



AKIKO, THE FLYING MONKEY



SYNOPSIS

When young monkey Akiko escapes from the zoo, he embarks on an adventurous and joyful journey, forming an unlikely alliance with an eagle, a raccoon and a chameleon. Together they will help him achieve his goal: to reunite with his family and help free all the animals in the city.

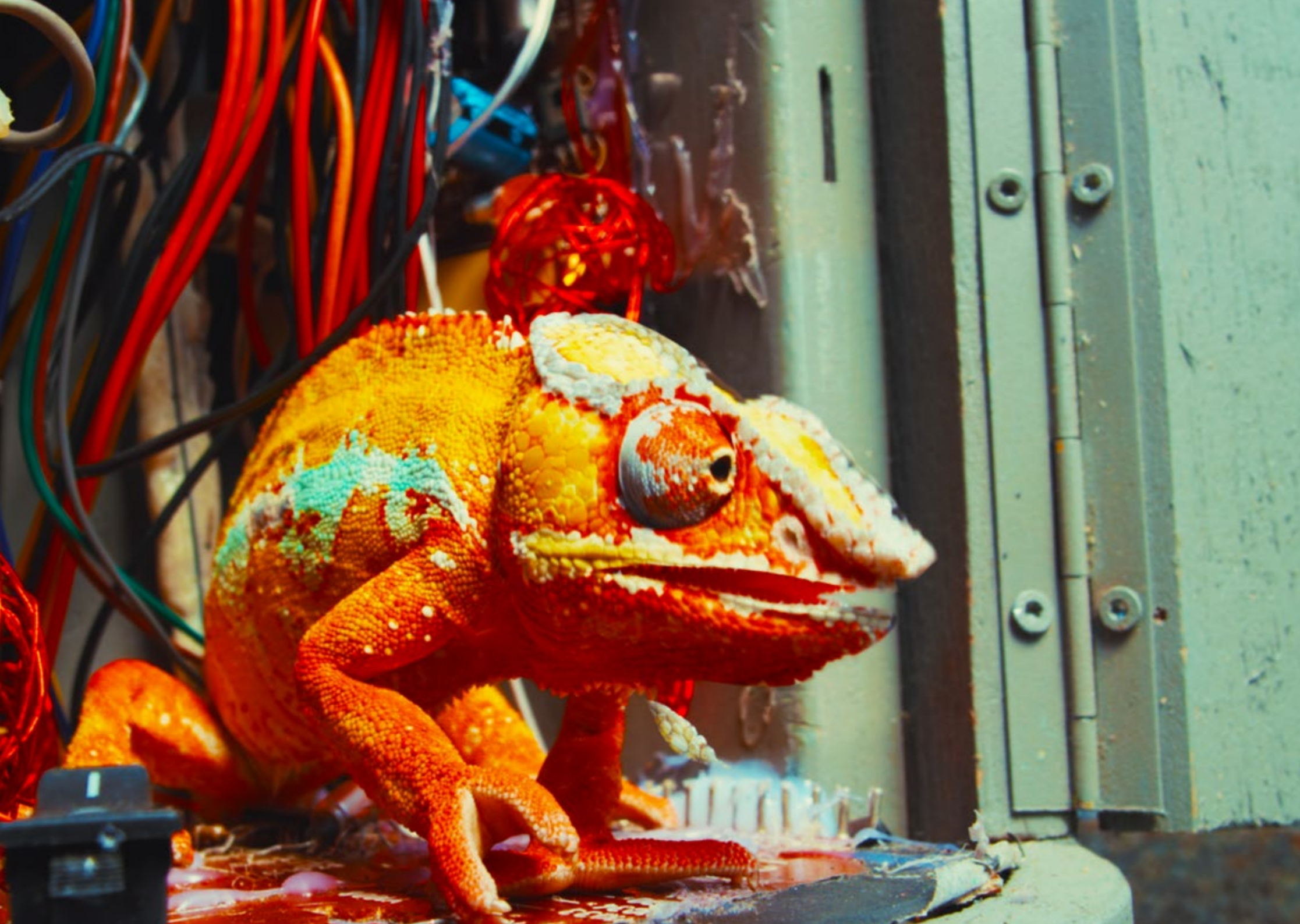


DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Akiko is a young monkey who escaped from the zoo to save his family and friends. An exciting adventure for the whole family! At first glance, the movie takes place in the world we know. But we soon realise, there is a fantastic parallel world, all around us, where so many different animals live hidden, in letterboxes, bottle banks and traffic lights. They use different objects from daily life and repurpose it in imaginative ways, which offers us a new perspective on the cities we live in.







INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER VEIT HELMER

How did you get the idea for AKIKO, THE FLYING MONKEY ?

At screenings of my first children film *FIDDLESTICKS*, the young audience jumped to the ceiling during the scenes in which animals took over and did extraordinary things. That's when I realized I had to make a film in which animals were the main characters.

Where does the name Akiko come from and what does it mean? How did you come up with it ?

Akiko is a special name. It could be a boy's name as well as a girl's name. It works in many languages, which was important to me because I wanted to make a children film for an international audience.

Have you grown particularly fond of any of the animals while shooting ?

Besides Monty, who plays "Akiko", the encounter with the chameleon was a very pleasant surprise for me. The whole film team had to slow down, because every movement took over a minute.



How was it to shoot with animals, were there any challenges or special moments that you remember ?

The day we shot with the eagle was definitely one of the highlights. Although, he did escaped once, luckily the trainer found him only two streets away.

Animal well-being is very important, how was this ensured on set ?

It was our priority. Even if this sometimes meant that the script had to be rewritten. The animal trainer would tell us when it was too cold or too hot, or when we had to interrupt filming for a break.

Are there any scenes in the movie that you particularly remember ? If so, which ones and why ?

Many of the scenes made our hearts race.

For example, the first day of shooting with the camels and zebras in our self-built zoo was one of those days, but the scene with the hot air balloon was also extremely impressing for everyone on the team.





SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2024 - **AKIKO, THE FLYING MONKEY** - Feature film

2023 - **GONDOLA** - Feature film
TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
JEONJU INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2017 - **THE BRA** - Feature film
TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2013 - **FIDDLESTICKS** - Feature film
ZLÍN FILM FESTIVAL

2006 - **ABSURDISTAN** - Feature film
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

1999 - **TUVALU** - Feature Film
SAN SEBASTIAN
MAR DEL PLATA
INTERNATIONAL ROTTERDAM FILM FESTIVAL
KARLOVY VARY

1995 - **SURPRISE!** - Short Film
CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL



SALES

Laurent Danielou

laurent.danielou@loco-films.com

+33 6 64 20 91 60

Arnaud Godart

arnaud.godart@loco-films.com

+33 6 15 90 18 19

FESTIVALS

Roxane Ruiz

international@loco-films.com

+33 6 82 04 84 47