

Nicolas Philibert / filmography

N. Philibert was born in 1951 in Nancy, France. After studying philosophy, he started out as an assistant director, in particular with René Allio, Alain Tanner, Claude Goretta...

HIS MASTER'S VOICE (LA VOIX DE SON MAÎTRE)

• 1978 / 100 mins / 16 mm black and white / co-directed with Gérard Mordillat.

Twelve chairmen of large companies face the camera and talk about power, command, hierarchy, trade unions, strikes, self-management... Their voices mingle, scatter and overlap in the city and its factories... The image of a future world is gradually sketched out. *A production INA and Laura productions with the participation of the SERDAV-CNRS and the Centre National de la Cinématographie (CNC).*

BOSSSES / TELEVISION (PATRONS/TÉLÉVISION)

• 1978 / 3 x 60 mins / 16 mm black and white / co-directed with Gérard Mordillat.

Three TV programmes made from the material gathered for the previous film : « *Confidences sur l'ouvrier* » (Secrets about the worker), « *Un pépin dans la boîte* » (A spanner in the works) and « *La bataille a commencé à Landernau* » (The battle started at Landernau). The three were banned from television but released in cinemas a few weeks later. *A production INA and Laura productions with the participation of the SERDAV-CNRS and the CNC.*

THE NORTH FACE OF THE CAMEMBERT (LA FACE NORD DU CAMEMBERT)

• 1985 / 7 mins / 35 mm colour

For the requirements of a fiction film (« *Billy Ze Kick* »), the young mountaineer Christophe Profit is asked to "understudy" and "stand in for" an actor. He has to climb the smooth front of a 200-foot building. *Production : Les Films d'Ici*

CHRISTOPHE

• 1985 / 28 mins / 16 mm colour

Christophe Profit's "100% solo" climb (without ropes and without belays) of the west face of Les Drus, a gigantic, 3,600ft vertical pyramid in the heart of the Mont-Blanc range. Christophe Profit is one of the greatest mountaineers of his generation. *A production La maison du cinéma de Grenoble, with the participation of Antenne 2, Alpa and Sandoz-France.*

NO PROBLEM (Y'A PAS D'MALAISE !)

• 1986 / 13 mins / 16 mm colour

Clinging to the middle of the mountain like spiders, a dozen filmmakers and mountain guides busy themselves above the abyss to film Christophe Profit's ascent of Le Dru. Little by little, the director finds himself dreaming of the tranquil seaside holidays he might have had, like so many other people... *A production La maison du cinéma de Grenoble, with the participation of Antenne 2.*

TRILOGY FOR ONE MAN (TRILOGIE POUR UN HOMME SEUL)

• 1987 / 53 mins / 16 mm colour

One of the most fabulous "combinations" of climbs ever achieved by a mountaineer: on March 12 and 13, 1987, Christophe Profit, 26, succeeded in his attempt to climb the three toughest north faces in the Alps, in 40 hours: the Grandes Jorasses, the Eiger, and the Matterhorn. But beyond the coverage of this feat, we discover the sidelines, the story behind the project, the ups and downs of its preparation, and the personality of the man behind the climbs, a dancer on sheer rock faces, focusing all the energy and reflexes of life itself in his fingertips. *A production Les Films d'Ici, Antenne 2, with the participation of Millet.*

THE MEASURE OF THE FEAT (LA MESURE DE L'EXPLOIT)

• 1987 / 23 mins / 16 mm colour

A film coming out of the previous one about the medical and nutritional monitoring of Christophe Profit during his "trilogy" and the intensive training period leading up to it. *A production Laboratoires Sandoz and Wander, Les Films d'Ici.*

GO FOR IT, LAPEBIE ! (VAS-Y LAPÉBIE !)

• 1988 / 27 mins / 16 mm colour

At the age of 77, Roger Lapébie is the oldest winner of the Tour de France still alive. Since his legendary victory in 1937, half a century has gone by. Yet Roger still covers more than 200 miles each week by bicycle on the highways and byways of the Landes.. The portrait of a great, good-natured cyclist, who declares: “ *I love my bike more than I love myself.* ” A production : MC4, Pathé, Canal +, avec la participation du CNC. Production MC4, Pathé, Canal+ with the participation of the CNC.

BAQUET'S COME BACK (LE COME-BACK DE BAQUET)

• 1988 / 24 mins / 16 mm colour

In July 1956, the actor and cellist Maurice Baquet, along with the mountaineer Gaston Rebuffat, made the first ascent of the south face of the Aiguille du Midi (3842m), a magnificent red granite wall that rears up like a rampart above the Vallée Blanche, in the Mont-Blanc range... 32 years later, as if in tribute to the memory of his friend Gaston, Maurice Baquet once again climbs this wall hanging between sky and earth, this time with Christophe Profit. A production : *Les Films d'Ici and Antenne 2, with the participation of Sandoz-France.*

MIGRAINE

• 1989 / 6 mins / 16 mm colour

An episode in the “*Et vous, comment ça va ?*” (And how are things with you?) series proposed by Dr. Sylvie Quesemond-Zucca. Production : *La Sept, Les Films d'Ici.*

LOUVRE CITY (LA VILLE LOUVRE)

• 1990 / 85 mins / 35 mm colour

What does the Louvre look like without the public? For the first time, a great museum lets a film crew get behind the scenes: the staff are hanging paintings, reorganizing rooms, moving works around, the guards are trying on their new uniforms... Little by little, characters appear, more and more of them, crossing paths and slowly weaving the threads of a narrative. Miles of underground passages... A sequence of scenes that let us in on the secrets of a museum... Stacks and reserves containing thousands of paintings, sculptures and objects... Places off limits to the public...

A film blending the humdrum and the outstanding, the prosaic and the sublime, the comical and the dreamlike... When the life of a major institution attains the realms of fiction. A co-production with *Les Films d'Ici, La Sept, Antenne 2, le Musée du Louvre, with the participation of the CNC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

BOSSES 78 / 91 (PATRONS 78 / 91)

• 1991 / 75 mins / video black and white

co-directed with Gérard Mordillat

Thirteen years after *Patrons / Television* was cancelled, these images at last appeared on the small screen, in a condensed version. Production *INA and Laura productions with the participation of the SERDAV-CNRS and the CNC. Reissued by La Sept.*

IN THE LAND OF THE DEAF (LE PAYS DES SOURDS)

• 1992 / 99 mins / 35 mm colour

What is the world like for the thousands of people who live in silence? Jean-Claude, Abou, Claire, Philo and all the rest, who have been totally deaf since birth or since the early months of their lives, dream, think and communicate through signs. With them we set off to discover that distant land where seeing and touching are of such crucial importance. This film tells their story and gives us a glimpse of the world through their eyes. A co-production with *Les Films d'Ici, La Sept Cinéma, Le Centre Européen Cinématographique Rhône-Alpes in association with Canal+, the Rhône-Alpes Region, the CNC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RAI Tre, BBC Television, and RTSR.*

ANIMALS (UN ANIMAL, DES ANIMAUX)

• 1994 / 59 mins / 35 mm colour

The Zoology Gallery of the National Natural History Museum in Paris was closed to the public for a quarter of a century, leaving hundreds of stuffed animals in a forgotten twilight zone: mammals, fish, reptiles, insects, amphibians, birds, crustaceans... The film was shot during the renovation work in the gallery (from 1991 to 1994), and describes the resurrection of its strange residents. A co-production with *Les Films d'Ici, France 2, National Natural History Museum (Paris), Mission Interministerielle*

des Grands Travaux, with the participation of the CNC, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Channel 4, Rai Tre, VPRO, and Television Suisse Romande.

IN A BADGER'S SKIN (DANS LA PEAU D'UN BLAIREAU)

• 1994 / 7 mins / video colour

In a workshop in the National Natural History Museum (Paris), a taxidermist undertakes the task of stuffing a badger. This film was earmarked for the renovated Grande Galerie in the NNHM. *Production : Les Films d'Ici, National Natural History Museum, Mission Interministerielle des Grands Travaux.*

METAMORPHOSIS OF A BUILDING (LES METMORPHOSES D'UN BATIMENT)

• 1994 / 8 mins / video colour

This film was made for the Grande Galerie in the National Natural History Museum, retracing the major stages of its recent restoration. *Production : Les Films d'Ici, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Mission Interministérielle des Grands Travaux.*

FAMILY PORTRAITS (PORTRAITS DE FAMILLE)

• 1994 / 3 MINS / video colour

400 animal portraits. This film was made for the renovated Grande Galerie in the National Natural History Museum. *Production : Les Films d'Ici, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Mission Interministérielle des Grands Travaux.*

FOR CATHERINE (POUR CATHERINE)

• 1995 / 30 mins / video colour

For the 50th birthday of a friend (Catherine), her nearest and dearest close friends and family file past the camera to wish her a happy birthday. *Production : Les Films d'Ici.*

EVERY LITTLE THING (LA MOINDRE DES CHOSES)

• 1996 / 105 mins / 35 mm colour

During the summer of 1995, faithful to what has now become a tradition, residents and staff at the La Borde psychiatric clinic get together to put on the play that they will perform on 15 August. During rehearsals, the film retraces the ups and downs of this adventure. But over and above the theatre, it describes life at La Borde, everyday life, time passing, trivial goings-on, loneliness and tiredness, as well as the moments of merriment, laughter, and wit peculiar to certain residents, and the close attention which people pay to one another... *A co-production with Les Films d'Ici and La Sept-Cinéma, with the participation of Canal+ and the CNC, with the backing of the Centre Regional Council, in association with Channel 4, WDR, VPRO, International Film Circuit, and Filmcooperative.*

US, FRANCE'S ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS... (NOUS, SANS PAPIERS DE FRANCE...)

• 1997 / 3 mins / 35 mm colour / with Madjiguène Cissé.

A collective film co-signed by 200 directors, producers, distributors and film exhibitors in support of undocumented immigrants.

WHO KNOWS ? (QUI SAIT ?)

• 1998 / 106 mins / 35 mm colour / fiction / with the students of the 30th class of the Strasbourg National Theatre.

This evening, they have decided to meet up at their school to devise together the project for a stage show whose theme - or pretext - is the city of Strasbourg itself. But they soon come up against a number of problems. What story should they tell? How should they build it up? How is it possible to stage a show without the back-up of a text and characters that already exist? How can they pool the different elements that each one of them has gathered on the city? How can they transfigure reality to bring fiction to life? All these questions incite each one of them to talk about his or her relationship with the city, politics, utopia, the theatre... And all these questions reflect - as in a mirror - the director's own approach in a film that candidly sets off in search of its own subject... At dawn, nothing has changed or almost. Who knows ? *A coproduction with AGAT films & Cie, La Sept ARTE, Strasbourg National Theatre.*

TO BE AND TO HAVE (ETRE ET AVOIR)

• 2002 / 104 mins / 35 mm colour / Official selection, Cannes 2002

Here, there and everywhere in France there are still « one-room schools » where all the children in one and the same village are taught by the same schoolmaster or-mistress, from the very youngest to pupils in the “cours moyen 2e année” (10-11 years). Between introversion and an open-minded attitude to the world, eclectic little bands share their everyday life, for better or for worse. This film was shot in one such school, somewhere in the depths of the Auvergne. *A coproduction with Maïa Films, Arte France Cinema, Les Films d'Ici, and the CNC with the participation of Canal+, the CNC, Gimages 4, and the backing of the Ministry of National Education, the Auvergne Regional Council and Procirep.*

THE INVISIBLE (L'INVISIBLE)

• 2002 / 45 mins, / video colour

A conversation with Jean Oury, founder and director of the La Borde psychiatric clinic. *Production Les Editions Montparnasse. A complement to the DVD edition of Every Little Thing (autumn 2002).*

EMMANUELLE LABORIT, SIGN SHARDS (EMMANUELLE LABORIT, ECLAT DE SIGNE)

• 2002 / 7 mins / video colour

Interview with Emmanuelle Laborit, actress. *Production Les Editions Montparnasse. A complement to the DVD edition of In the Land of the Deaf (autumn 2002).*

WHAT DRIVES THE TAXIDERMIST (CE QUI ANIME LE TAXIDERMISTE)

• 2002 / 18 mins / video colour

Interview with Jack Thiney, taxidermist at the National Museum of Natural History, Paris. *Production Les Editions Montparnasse. A complement to the DVD edition of Animals (autumn 2002).*

BACK TO NORMANDY (RETOUR EN NORMANDIE)

• 2006 / 113 mins / 35 colour / Official selection, Cannes 2002

This film's origins lie in another. The one that the director René Allio shot in Normandy in 1975 based on a local crime: « *I, Pierre Rivière, Having Slaughtered My Mother, My Sister and My Brother...* » I was 24 at the time. René Allio had offered me a position as first assistant director. Shot a few miles from the scene of the triple murder 140 years earlier, this film owed most of its uniqueness to the fact that nearly every part was given to local country people. Today, I have decided to return to Normandy to seek out the transient actors of the film. Thirty years have passed... *A co-production Les Films d'Ici, Maïa Films, ARTE France Cinéma, with the backing of Canal +, TPS STAR, the CNC and France Télévisions Distribution - in partnership with Soficinéma - with the support of Région Basse-Normandie and the collaboration of la Maison de l'Image Basse-Normandie.*

NÉNETTE, ORANG-UTAN FROM BORNEO (NÉNETTE, ORANG-OUTAN DE BORNÉO)

• 2009 / 24 mins / video colour

A short version of the following film, for France 3

NÉNETTE

• 2010 / 70 mins / 35 mm colour / official selection, Forum, Berlin 2010

Born in 1969 in the forests of Borneo, Nénette has just turned 40. It is rare for an orang-utan to reach such a venerable age! A resident of the menagerie at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris since 1972, she spent more time there than any member of staff. The unrivalled star of the place, she sees hundreds of visitors file past her cage each day. And, of course, each one of them has comments to make... *Co-produced by Les Films d'Ici, Forum des images, with the participation of the Menagerie of the Jardin des Plantes/Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle and CinéCinéma, Long Ride Inc.(Japon), Centre National de la cinématographie.*