



D I G I T

A FILM BY
GABRIEL LESTER

FELIX BURLESON • ELLA WIJNSCHENK-OESTERMAN • CARLY WIJS

DIG IT IS A LESTAR FILM PRODUCTION. THE FILM WAS FUNDED IN THE CONTEXT OF "DE KORTE VERBEELDING", WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NEDERLANDS FILMFONDS AND MONDRIAAN FONDS.

LOGLINE

The endless reincarnation of a melody, its dream, its composer, his muse and all the cats in the world.

SYNOPSIS

In "Dig It", a tribute to the friendship between Jazz patron Baroness Pannonica "Nica" de Koenigswarter-Rothschild and composer and pianist Thelonious Sphere, we experience Monk's final dream, as Nica watches over him. Reminiscing the many adventures they experienced together, Nica introduces the life they lived, the cats they cared for and all the wishes she collected from the Hep Cats (nickname for Jazz musicians) that came to play and relax in her home.

BACKSTORY

Baroness Pannonica de Koenigswarter-Rothschild (1913-1988) had a life that defies imagination. Her father was a British member of an international Jewish banking dynasty, an avid entomologist who named his daughter Pannonica after a species of butterfly. Nica obtained her pilot's license when she was still young. She joined the Free French Resistance during WWII. On the so-called North African Field Trips, she served as a courier for the Allied and was a coroner on the many battlefields. After the war, Nica moved to New York to follow her greatest passion: jazz music. Surrounded by more than a hundred cats and surrounded by just as many Hep Cats, Nica has been called the Jazz Baroness. She is the muse and patron of a whole generation of jazz greats. Night after night she drives from club to club in her Bentley. The night Charlie "Bird" Parker died in her hotel room and its aftermath is one of Nica's most traumatic experiences. Thelonious Monk, along with his wife Nelie and two children, lives in Nica's house for twenty years. Their close friendship is exceptionally strong and much discussed. Thelonious Monk's Pannonica, Horace Silver's Nica's Dream, Gigi Gryces' Nica's Tempo, Sonny Clark's My Dream Of Nica, and others are among the two dozen pieces dedicated to Nica. One of Nica's favorite projects was to ask each of the (jazz) musicians she met what their wishes were. They received three wishes from her. One of the main inspirations and motivations for developing this video was a compilation of over 300 wishes released in 2008.



Still from scene: Chasing Miles

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Still from scene: Looking at the Hundson river

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title	DIG IT
Genre	Essay
Language	Engelish
Production year	2023
Lengte	
Shooting Format	4k
Format	DCP
Ratio	16:9
Audio	Stereo
Regie	Gabriel Lester
Producent	Lestar Films Matthew Antezzo

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CAST & CREW

CAST

Pannonica de Koenigswarter Ella Wijnschenk-Oesterman

Thelonious Monk Felix Burleson

Voice of Pannonica Carly Weis

Cat Voice 1 Dorothy Jean 'Bess' Lewis Verkerk

Cat Voice 2 Matthew Antezzo

Cat Voice 3 Rhonda Debroux

Cat Voice 4 Dee Smith

Cat Voice 5 Erik D. Clark

Radio Voice 1 Kwesi Busia

Radio Voice 2 Sharon Apple

Radio Voice 3 Gabriel Lester

CREW

Camera Cat House Guido van Gennepe

Camera Garden Bas Swelheim
Cees Binnerts

Camera New York Gabriel Lester

Camera Car Chase Vinyl Cees Binnerts

Edited By Gabriel Lester
Cees Binnerts

Special Effects and Compositioning Cees Binnerts

Grading Cees Binnerts
Guido van Gennepe

Sound and Foley Tijmen Bergman

Microscopic Footage Wim van Egmond

Scale Models and Butterfly Volker Morawe

Pannonica written by Thelonious Monk

Performed by Thelonious Mark

Courtesy of Sony Music/
Ultra Empire
Music (BMI) obo
Thelonious Music
Corp (BMI)

Mixed by Noam Ofir

Alto Sax, Contra Alto Clarinet, Flute Job Chajes

Double Bass, Electric Bass Joel F. Svedberg

Drums Euan Jenkins

Guitar Johnny Biner

Piano, Fender Rhodes, Wurlitzer Noam Ofir

Recording Engineer Tijmen van Wageningen

Recorded at The Womb

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Still from scene: Monk dancing on stage

“Where were did you go? ... sleepless for days on end, standing at the Weehawken window. I imagine you directing the clouds, speaking with the birds and bees, or swimming across the Hudson River with slow butterfly strokes. Riding the waves, turning them into meandering, convoluted melodies. In those ensuing waking hours, I would picture you like Sisyphus, against all odds, pushing on, rolling a rock to the top of a hill, and then watching it roll down, whistling your Pannonica tune, as you languidly descend back to the foot of the hill”.



Gabriel Lester

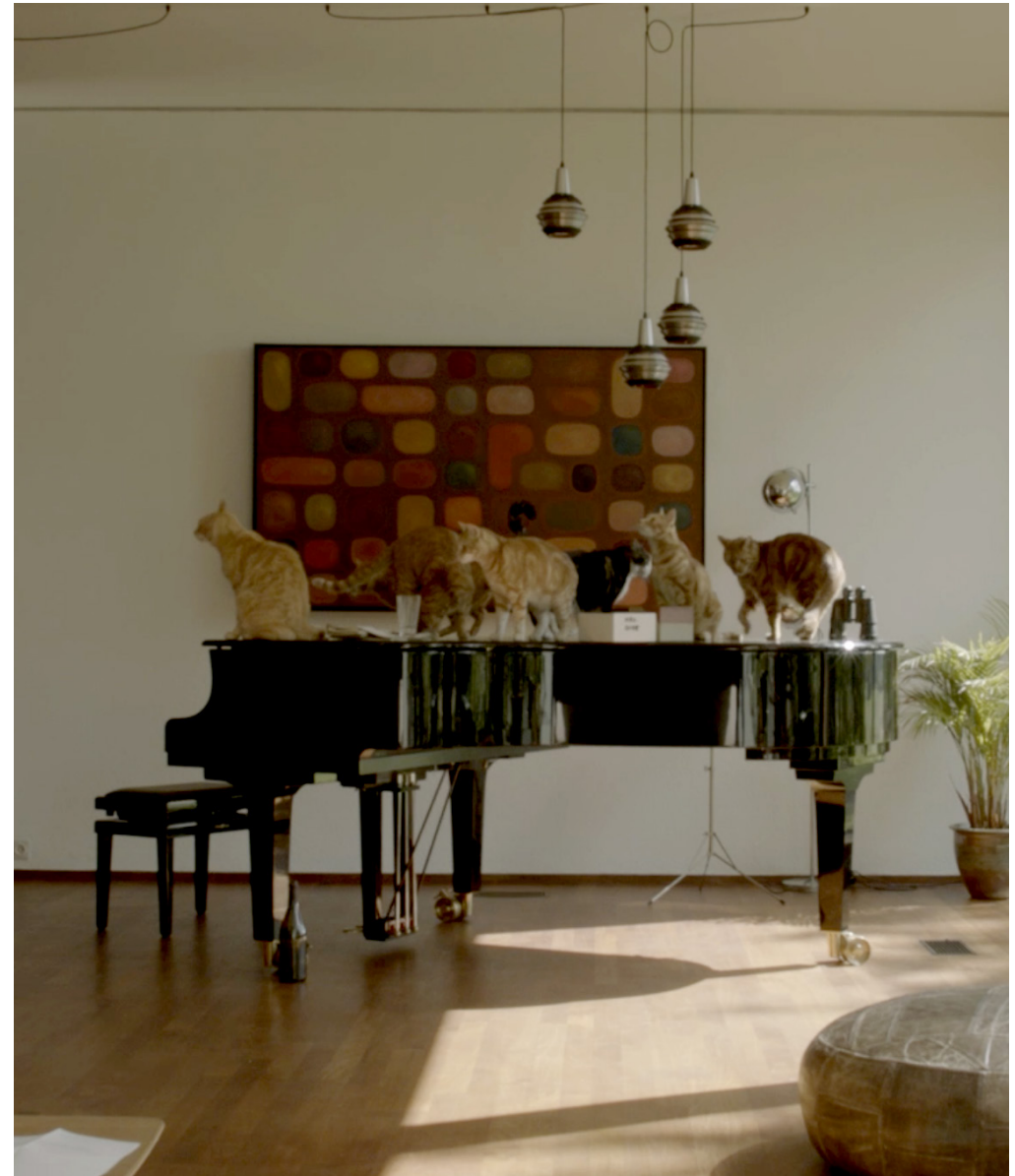
DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Gabriel Lester was born in Amsterdam (1972). He has lived in Brussels, New York, Shanghai and Stockholm and currently lives and works in Amsterdam. His artworks consist of installations, performances and films. Other activities include commissioned artworks for the public space and teaching at the fine arts department of the Sandberg institute, the master course at the Amsterdam Rietveld academy.

Lester's artwork, films and installations originate from a desire to tell stories and construct environments that support these stories or propose their own narrative interpretation. In early years this led to writing prose and composing electronic music. Later, after studying experimental cinema at the St. Lucas academy in Brussels, and eventually fine arts at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, his artworks became what could be typified as cinematographic, without necessarily employing film or video. Like cinema, Lester's practice has come to embrace all imaginable media and occupy both time and space. The artworks propose a tension span and are either implicitly narrative, explicitly visual or both at once. These artworks seldom convey any explicit message or singular idea, but rather propose ways to relate to the world, how it is presented and what mechanisms and components constitute our perception and understanding of it.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

- 2023 **Dig It**
- 2023 **Second Sight**
- 2020 **The End**
- 2018 **SAMSARA**
- 2017 **AEON - The trilogy**
- 2016 **Murmur**
Alarm in the Universe
- 2013 **The Secret Life of Cities**
- 2011 **The Big One**
- 2008 **The last smoking flight**
- 2007 **Nightshade**
- 2006 **Peace is not Absence of Conflict**
All right
- 2005 **All wrong**
Urban Surface



Still from scene: The Cat House



Still from scene: Monks last wish

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CONTACT

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Distributie

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