



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024  
**sundance**  
film festival

## LOGLINE

Tasked with what appears to be a simple abduction for hire, two hapless kidnapppers find out that it's anything but and end up in the middle of a political conspiracy.

# SYNOPSIS

The son of a wealthy presidential candidate has just been kidnapped. The kidnapers are demanding a hefty ransom. Doc and Zoe are two amateur gangsters - and soccer freaks - who must deliver the young man to their ruthless boss. Impulsive Zoe accidentally kills the candidate's son.

Faced with a terrible fate for killing their hostage, Doc and Zoe stumble upon Patrick and his nine-month-pregnant wife, Laura. The young couple must, at all costs, catch a flight out of Haiti to give birth in the US to get citizenship for their baby. Patrick's great misfortune is that he looks exactly like the senator's dead son.

In the midst of a heated election and a Barça-Real classico match, Doc and Zoe find themselves at the center of a political conspiracy.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Kidnapping Inc. is a dark comedy and political thriller inspired by the phenomenon of kidnapping in Haiti, which was nonexistent until the 2000s. The story follows two hapless kidnappers tasked with what appears to be a simple job, only to find out that it's anything but, and end up in the middle of a political conspiracy. Based on real life, the result is a road movie combining City of God's rawness and Pulp Fiction's dark humor.

In 2018, despite chronic socio-political and economic crises, Haiti entered one of its darkest chapters with the resurgence of kidnappings and gangs across the country. This made everyday life dangerous for Haitians. In 2021, according to the report "Hegemony of Gangs and Rising Crime," Haiti had the highest rate of kidnappings per capita in the world. Today, impunity is at an all-time high, and kidnappings, violence, and massacres have become the new normal. During my research, I found out through interviews that several kidnapping victims emerge unscathed. Others were released under tragic circumstances, raped, or simply murdered. Yet, all these stories were told with humor, even the most difficult ones. These stories inspired me to bring this difficult and painful subject to light through humor.

Kidnapping Inc. seeks to give a voice to the voiceless and raise awareness of this phenomenon destroying our country. Part of Haiti's tragedy is that its fate and future are not in the hands of its people but in those of corrupt politicians, complicit business elites, as well as a self-interested international community. The Haitian people - in-

cluding the victims of crime, poverty, kidnapping, and impunity - have no voice in deciding how they are governed or how they want to rebuild a broken nation.

As the population is left to fend for itself, those with the means leave the country via plane or makeshift boats in search of a better life. I had to leave the country. This exodus significantly impacts our barely existing industry, and today, most of the Muska Films family has had to leave the country. As such, the film offers a unique and authentic commentary on the current state of corruption, mismanagement, greed, and terror that entertainingly rule the country and explains the complexity of Haitian society.

This film deals with an important issue, given that so many – including my friends and relatives – have been victims of kidnapping, violence, and corruption in the country. In cruel irony, three of our crew members were kidnapped during production in 2021, bringing our filming to a halt. In 2022, as a result of gang violence, one of our set designer assistants was shot in the face, and the following year, another was killed. In 2023, one of the actors in the film, Ralphe Théodore, was murdered. On a more personal level, I am a victim of the insecurity and violence in Haiti. My father, Paul-Henri Mural, was brutally killed - shot several times in the abdomen while driving his vehicle near Cité-Soleil - on May 31, 2005. I was 21 years old at the time. I never thought I would receive this type of phone call from my mom while I was away from home pursuing my studies abroad. I miss our conversations...

Over the years, we have risked everything to make this film. Despite political unrest, production that had to be stopped three times, COVID, and the assassination of our President, our team still managed to finish and tell this story. Our story. Kidnapping Inc. is a cross-genre film packed with comedy, action, suspense, a cinematic UFO, which is its strength and originality. Its American directing style is likely to attract audiences who are fans of foreign independent films, who love to laugh, and who are curious to discover a movie from Haiti, a rarity in the cinematic landscape. In the end, the film is a tribute to my fellow Haitians' resilience and courage and their sense of humor, which has the power to heal and perhaps shine a light during this dark chapter.



## TECHNICAL SPECS

Genre: Dark Comedy, Political Thriller

Production year: 2023

Country of origin: France, Canada

Language: Creole, French

Run time: 103 minutes

Screen ratio: 2:35

Sound format: 5.1 Dolby

Production Companies: Promenades Films  
(France), BHM Films (France), Peripheria (Canada)





## SAMUEL CHAUVIN

Owner and founder of the French production company Promenades Films since 1996, Samuel mainly focuses on international minority coproduction in Latin America and the Caribbean. His filmography includes *DAUGHTER OF RAGE* by Laura Baumeister (Nicaragua), Toronto 2022, San Sebastian 2022 / *VICENTA B.* by Carlos Lechuga (Cuba) Toronto 2022, San Sebastian 2022 / *CENIZA NEGRA* by Sofia Quiros (Costa Rica), Cannes Critic Week 2019. He is also a curator of workshops concerning international coproduction, such as the Bolivia Lab, Morelia Lab, EICTV in Cuba, Sembrando cine in Caracas, Riviera Maya Lab, and Cinemart Trinidad and Tobago.



## BRUNO MOURRAL

Bruno Mourral is a writer, director, and producer who studied film in Paris at EICAR. In 2007, he returned to Haiti and co-founded Muska Group, a leading company specializing in audiovisual production. Bruno directed over 50 commercials in the Caribbean and Africa, winning several awards for best commercials. In 2015, he co-founded Muska Films to change the narrative through cinema and develop the Haitian film industry. In 2017, Bruno wrote, directed, and produced *Kafou*, a mid-length film that won several awards and nominations. In 2024, Bruno will present his first feature, *Kidnapping Inc.*



## YANICK LÉTOURNEAU

Yanick Létourneau, a co-founder of Montreal-based PERIPHERIA, has been at the forefront of promoting diverse storytelling for more than 20 years. His notable work includes the Oscar-shortlisted *"Night of the Kings,"* a film celebrated at several international festivals. He has earned over time a reputation for his strong commitment to both social issues and artistic excellence. He is actively involved in producing films such as Maxime Giroux's *"In Cold Light,"* Jean-Claude Barny's *"Fanon,"* and Bruno Mourral's *"Kidnapping Inc.,"* continuing his legacy of fostering innovative and impactful narratives.



## GILBERT MIRAMBEAU JR.

Gilbert Mirambeau Jr. is a producer, writer and activist based in Haiti. He is the general manager of Muska Group, a leading production company specialized in advertising. In 2015, he co-founded Muska Films and produced in 2017 his first mid-length film, *Kafou*, which won several awards and nominations. In 2022, he executive produced the short documentary, *Brave*, pre-selected at Cannes for the Directors' Fortnight which won a few awards and nominations. His first feature film, *Kidnapping Inc.* is slated for release in 2024. Gilbert is an alumni from the Producers Labs from Cannes, Berlin and Locarno.



## GAËTHAN CHANCY

Gaëthan is a producer from Haiti, currently based in Washington, DC. In 2007, he co-founded Muska Group, an audiovisual production company based in Port-au-Prince. He produced numerous commercials and institutional films, several of which have won international awards. In 2015, he co-produced *"Lakou Kajou,"* Haiti's first children's educational television program. In 2017, he produced the mid-length feature film *"Kafou,"* which won several awards and nominations. He was an executive producer for the short documentary *"Braves"*. His projects to be released in 2024 include his first full-length feature, *"Kidnapping Inc."* and the documentary *"Avec Naomie."*

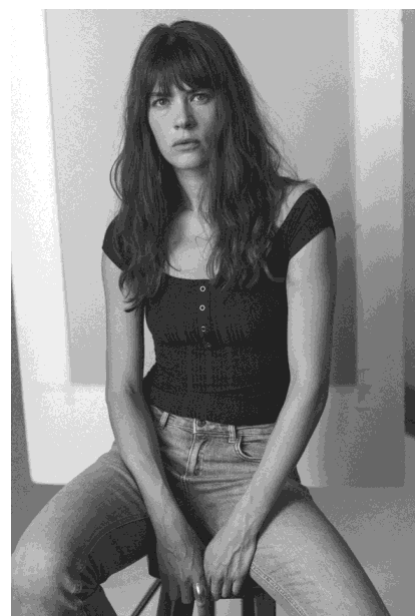
# ACTORS



**Jasmuel  
Andri**  
Doc



**Rolaphton  
Mercure**  
Zoe



**Anabel  
Lopez**  
Audrey Perralt



**Ashley  
Laraque**  
Sen. Benjamin  
Perralt



**Gessica  
Geneus**  
Laura Voltaire



**Patrick  
Joseph**  
Patrick Voltaire +  
Benjamin Perralt Jr  
Aka "Ti Ben"



**Manfred  
Marcellin**  
Fritz Jacques Bama



**Marcus  
Boereau**  
Eddy Chevreau

# PRODUCTION NOTE

This story started in 2007. We were young, in our mid-twenties, and had a big dream to make movies. We founded a video production company in a country that was a cinematic desert at the time. One commercial after the other, we trained ourselves and our teams. Around 2013, after many scripts and tests, we finally found the project we were confident would be our first feature. But, we had to prove we could deliver. This was the inception of the Kafou project. After a year and a half of shooting in a country that was starting to collapse, we produced a 50-minute film that won many awards and nominations. Kafou enabled us to put in place our first international co-production agreements with Promenades Films and Periphéria, both already on the A-list festival circuit, to carry on to our first feature, Kidnapping Inc.

Kidnapping Inc. is a dark comedy and a political thriller inspired by the phenomenon of kidnapping in Haiti. It blends elements of Pulp Fiction, Lethal Weapon, and City of God in a Haitian setting. It is a satirical plunge into the underbelly of Haiti that takes us from the slums of Port-au-Prince to the plush homes of Pétion-Ville. It's a buddy movie, a road movie, and a comedy dealing with a serious subject. The story revolves around two young men who are delivery men for a kidnapping organization. Their troubles begin when they accidentally kill their hostage. While trying to find a solution to a situation that would lead to their demise, they stumble upon a lookalike of their hostage. They decide to kidnap him and his eight-month pregnant wife. This plunges us into an adventure of suspense, comedy, intrigue, and, ultimately, a much deeper story than it seems.



# PRODUCTION NOTE

When producing this film, we intended to raise awareness about the growing kidnapping industry in Haiti. After years of political instability, a phenomenon of kidnapping emerged in the year 2000. Kidnappings had significantly slowed around 2013 when we started writing this story more as a testament to the past. However, by the time we started production, kidnappings had come back with such force that Haiti would soon earn the undesirable title of the country with the highest rate of kidnapping per capita in the world.

In 2021, on our way back to the capital after shooting in a provincial town, our convoy was attacked by a notorious gang that took 3 of our crew members hostage. Our production had to stop to negotiate the release of our kidnapped colleagues. This movie truly is art imitating life and life imitating art.

After months of preparing for our final production session, the President of Haiti was assassinated just three weeks before our planned shooting date. We had to work hard to convince many of our cast and crew - Haitians and foreigners - to return to finish the project. Our last session successfully ended in September 2021, and we entered post-production with little means. After two years, the movie is completed and ready to present to the world.

Slated for release in 2024, *Kidnapping Inc.* will seduce an audience looking for foreign, edgy, funny movies who want a good laugh while learning about a serious subject. While the film is a truthful depiction of the current situation of kidnapping, corruption, abuse, and poverty in Haiti, it is also delivered with humor and adventure. We hope this film will help spark conversations for a better Haiti. We dedicate this film to the people we love and lost along the way.



# CONTACT

## Sales & Distribution

XYZ Films | International Sales  
Manon Barat  
manon@xyzfilms.com

XYZ Films | US Sales  
Pip Ngo  
pip@xyzfilms.com

US Distribution  
Michael Repsch  
mike@darkstarpics.com

Facebook

[/KidnappingInc/](#)

## Producers

Gaethan Chancy  
+1 (202) 302-2953  
gaethan@muskagroup.com

Gilbert Mirambeau Jr.  
+509 3900 0029  
gilbert@muskagroup.com

Yanick Létourneau  
+1 (514) 994-1630  
yanick@peripheria.ca

Twitter:

[/kidnappingInc](#)

Instagram

[/kidnappinginthemovie/](#)

Tiktok:

[/@kidnappinginthemovie](#)

Promenadesfilms



PERIPHERIA



IMDB:

[/title/tt4726640](#)