

**PRESS KIT for the film "Unicity" by Antonin DOMAGE**

**2021**

# Press Kit preview

The five main axes.

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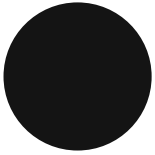
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# Synopsis and informations

## Synopsis

2030, Aaron and Alexia find themselves at the heart of an insomnia pandemic that is slowly leading people to exhaustion. Seeing the situation getting worse, the couple has fled the city. However, the pandemic is not weakening, its origin seems to gradually become clearer.

## Informations

**FORMAT:** Feature film: 135', 1.85

**GENRE:** Thriller, Horror, Anticipation

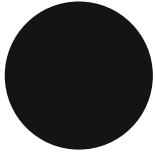
**LANGUAGES:** French, French subtitles, English, Spanish

**FILMING LOCATIONS:** Ile de France, Hauts-de-France, Normandy

**DIRECTED BY:** Antonin DOMAGE



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## Film Overview

Unicity is a film in Vlog format, filmed by the protagonists, halfway between thriller, horror and anticipation.

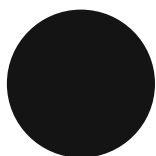
Many films have used this format called "found footage": Cloverfield, Rec, Paranormal activity, Area 51 or the Blair Witch project to name a few.

The main goal is to entertain but also to make the audience aware of the different problems that man will face over the next twenty years.

Indeed, the film takes place in 2030, the topics addressed are:

- The unexplained decrease of sleep time as well as sleep paralysis.
- Permafrost melting
- The regulation of artificial intelligence,
- The place of esoteric writings in a constantly changing world.





# TRAILER ET TEASER

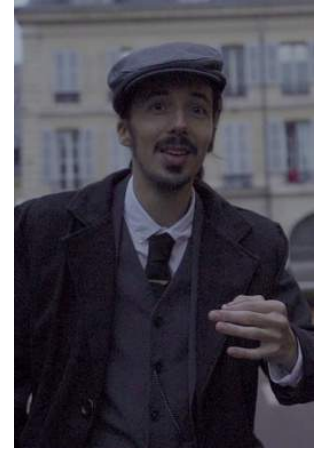
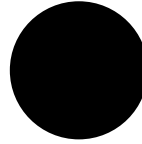
Film overview : <https://bit.ly/TrailerUNICITE>  
Password : IXIVE#2030iscoming!



Trailer : <https://bit.ly/TrailerUNICITE>  
Password : IXIVE#2030iscoming!



# The director



Antonin was born on 11 August 1991 in Paris.

Lulled by **Disney creations**, his attraction for video and cinema goes back to his 11 years old when **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers** was released in theaters.

The works of **Hayao Miyazaki**, through their stories and their universes also played an important role in his nascent passion for the seventh art.

In 2003, **film rentals** allowed him to gradually immerse himself in the film culture. Later on, the arrival of the streaming platforms **Youtube** and **Dailymotion** will change his vision of audiovisual creation.

In 2007 and 2009, the films *Rec* and *Paranormal Activity* slowly sharpen his attraction for the **found footage** (story filmed by the protagonists).

In 2012, the emergence of "Daily Vlogs" (daily video blog) posted on Youtube in the United States, will be a **real revelation** for the young man.

**The creators** Jesse Wellen, Ben Brown, Louis Cole, Casey Neistat, whom he watches with admiration, push the nail in, making the very amateur format at first into real short films posted every day.

Between 2013 and 2014, **impregnated with the Youtube culture**, Antonin makes about fifteen Vlogs.

In 2015, suffering from Ehlers Danlos syndrome, a period of hyperacusis and pain caused him insomnia, which gradually faded away. This episode marks him deeply, the subject of insomnia will be at the **heart of the story of Unicity** that he will write 4 years later.

The movies *Rec*, *Cloverfield*, *The Witch*, *Her*, *Prometheus*, *Hungerford* as well as *The Da Vinci Code* fascinated him. **Associated with the Vlog culture**, these works will strongly orient his attraction for: horror, thriller and anticipation

In 2018, while making a new vlog, he considers writing and directing his own film. At the end of the year, when his employment contract is not renewed into a permanent contract, he finds himself unemployed and decides to embark on **the adventure of writing and directing**.

From 2019 to 2021, he **creates Unicity** ("Unicité" in french) a feature film with a budget of about 14,000 euros. The film will have required 6 months of writing, 28 days of shooting, several months of editing and post-production.

He will complete the film in **November 2021** while giving freelance training in video editing and graphic culture.



# Interview WITH the film director

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FOUND FOOTAGE  
MERGES WITH THE  
VLOG FORMAT.

By creating Unicity, I tried to link "found footage" and the contemporary Vlog format, which has its roots in the United States.

Unlike the classic found footage, the cinematographic "codes" applied by vloggers allow the addition of music, sound design, the use of several cameras, as well as a more "elaborate" post-production treatment.

The goal: to get closer to the classic cinema format, to reduce costs, to focus on storytelling, to create a link with the protagonists and to eliminate motion sickness (kinetosis),

## Why Unicity ?

The idea for the film came to me when I watched the third opus of Blair Witch (2016), whose story is filmed by the protagonists: a found footage.

A format identical to the first opus (Blair Witch 1999), which had a budget of \$60,000.

In the same scheme/format, we also find the film Paranormal Activity 1 and its budget of 15 000 dollars.

These figures are for me the proof that writing and directing, if they are well mastered, allow the creation of striking and very interesting works.

They transmit a message; emotions emanate from them.

Passionate about cinema, the vlog format and writing, I then tried, on my own scale, via Unicity, to tell a story, transmit emotions and a message in my turn with a limited budget.

## A pandemic ?

I wanted to create a film halfway between Paranormal Activity, Blair Witch, Rec, Her, Prometheus, The Witch and Da Vinci Code.

Part anticipation, part thriller and part horror. The idea for Insomnia Pandemic came to me in late 2018.

The question was then to know what we could build around it:

Its origin? The ins and outs of geopolitics? The human and sectarian drifts in a world at the doors of perdition?

The film takes place in 2030, so we have a part of anticipation.

The answer to the previous questions could be the subject of a thriller. The horror is then reserved for the adventures of the protagonists as well as the plot linked to the sleep paralysis.

## How do you make a low-budget feature film?

To be honest, Unicity is my first and only feature film. I don't have the experience of directing on a larger budget, which requires a full crew for shooting and post-production.

With a little more than 14,000 euros, we can still afford to do some crazy things, but we have to admit that we are a little limited.

The first choice to be made is the format: Classic or found footage? At this budget, the story is more in favor of found footage. That said, the film "Paris is ours" required a lower budget (in the first place) while keeping the codes of classic cinema. So anything is possible!

Anyway, my attraction to the Vlog format was actually an obvious one. The choice was not really one, but I prefer to talk about it beforehand: found footage or classic format, in fact everything is possible. Found footage is objectively easier to set up.

Then, I think it is absolutely necessary to write the story according to the environment (interior and exterior) in which it will be possible to film without too many administrative and financial formalities.

Renting can quickly become very expensive, not to mention the formalities related to filming authorizations and others. We did not escape this, but we had to be careful to select our shooting locations.

We also had to approach people or organizations for authorizations or collaborations, and above all, we had to be patient in order to train ourselves in writing, acting, framing, editing, sound design, matte painting, etc.

I think the last ingredient is passion and interest in the project. Something animated me and made me want to go through with it.

I am certainly not the only one in this case, and I invite people who have this feeling to listen to it, to be guided. Because personally, with hindsight, I probably had one of the best moments of my life during this project.

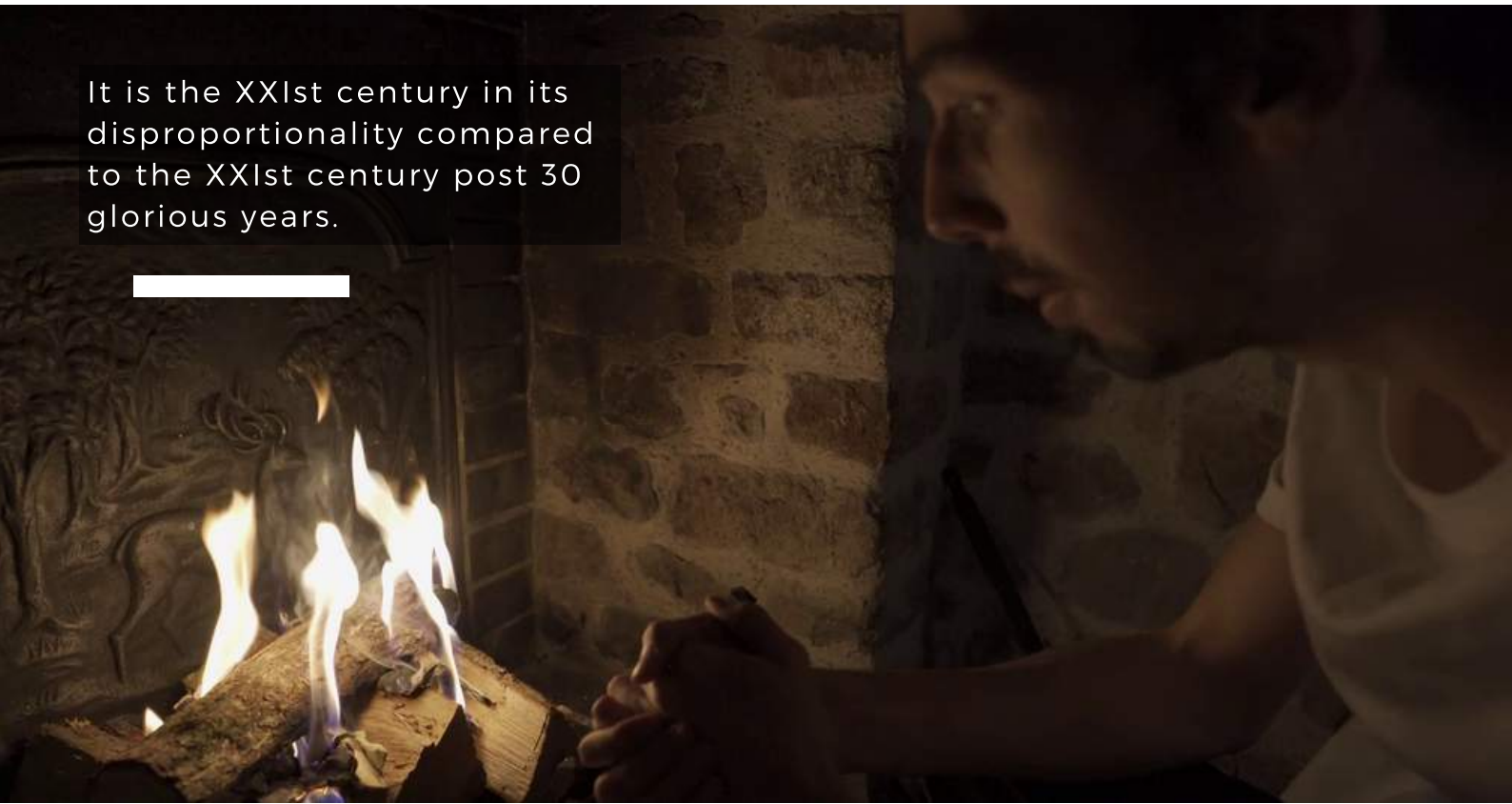
### A SMALL BUDGET FILM

"WITH A LITTLE MORE THAN 14,000 EUROS, WE CAN STILL AFFORD TO DO SOME CRAZY THINGS,"

28 days of filming is a long time.

This is why Mélanie, with whom I share my life, and myself, have occupied the main roles.

The secondary roles were entrusted to amateur actors, a professional actor (Olivier Peissel) and relatives.



It is the XXIst century in its disproportionality compared to the XXIst century post 30 glorious years.

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### **What about the art direction? The photography?**

First of all, I created a mood board while writing the story.

The script is then scattered with photos and illustrations allowing me to have an idea of the places to create, modify or arrange for the shooting.

It is during the pre-production that little by little, the universe of the film was set up. I was lucky because there weren't that many locations. Otherwise, a storyboard, in addition to the mood board and the script would have been welcome!

I wanted to create a contrast between the very futuristic Parisian area (the film takes place in 2030) and the very isolated rural area, where the protagonists are trying to escape the violence.

This contrast contributes to the storytelling.

The protagonists go from hyperconnection and an almost excessive futurism, to the isolated village, the home, where technology, as we know it, seems on the contrary absent.

It is the XXIst century in its disproportionality compared to the XXIst century post 30 glorious years.

We have therefore arranged the premises according to this. Trying to make it an enigmatic place where the mirrors as well as the recordings they discover have a central place in the story.

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## Why did you choose anticipation?

We find the genre of anticipation in Prometheus, Her and Interstellar, three films that I particularly like.

What's interesting about this cinematic genre is that creativity is at the heart of a special pattern.

We must try to make the story sufficiently scientifically credible.

Making research beforehand is crucial. What are the past facts? Do society, current customs habit, politics, technological progress, discoveries, guide us towards such and such a future?

Take a multitude of factors, facts, to create a credible story. But not only. then we try to create a credible universe, while keeping a link with our present, our past, our timeline. Try not to do too much or too little.

I'll be honest, it is extremely difficult. There is a huge chance that Unicity is not credible on some points.

But it is clear that there is something interesting about anticipation, both in the creation process and in the implementation during the shoot.

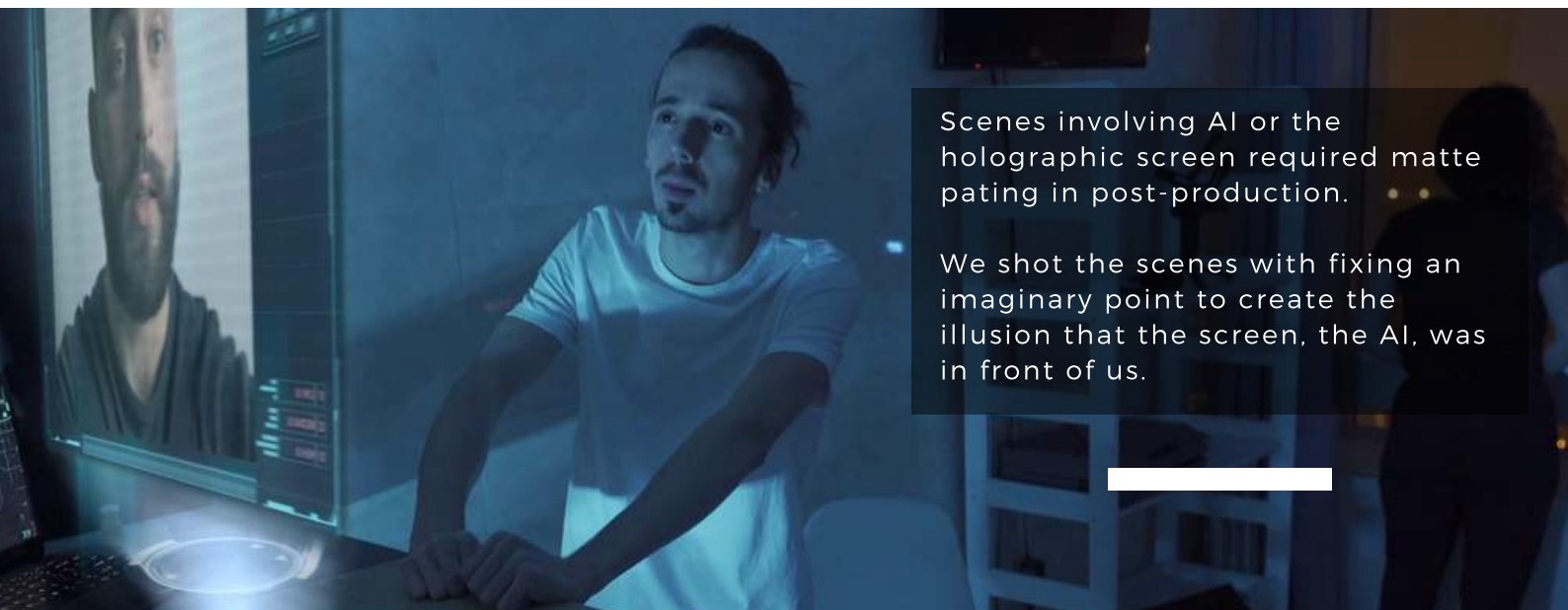
During the film, you can see an artificial intelligence capable of holding a discussion without difficulty. Able to tackle complex subjects, with a touch of humor. It is possible that the AI will not be as successful by 2030.

That said, given current AI technological progress, it could be not excluded to see it happening during 2030's, I took the bet!

And so it is like that for a part of the lore of Unicity.

Via holographic screens, the implantation of subcutaneous chips (already present on a small scale in Sweden for example) on a large scale, the melting of permafrost that can release a virus that is several thousand years old, etc.

It is a succession of small bets on the future in connection (weak or strong) with our past, our present, our timeline, which, linked to the history, the fiction and the investigation at the heart of the film, witch create the lore of Unicity.



Scenes involving AI or the holographic screen required matte pating in post-production.

We shot the scenes with fixing an imaginary point to create the illusion that the screen, the AI, was in front of us.

## INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR CONTINUATION AND END

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A person is walking away from the camera through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The scene is lit with the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, creating long shadows and a hazy atmosphere. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a backpack.

Unicity brings together topics related to societal collapse, a pandemic, melting permafrost and esoteric stories.

### **How did you go about writing the story?**

As I mentioned earlier, first of all, we have the creation linked to the anticipation. To that I had to add the facts, the story around this near future.

2030 was chosen according to the content that can be found on the internet concerning the beginning of an economic/social collapse, the technological singularity and others.

This seemed "right" to incorporate the insomnia pandemic and create a film that was halfway between the films I mentioned earlier in "Why Unicity?" and "Why a Pandemic?".

2030 was also quite feasible for the realization, it had to be taken into account!

Counting on 2040-2050 or more would have been complicated in terms of budget and post-production time. Quite frankly I didn't feel capable of it.

Once I knew that the story was set in 2030, and that the main topics would be: an insomnia pandemic, the role of artificial intelligence, the melting of the permafrost, the role of esoteric narratives in an ever-changing world, then I tried to write around it.

As well as around the places available.

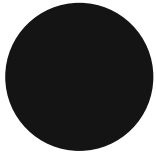
The goal: to create a story, bringing together these subjects, leading the protagonists and humanity from point A to point B.

Part of the film is based on certain scientific facts or theories, stories and representations related to esotericism, the Bible and Rosicrucianism: the Monas Hieroglyphica, the Chymic Wedding, from which some of the statements in the recordings are derived.

I also had to adapt the story to the places where the film took place: Paris, Normandy, the old house. And so to try to link the secret passages, secret rooms, the isolated location and others in order to create links.

We then found a link between, 2030, the insomnia pandemic, AI, esoteric writings and representations, the Bible, historical facts, the recordings, the IX'E tattoo, the corresponding numbers and the name of the movie Unicity.

For more information about these links and the creation of the film, please consult the Ebook written for this purpose that you will find on the following page.



# INTEGRALITY OF "BEHIND THE SCENE"

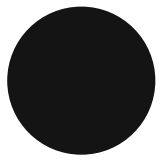


The secrets of the film : <https://bit.ly/UniciteBehindTheScene>  
(mot de passe : IXIVE#2030iscoming!)

Via this E-book, find the story of the creation of the film, the writing, the pre-production, the direction, post-production, including dozens of anecdotes and secrets of shooting.

You can also find details and explanations about the story, the ending, the elements used to build the lore of the film.



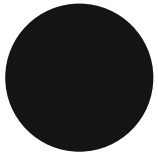


# PICTURES FROM THE FILM

# U N I C T E

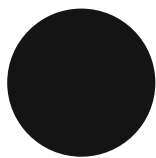
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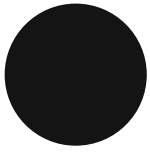
# PICTURES FROM THE FILM





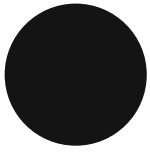
# PICTURES FROM THE FILM





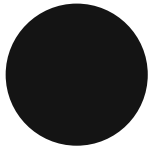
# PICTURES FROM THE FILM





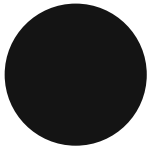
# PICTURES FROM THE FILM





# PICTURES FROM THE FILM





# PICTURES FROM THE FILM



A person with dark hair tied back is shown in profile, looking out a window. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window, creating a soft glow on the person's face and the window frame. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Thank you

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