



# Press kit

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Press kit

## Contents

1. Press release
2. The animators
3. Oktapodi's Awards
4. GOBELINS, l'école de l'image
5. GOBELINS, l'école de l'image : Animation Department
6. GOBELINS Summer School
7. Master classes

**Press contact**

**Nathalie RODET-MARTY**, Communication, Promotion & Examination Manager  
+ 33 (1) 40 79 92 45, [nrodet-marty@gobelins.fr](mailto:nrodet-marty@gobelins.fr)

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Press release  
January 23, 2009

## OKTAPODI NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY AWARD

The 3D animated short film was directed by students  
at Paris-based visual communication school GOBELINS, l'école de l'image

PARIS, France (January 23, 2009) – OKTAPODI, a 3D animated short film directed by six students at Paris-based visual communication school GOBELINS, l'école de l'image, was nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Best Animated Short Film. This is the first time that an animated short produced and created by students at GOBELINS has been nominated for an Oscar.

The film was directed in 2007 by Julien Bocabeille, François-Xavier Chanioux, Olivier Delabarre, Thierry Marchand, Quentin Marmier and Emud Mokhberi, all students in the final, third year of the animation filmmaking course at GOBELINS.

The brilliantly colorful OKTAPODI features two octopi in a madcap escape from the grasp of a restaurant cook in a Greek village. In this comical and charming tale of true love, the tentacled couple face insurmountable odds to reunite and stay together.

To view OKTAPODI, please visit [www.gobelins.fr/oktapodi/](http://www.gobelins.fr/oktapodi/)

OKTAPODI has already received numerous awards from some of the most prestigious animation festivals around the world :

- SIGGRAPH Asia 2008 – Jury Award
- SIGGRAPH Los Angeles 2008 – Best of Show and Audience Prize
- Hiroshima 2008 – Special International Jury Prize
- Annecy 2008 – Canal+ Family Award
- Anima Mundi – Rio de Janeiro 2008 – Best Student Film and Audience Prize
- FICCI BAF 2008 – India – Best Student Animated Short Film
- Imagina – Monaco 2008 – Best Animation Award

OKTAPODI is one of five films selected in the category of Best Animated Short Film. Distributed by Premium Films, OKTAPODI is in competition with LA MAISON EN PETITS CUBES (Robot Communications), LAVATORY – LOVESTORY (Melnitsa Animation Studio), PRESTO (Pixar) and THIS WAY UP (Nexus).

The directors of OKTAPODI will participate in AWN's Oscar Showcase Tour in San Francisco on February 12-13 and in Los Angeles on February 17-21 before attending the Academy Awards ceremony. The tour consists of screening and press events sponsored by Animation World Network ([www.awn.com](http://www.awn.com)), the animation industry's leading website and the largest animation-related publishing group on the Internet.

### About GOBELINS

GOBELINS, l'école de l'image ([www.gobelins.fr](http://www.gobelins.fr)) is one of twelve schools affiliated with the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP). A major player in the field of learning programs dedicated to visual communication – animated films, multimedia applications and content, graphic communication and printing, and photography, as well as video and broadcast technology – Gobelins has a student body of more than 700 students and apprentices and 1200 trainees in the adult training courses. For more than 40 years, Gobelins has been a privileged partner of companies and studios involved in the production of still and animated images, in France and around the world.

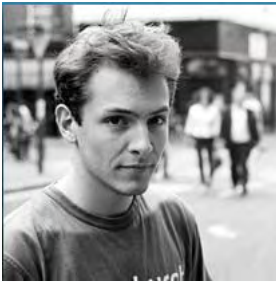
### Press Contact

**Nathalie RODET-MARTY, GOBELINS, l'école de l'image, Communication, Promotion & Admissions Manager, + 33 (1) 40 79 92 45, [nrodet-marty@gobelins.fr](mailto:nrodet-marty@gobelins.fr)**

Upload the press kit on [www.gobelins.fr/oktapodi/](http://www.gobelins.fr/oktapodi/)



## Biography of the animators



### Julien BOCABEILLE, 23 years old

Julien BOCABEILLE began his artistic journey by graduating in 2004 from an applied arts school in Rennes where he obtained his French baccalauréat diploma, and then continuing his artistic studies in Paris. His passion for character animation led him to GOBELINS, l'école de l'image where he entered the three-year program. During his graduation year, Julien co-directed « Oktapodi ».

*Julien is now working in India as a supervising animator for DreamWorks Animation.*



### François-Xavier CHANIOUX, 26 years old

During his studies at an art school in France, François-Xavier CHANIOUX learned photography, sculpture, engraving, and other artistic disciplines, but then decided to devote himself to animation film making. After graduating from E.M.C.A, an animation school based in Angoulême, he moved to Paris and entered directly into the third year of the character animation program at GOBELINS, l'école de l'image where he co-directed the film « Oktapodi ».

*Since 2008, François-Xavier has worked as concept artist for the animation feature film production being directed by Eric Bergeron « A Monster in Paris ».*



### Olivier DELABARRE, 28 years old

After obtaining his French baccalauréat in the field of science (equivalent to British « A levels » and American high school diploma), Olivier DELABARRE went to university to study physics and chemistry. However, he soon decided to devote himself to his passion for drawing, enrolling in a one year preparatory study program in applied arts at Aurillac. That enabled him to enter the Emile Cohl art school in Lyons where he studied during three years drawing, painting, modelling and 2D animation.

Eager to pursue his passion for animation, he entered the three-year animation program at GOBELINS, l'école de l'image in Paris where he co-directed in 2007 the graduation film "Oktapodi". After leaving GOBELINS, he worked as a character designer on the animated feature film in production with Eric Bergeron as director, « A Monster in Paris », and then at Néomis Animation as a 2D animator with Jeroen Dejonckheere.

*Currently working at Mac Guff in Paris as color script designer on a new animated feature film, Olivier is also preparing a new CG short film.*



#### **Thierry MARCHAND, 29 years old**

After graduating in 2002 from the engineering school ENSI in Caen, Thierry MARCHAND worked as a computer engineer in France and Germany. In 2004, Thierry decided to let his passion for animation get the upper hand and entered GOBELINS, l'école de l'Image in Paris in 2004, where he directed « Mailbox Monsters » in 2006 (which was broadcast by Canal J, a French television channel) and co-directed « Oktapodi » in 2007. After graduating, he worked in London for Framstore in the commercials department as 3D animator and Junior TD.

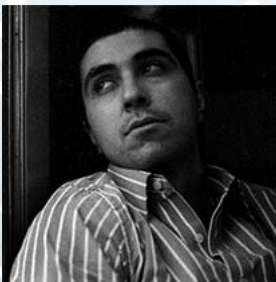
*Thierry is currently working in India as a 3D animator for DreamWorks Animation.*



#### **Quentin MARMIER, 26 years old**

Quentin MARMIER's path in life demonstrates his eclectic taste for ways to express his talent : product design, graphic design, animation. After an initial diploma in electronics, he took applied art courses at the Saint-Genève school in Paris and then obtained a BTS diploma in design at the Olivier de Serres school. The final stage of his life as a student took place in the animation department at GOBELINS, l'école de l'Image, where he co-directed the short graduation film entitled « Oktapodi ».

*After his studies, Quentin joined Ubisoft as a concept artist, before working as a CG renderer for many different CG companies in Paris.*



#### **Emud MOKHBERI, 30 years old**

After receiving his bachelor degree in computer science engineering and working briefly at Microsoft and Digital Domain, Emud MOKHBERI returned to the University of California, Los Angeles where he completed his Master of Science in computer graphics. It was there that he developed a keen interest in film and animation and subsequently transferred to the UCLA School of Film, Theater & Television for the Master of Fine Arts program. In 2006, after directing three films and advancing to candidacy for his MFA, he moved to Paris and entered directly the third year of the character animation program at GOBELINS, l'école de l'Image where he co-directed the film « Oktapodi ». Emud has presented the film and its « making of » at FMX (Germany), PISAF (South Korea), Pixar Animation Studios, Industrial Light & Magic, and LucasFilm Animation. He also gave a juried technical talk on the making of « Oktapodi » at Siggraph 2008 in Los Angeles where the film won both the Best of Show and Audience Awards.

*Emud currently works as a character animator at Sony Pictures Imageworks in California.*



Press kit

## Oktapodi's awards

« Oktapodi » has already received numerous awards from some of the most prestigious animation festivals around the world :

- Multivision Festival - St Petersburg 2008 - Best 3D Animation Award
- Siggraph Asia 2008 - Jury Award
- PISAF -Puchon (Korea) 2008 - Bucheon College Dean Prize
- Aniwow! Beijing 2008 - Best Character Animation Award
- Casablanca 2008 - Best Animated Film
- Siggraph - Los Angeles 2008 - Best of Show
- Siggraph - Los Angeles 2008 - Audience Prize
- Hiroshima 2008 - Special International Jury Prize
- Annecy 2008 - Canal+ Family Award
- Animafest Zagreb 2008 - Children Jury Special Mention
- Anima Mundi - Rio de Janeiro 2008 - Best Student Film (Audience prize)
- Anima Mundi - Sao Paulo 2008 - 2nd Best Student Film (Audience Prize)
- Anima Mundi - Sao Paulo 2008 - 3rd Best Short Film (Audience Prize)
- Prix Ars 2008 - Honorary Mention
- FICCI BAF 2008 - Best Student Animated Short Film
- Imagina - Monaco 2008 - Best Animation Award
- E-magiciens - Valenciennes 2007 - La Bourse Lagardère
- Courts Devant - Paris 2007 - Grand Prix Award
- ARTFUTURA - Barcelone 2007 - Gran Premio Award

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### GOBELINS, l'école de l'image [www.gobelins.fr](http://www.gobelins.fr)

For more than 40 years, GOBELINS has been a privileged partner of companies and studios involved in the production of still and animated images, in France and around the world.

GOBELINS, l'école de l'image is one of twelve schools affiliated to the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP). A major player in the field of learning programs dedicated to visual communication - animated films, multimedia applications and content, graphic communication and printing, photography as well as video and broadcast technology - GOBELINS has a student body of more than 700 students and apprentices and 1200 trainees in the adult training courses. 89 % of graduates find a job within 6 months. The training offered here is done either via full-time courses, part-time apprenticeship schemes, or continuing education programs for adults.

To assure the successful training of these specialists, GOBELINS has chosen to:

#### Maintain a strong relationship with companies

Professionals make their presence felt through their participation in juries, advisory boards as well as numerous other meetings and events. They are the guarantee that what we offer in terms of training corresponds to the needs of the different professional branches. The school also maintains constant, productive ties with representative bodies and professional institutions. The many consultants and experts sent by companies to teach and advise on projects reinforce our strong link with the professional sector.

#### Focus on innovative pedagogical projects

The guiding principle in the pedagogical choices of the school: to ensure that each student, apprentice, and trainee at GOBELINS receives the instruction he or she needs to acquire solid technical skills as well as a good cultural education in general, which in turn will allow graduates to successfully join companies, work on professional projects, and adapt to changes in their future professions.

Therefore, the following strengths are highlighted:

- project-based curriculum
- tutoring and self-training with the help of specialized tools
- interdepartmental projects and collaboration
- end of study projects that are truly useful for the profession, often becoming the main vector of communication for the client
- works that are included in exhibitions, publications and international festivals

The quality of Gobelins productions in the field of animation and multimedia content have been recognized around the world, winning numerous prizes in international festivals and project contests. Recent awards have been bestowed at events in Seoul, Rio de Janeiro, Ottawa, Beijing, and Saint-Petersburg. After winning the Best of Show as well as the Audience Awards at SIGGRAPH 2008 in Los Angeles, the film "Oktapodi" has just been nominated for an Oscar in the category for Best Animated Short Film.

#### GOBELINS is an international school

GOBELINS offers its students a genuine multi-cultural experience both inside and outside France, through the enrolment of foreign students, internships in foreign companies, student exchange programs, open door policy for visiting professionals from around the world to share their experience with the students. Each year now, GOBELINS organises an international summer school with courses in English.

GOBELINS has been granted the Erasmus University Charter in Europe to enable it to obtain funding to develop projects with other European schools. GOBELINS is also a member of the European animation school network funded by Media, a program of the European Union for the audiovisual industry.



Press kit

## GOBELINS, l'école de l'image : Animation Department

The animation department of GOBELINS, l'école de l'image, a school of visual communication affiliated to the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was founded over thirty years ago to prepare artists for the growing needs of the French animation film industry in the 1970s.

Today GOBELINS graduates from the animation course are present in French studios throughout the country, such as Alphanim, BUF, Dargaud Marina, Je suis bien content, Mac Guff, Millimages, Moonscoop, Xilam, but also in major studios around the world, including DreamWorks, Sony, Disney, Pixar, Framestore, Electronic Arts and many more. Indeed, they are prized for their creative and technical excellence as well as their professional level. That is because the course straddles the spheres of fine drawing and that of professional needs for skilled artists well practiced in the production chain of animation films and series.

During the three year animation program, the students produce a wide range of work that remains influenced by a strong tradition of drawing while incorporating the latest digital tools, including 3D software. Building on the traditional curriculum, GOBELINS allows students to work with both traditional (hand-drawn) and digital techniques for animation, while at the same time nurturing their creative edge. GOBELINS seek to train young artists who will help shape the future of animation in France and around the world. As such, the program takes into account a rapidly evolving industry. It is designed to enable students to work with new methods and technologies while still enhancing their classical animation skills, including those valuable skills for all animators: acting, timing and observation.

Animation students at GOBELINS direct during their studies two films, both made in teams. In the 2nd year, they direct the short films that serve as curtain-raisers for the official screenings at the International Animated Film Festival in Annecy. After each festival, the GOBELINS films can be seen on the school website. In the 3rd and final year, a second film is directed for which the students are free to choose to use either traditional 2D or 3D animation. These films are sent to numerous international festivals and have garnered prestigious awards such as Best Animation at Imagina in Monaco, Best of Show at Siggraph in the USA, Best Student Film at Anima Mundi in Brazil, and Special International Jury Prize at the animation festival of Hiroshima, Japan.

GOBELINS believes in the importance of world-wide networks and currently has exchange programs with the California Institute of the Arts and the Filmakademie of Baden-Württemberg, Institute for Animation.

For more informations : [www.gobelins.fr/fi/animation/](http://www.gobelins.fr/fi/animation/)



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## GOBELINS offers Summer Character Animation Course

The GOBELINS visual communication school in Paris organizes each year a two-week international summer school to enable students and professionals from around the world to gain a better understanding of what makes for successful character animation.

France has had a great deal of experience in the art of animation, having played an instrumental role in its invention: Emile Reynaud (in 1892) and Emile Cohl (in 1908) were important pioneers in animation filmmaking. France is today the third largest animation producer in the world and the European leader. French artists and studios create and develop full-length feature films, TV series, commercials, short art-house films, special effects, video games and other emerging forms of audiovisual expression. Graphic and animation styles, narrative modes and characters are quite varied, but all reveal a certain French touch that is recognised and appreciated around the world. Indeed, many young French talents are sought after to work in studios around the world. Such creativity in animation has been the specialty of GOBELINS, l'école de l'image for more than 30 years.

GOBELINS, based in Paris, is today the privileged partner of animation artists and studios, even beyond the French borders, thanks to a learning program preparing young artists for all the professions involved in animation filmmaking.

Building on the strength of its long experience and its worldwide reputation, GOBELINS organizes each year an international summer in character animation which attracted 35 participants coming from 17 countries around the world in 2008.

The master classes and workshop activities are conducted by the experts who teach at GOBELINS, including animation professor Fred Nagorny who has taught many animation professionals, as well as Kristof Serrand, 3D animator for DreamWorks Animation and Kyle Balda, 3D animator who has in the past worked for ILM and Pixar and recently was animation director for the European feature film The Dragon Hunters.

For more information, visit [www.gobelins.fr/summerschool/](http://www.gobelins.fr/summerschool/)

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## GOBELINS offers master classes in animation around the world

The GOBELINS visual communication school in Paris organizes each year master classes around the world to enable students and professionals to gain a better understanding of what makes for successful character animation and animation design.

France has had a great deal of experience in the art of animation, having played an instrumental role in its invention: Emile Reynaud (in 1892) and Emile Cohl (in 1908) were important pioneers in animation filmmaking. France is today the third largest animation producer in the world and the European leader. French artists and studios create and develop full-length feature films, TV series, commercials, short art-house films, special effects, video games and other emerging forms of audiovisual expression. Graphic and animation styles, narrative modes and characters are quite varied, but all reveal a certain French touch that is recognised and appreciated around the world. Indeed, many young French talents are sought after to work in studios around the world. Such creativity in animation has been the specialty of GOBELINS, l'école de l'image for more than 30 years.

GOBELINS, based in Paris, is today the privileged partner of animation artists and studios, even beyond the French borders, thanks to a learning program preparing young artists for all the professions involved in animation filmmaking.

Building on the strength of its long experience and its worldwide reputation, GOBELINS organizes each year international master classes for schools and studios around the globe to enable students and professionals to discover leading examples of French, European and international animation productions and their production process. The specific characteristics and know-how of character animation and design, background design, layout, storyboards and other crucial stages of animation film production as they are taught at GOBELINS are the focus of these master classes.

**For further information, please contact Eric Riewer at [eriewer@gobelins.fr](mailto:eriewer@gobelins.fr)**

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