance, Cannes, Venice, and Toronto and attended the three major Comic-Cons (San Diego, New York, and Seattle). He served on the board of the Seattle Film Festival from 2008 – 2020, and was elected Vice President twice. He is the current chair of the advisory board for the College of Arts and Sciences for Washington State University.

His greatest accomplishment has been with IMDb, which, when he joined in August of 2000, had 3 million page views a month. During the time he was managing editor IMDb grew and now enjoys the patronage of more than 250 million unique users a month, with 150 million downloads of IMDb's mobile apps worldwide.

In 2008 Keith also managed the acquisition of Box Office Mojo for IMDb, bringing the revered industry site into the IMDb family.



JURY BIOGRAPHY – Mi Kwan LOCK - France

Actress - Director

Critically acclaimed, Mi Kwan has been the female lead in 6 feature films shot around the globe which have been featured in such festivals as Busan Int'l and Palm Springs Int'l.

Her performance in "A Korean in Paris" gained notice and introduced her to the international press, including Variety Magazine. She made her directorial, producer, and scriptwriter debut with the award-winning short film "Red Karma".

She hosted the 2015 Paris Shanghai Film Festival (France), was a member of the jury at the 3rd Film Festival of the Lagoons (Ivory Coast), was president of the jury at Cinemator Film Festival of Carros (France) in 2015, then a judge of the 2021 Future Drifter Screenwriting contest and most recently, Mi Kwan was a jury member at the 2022 Fantasy Film Festival (Paris, France).

Mi Kwan is French-born and Madagascar-raised.

Besides her art, she's very involved in humanitarian, to help homeless, children or protect animals & nature.



JURY BIOGRAPHY – Mirit MIKHAIL - France & Egypte

Director

French-Egyptian Freelance director. Born in Paris, she grew up between Paris and Cairo. After studying cinema at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, she worked as an assistant on several films, including «The Chaos» by Youssef Chahine in 2008. In 2011, she co-directed with Franco-Egyptian-Colombian filmmaker Farid Ismail, a 26-minute documentary on the Egyptian revolution "18 days in the heart of the Egyptian revolution" broadcast on TV5 Africa. This film has toured film festivals. In the same year, she directed a video, in support of Egyptians based abroad who wish to acquire the right to vote from abroad. This spot will be broadcast on all Arab channels for two months.

In 2012, she directed with Egyptian photographer and filmmaker Mahmoud Afify an environmental short film, shot in Morocco: "Drinking fog", which is on the short list of the Sundance Film Institute. The long version is in pre-production. In 2020, she treats the deafness in Egypt through a short: "On the Sidelines". Her latest creation is a short film, a 9-minute documentary portrait about the life choice of an Iranian woman in search of her freedom. Azadi" (9 minutes). She is currently developing her first feature fiction (French-Indian), "Le Mahârâjah de France”.



JURY BIOGRAPHY – Nicolas DUVAL - France

Director

Inspired by the worlds of comics, graphics, cartoons, cinema and series, Nicolas DUVAL puts an original, aesthetic and daring touch to all his projects. After starting out in television at the launch of the channel "TFou TV", he then turned to the fields of music videos and advertising at "FISHEYE Film", producer of his short film "PETER". In cinema, he was immediately noticed with his first crazy short film, "RAGINGBALL". His first short film won the awards for best short film and best special effects at the HD FESTIVAL. He then directed his second short film "PETER", a pilot respecting the magic of Régis LOISEL's comics, which won the prize for best short film at the FESTIVAL DU FILM FANTASTIQUE DE PARIS. He then created a company MADJINN Films with 3 associates, Eric GENDARME, Jules SITRUK and Hubert de KERANGAT and with whom he produced Jules SITRUK's first film "WINDOWS". He also shot one of the first digital series of STUDIO + "URBAN JUNGLE". This series won the prestigious award for best direction at LAWEBFEST in Los Angeles. He worked on the development of the whole universe, the art direction, the casting of his first feature film "WHEN WE CRIED TO THE WOLF" (released in 2019 and finally directed by Marilou BERRY) produced by Thomas LANGMANN's company "LA PETITE REINE" and Nicolas BARY's PARTNERS. He also launched the hybrid series "SEVEN and ME" ("SEVEN NAINS AND ME" in French) by directing a pilot for the company "METHOD ANIMATION". This series was the first French hybrid series, mixing live action and 3D. This series was a great success. He also does supervision and manufacturing of special effects on prestigious series for TF1, CANAL +, M6... as for example GERMINAL for France 2 but also for the cinema. At the end of 2019, he finally made all the sequences with the actor Gérard DEPARDIEU for the feature film "ME & MILOSEVTICHTH" by a Kosovar author and producer Arben KASTRATITI. With his sense of storytelling, he is currently developing several feature-length fiction projects, both comedy and action or thriller. As well as trendy series for platforms.

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September 21-23 -2022
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