



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023
Venice Immersive
Achievement Prize

EMPEROR

written & directed by
Marion Burger & Ilan J. Cohen

narrated by
Olivia Cooke



APHASIA:

language and communication disorder due to brain damage, often accompanied by partial paralysis of the body.

SYNOPSIS

EMPEROR is an interactive and narrative experience in virtual reality, which invites the user to travel inside the brain of a father, suffering from aphasia.

It is the story of a man who's lost his ability to speak, and of the daughter trying to communicate with him. It is the story of a woman, who wasn't given the chance to know the man behind her father, now obscured by this illness.

As she tries to piece together what remains of his language, she discovers that his relationship to words is connected to his memories. The memories of an entire lifetime... Step by step, clue after clue, we will dive alongside her into the inner world of this man, in an attempt to decipher the story he can no longer tell us.

In a monochrome esthetic, close to traditional animation, this personal story is told as a journey with surreal overtones, offering to explore aphasia as a distant country.

EMPEROR is a poetic experience of the loss of one's faculties, of the passing of time, and of the bonds which, through it all, remain.



CREATORS' STATEMENT

« *EMPEROR* is born from a true story.

The story of Marion's father, who has been suffering from aphasia for the past fifteen years. He confuses words, and stumbles over each syllable. He understands everything, but can no longer make himself understood.

More than the medical aspect of his condition, she was interested in the poetry of some of the absurd situations which she had sometimes encountered. One day she found herself comparing aphasia to a distant country. She could see him lost in this faraway land, trying to find his bearings, attempting to be understood. This idea helped her imagine his distress, and a bridge to try to reach him. But in order to grasp what he was trying to say, she'd have to delve into the man he had once been.

EMPEROR is at once a deeply personal story, and a universal reminder of the frail threads which keep us tethered to one another. »

Marion Burger and Ilan J. Cohen



WATCH THE TRAILER





EMPEROR

a narrative interactive experience in virtual reality

Written and directed by	Marion Burger & Ilan J. Cohen	Duration	35 minutes
Narrated by	Olivia Cooke in English & Vimala Pons in French	Technics	Realtime animation, hand-tracking
Music by	Jamie Turner (Heran Soun) & Gaspar Claus	Made with	Unity
Produced by	Oriane Hurard	Platforms	Meta Quest2, Pico 4
		Online release	Fall 2023
		World premiere	Venice International Film Festival Achievement Prize



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An
Atlas V, Reynard Films, France Télévisions, PICO
coproduction

With the support of
CNC, FFF Bayern, Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, MEDIA Creative Europe, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg,
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Distributed by
Astrea, France Télévisions



france•tv



FFF Bayern



medienboard
BerlinBrandenburg

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PROCIREP ANGOA



CREATORS



Marion Burger

Born in France in 1987, Marion Burger is a production designer on several feature films including *Divines* by Houda Benyamina (Caméra d'or 2016), *Gagarine* by Jérémy Trouilh and Fanny Liatard (Cannes 2020) and more recently *Mother and Son* by Léonor Serraille (Cannes 2022). On this occasion, she has been awarded the Young Film Technician Prize for her work.



Ilan J. Cohen

Born in France in 1984, Ilan has been working as a first assistant director since 2008 (including Noaz Deshe's *White Shadow*, Lodge Kerrigan's *Rebecca H.*, and Bertrand Bonello's *Sarah Winchester*) while pursuing his own screenwriting and directing music videos (Rone, Gaspar Claus).

CAST



English Narrator

Olivia Cooke

Olivia Cooke is an English actress best known for her roles in the thriller *Bates Motel* (2013-2017) and the fantasy drama *House of Dragon* (2022-present). Her film credits include Steven Spielberg's *Ready Player One* (2018) and *Sound of Metal* (2020) starring Riz Ahmed.



French Narrator

Vimala Pons

Vimala Pons is a French actress, circus artist and stage director. Her notable films include Antonin Peretjatko's *La Loi de la jungle* (2016), Paul Verhoeven's *Elle* (2016), Bertrand Mandico's *The Wild Boys* (2017) and the Netflix movie *How I became a Superhero* (2021).



ATLAS V · ALBYON · ASTREA

Founded in 2017, **ATLAS V** was created at the crossroads of the entertainment industry, technological innovation and traditional audiovisual production.

ALBYON, a studio specializing in real time and VR located in Lyon, was launched in 2020, followed in 2021 by **ASTREA**, a company dedicated to the distribution and publication of immersive content.

ATLAS V is behind some of the most awarded pieces in the field of immersive experiences, such as *Spheres* - Best VR Experience at Venice Immersive 2018, *Battlescar* (Sundance 2018, Venice 2019), *Gloomy Eyes* - VR Crystal at Annecy 2019, *On the morning you make (to the end of the world)* - Best VR at SXSW 2022, etc.

In 2022, the narrative interactive experience *Madrid Noir* won an Emmy Award in the Outstanding Interactive Media category.



ATLAS V

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