

Phil Tippett

PHIL TIPPETT

MAD DREAMS and MONSTERS

Frantic Arts presents
in association with UCI Pacific
A film by Alexandre Langer and Gilles Lenoir
with Phil Tippett, Jules Renard, Filip Verheven, Joe Dante, John Davison, Dennis Muren, Aki Kaurismäki, John St. John, John Berg. Music by Alexandre Langer. Visual effects and Motion Capture by Brett A. Cic
Sound mixer by David Crenshaw, Vex Pro. Edited by Gilles Lenoir. Produced by Alexandre Langer



FRENETIC ARTS presents



OFFICIAL SELECTION
GÉRARDMER
20^e INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL



PHIL TIPPETT MAD DREAMS AND MONSTERS

A FILM BY GILLES PENSO AND ALEXANDRE PONCET

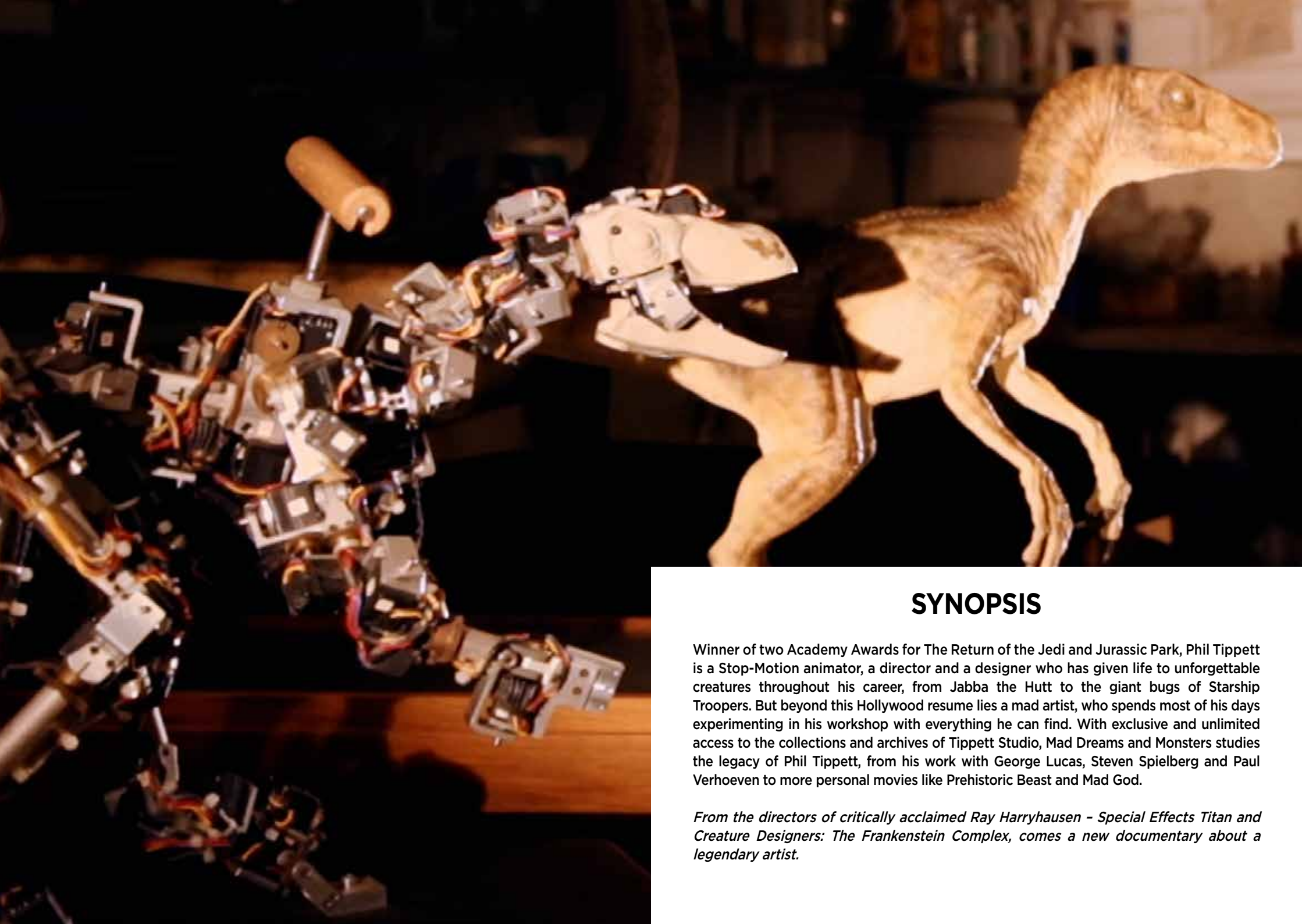
85 min - France - 2019 - 5.1 - Scope

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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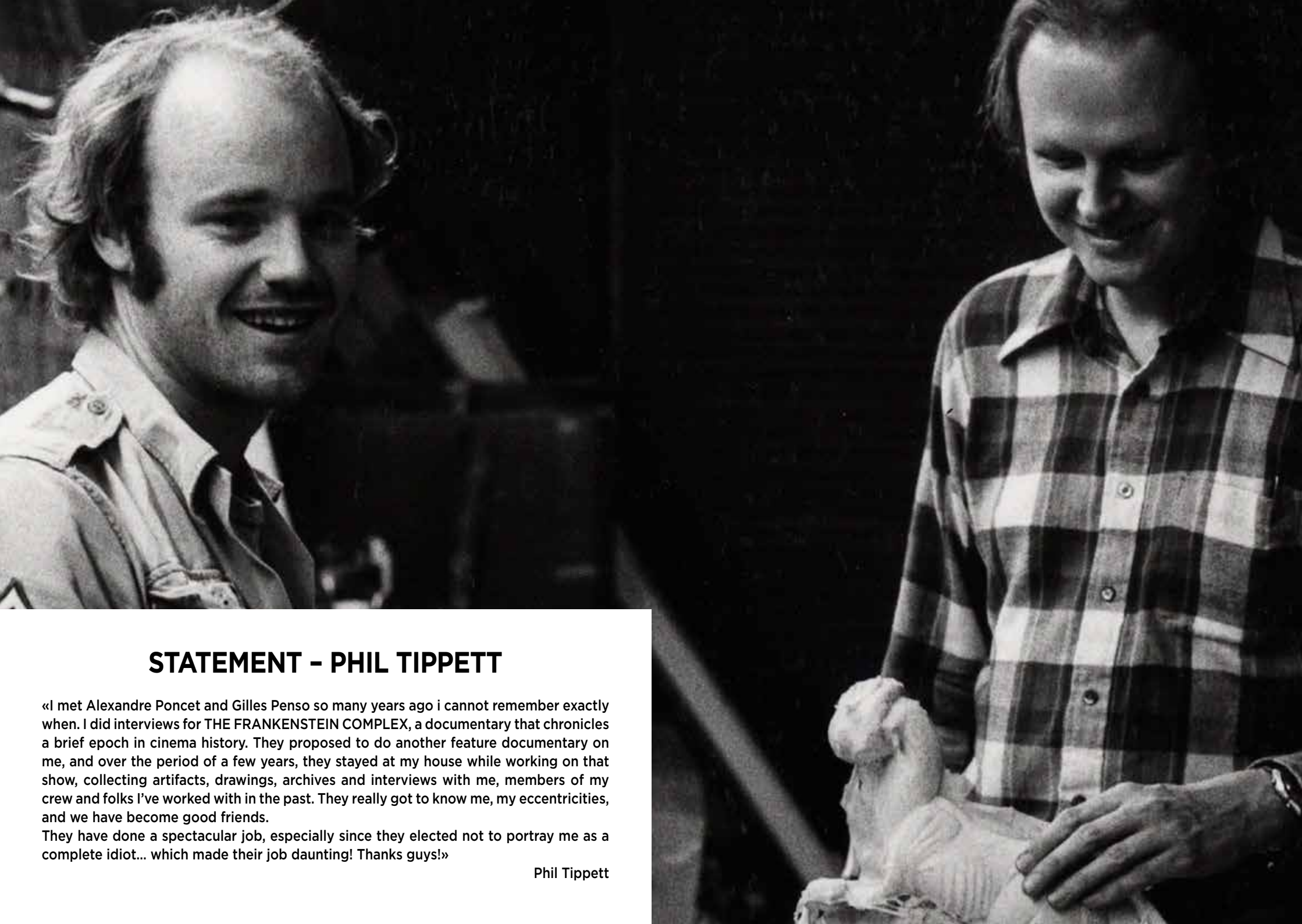
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SYNOPSIS

Winner of two Academy Awards for *The Return of the Jedi* and *Jurassic Park*, Phil Tippett is a Stop-Motion animator, a director and a designer who has given life to unforgettable creatures throughout his career, from Jabba the Hutt to the giant bugs of *Starship Troopers*. But beyond this Hollywood resume lies a mad artist, who spends most of his days experimenting in his workshop with everything he can find. With exclusive and unlimited access to the collections and archives of Tippett Studio, *Mad Dreams and Monsters* studies the legacy of Phil Tippett, from his work with George Lucas, Steven Spielberg and Paul Verhoeven to more personal movies like *Prehistoric Beast* and *Mad God*.

From the directors of critically acclaimed Ray Harryhausen - Special Effects Titan and Creature Designers: The Frankenstein Complex, comes a new documentary about a legendary artist.



STATEMENT - PHIL TIPPETT

«I met Alexandre Poncet and Gilles Penso so many years ago i cannot remember exactly when. I did interviews for THE FRANKENSTEIN COMPLEX, a documentary that chronicles a brief epoch in cinema history. They proposed to do another feature documentary on me, and over the period of a few years, they stayed at my house while working on that show, collecting artifacts, drawings, archives and interviews with me, members of my crew and folks I've worked with in the past. They really got to know me, my eccentricities, and we have become good friends.

They have done a spectacular job, especially since they elected not to portray me as a complete idiot... which made their job daunting! Thanks guys!»

Phil Tippett

DIRECTORS STATEMENT - GILLES PENSO & ALEXANDRE PONCET

Two names stand out in the history of Stop-Motion and Creature Effects: Ray Harryhausen and Phil Tippett. Both were thrown into a vortex of imagination when they discovered the 1933 production of King Kong, which led them to take over and refine a technique developed by Willis O'Brien. Of course Phil was greatly influenced by Ray, with whom he has shared a passion for dinosaurs and isolated worlds, but he has nonetheless developed a unique visual style and thematic obsessions of his own. Through the lens of George Lucas, Steven Spielberg or Paul Verhoeven, Phil Tippett has generated an otherworldly but very cohesive menagerie, full of bipede mammals, giant insects or psychotic robots that carry his undeniable signature. The way those creatures perform on screen directly reflects Phil's instincts; and these haunting images have many times changed the collective unconscious forever. Today, we know how dinosaurs moved because of how Phil and his team animated them in Jurassic Park. We also think that everyone will see the world differently after watching Mad God.

Making Mad Dreams and Monsters, our documentary about Phil, was a crazy journey through four decades of frenetic creativity. But while this project started as a tribute to the artist, we discovered along the way that his life and personal drama behind the scenes actually embody a major change in the history of the human eye. Raised at a time when suspension of disbelief was needed to invest emotionally in a work of fantasy, Phil was forced to let his old medium disappear and he had to adapt to the digital tools to give life to the dinosaurs of Jurassic Park. These so-called photoreal images genetically modified the audience itself: after Spielberg's extravaganza, the spectators demanded some kind of visual perfection. Among the very few movies that managed to deliver on that front, it is hard not to mention Starship Troopers, for which Tippett supervised the creation of swarms of alien bugs. Of course, Verhoeven's political masterpiece remains a technical jewel twenty-two years after its release, but what made the difference was the personality that Phil injected into every little insect, by insightfully guiding his team of animators day after day. The magic of these beasts doesn't come from the computer, but from the same mind that gave us the Taun-Taun from Empire Strikes Back, the Rancor from Return of the Jedi or the Vermithrax Pejorative from Dragonslayer. His friend Dennis Muren says it best: «Phil really can feel the work and not analyze it. That's the difference between a scientist and an artist».

Gilles Penso & Alexandre Poncet
Paris, october 2019





BIOGRAPHY - GILLES PENSO CO-DIRECTOR, EDITOR

As a movie critic and a film historian, Gilles Penso has specialized in fantasy and special effects. He has worked on many magazines such as SonoVision and L'Écran fantastique since the beginning of the nineties. In 2003, he published a major book about stop-motion, which became a cult publication in the animation sector. As an eclectic director, Gilles Penso directed *Les Bronzés, le Père-Noël, Papy et les autres* (2002, released in DVD), focusing on the cinematic career of the French theatre group *Le Splendid* and *On a tous grandi avec Louis de Funès* (2007, broadcasted on France 3). *Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan* was released in 2012, after eight years of development. In 2013, he directed the Disney Channel documentary *Derrière le Masque des Super-Héros*. Between 2013 and 2015, he co-directed with Alexandre Poncet *Creature Designers - The Frankenstein Complex*, awarded by the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics.

- 2019** **Phil Tippett: Mad Dreams and Monsters**
(documentary) (co-director, editor)
- 2015** **Creature Designers : The Frankenstein Complex**
(documentary) (co-director, editor)
- 2013** **Derrière le masque des super-héros**
(documentary) (director, editor)
- 2012** **Ray Harryhausen - Special Effects Titan**
(documentary) (director, editor)
- 2007** **On a tous grandi avec Louis de Funès**
(documentary) (director)
- 2002** **Les Bronzés, le Père-Noël, Papy et les autres**
(documentary) (director)

BIOGRAPHY - ALEXANDRE PONCET

CO-DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, COMPOSER

As a movie critic, Alexandre Poncet has worked for the French cult magazine Mad Movies and other publications such as Clasica and Official Playstation Magazine. He has co-founded the Production Company Frenetic Arts and has produced and directed the TV show The Incredible Horror Show and the webseries Le Cinéma vu par Dédo. In 2012, he produced and scored Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan, directed by Gilles Penso. Creature Designers - The Frankenstein Complex (awarded by the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics) was his first documentary as a director, he also scored the picture as well as a few documentaries and short movies such as A Better World (2012) et Last Door South (2015, Magritte Award for Best Live Action Short Film) directed by Sacha Feiner. He also composed the soundtrack of the Disney Channel documentary Derrière le Masque des Super-Héros (2013) and original music for Marvel and DC Comics exhibitions at the Art Ludique Museum in Paris.

- 2019** **Phil Tippett: Mad Dreams and Monsters**
(co-director, composer, producer)
- 2015** **Creature Designers : The Frankenstein Complex**
(documentary)(co-director, composer, producer)
- 2015** **« Love Me Like You Hate Me »**
(Music Video) (director, editor)
- 2015** **Last Door South** (composer)
- 2013** **Derrière le masque des super-héros** (composer)
- 2012** **Ray Harryhausen - Special Effects Titan**
(documentary) (composer, producer)
- 2012** **A Better World** (short movie) (composer)
- 2008-2019** **Le Cinéma vu par Dédo** (director)
- 2008-2019** **The Incredible Horror Show**
(TV Show) (director, editor, producer)





WITH

Phil Tippett
Jules Roman
Joe Dante
Paul Verhoeven
Jon Davison
Dennis Muren
Alec Gillis
Craig Hayes
Joe Johnston

CREW

Directors	Gilles Penso & Alexandre Poncet
Screenwriters	Gilles Penso & Alexandre Poncet
Cinematography	Gilles Penso & Alexandre Poncet
Editing	Gilles Penso
Original score	Alexandre Poncet
Produced by	Alexandre Poncet
International sales	Le Pacte