

# MAGNIFICA

PRESSKIT A FILM BY ROSE GALLERAND  
& AZELIE MICHOUX

*"inspired by the life of  
Pacifica Zelaya"*

## CONTACTS

Rose GALLERAND

[rose.gallerand@gmail.com](mailto:rose.gallerand@gmail.com)

[rosegallerand.myportfolio.com](http://rosegallerand.myportfolio.com)

insta / truite\_wasabi

Az lie MICHOUX

[azelie.michoux.pro@gmail.com](mailto:azelie.michoux.pro@gmail.com)

[azelie-michoux-portfolio.tumblr.com](http://azelie-michoux-portfolio.tumblr.com)

insta / azy\_arty

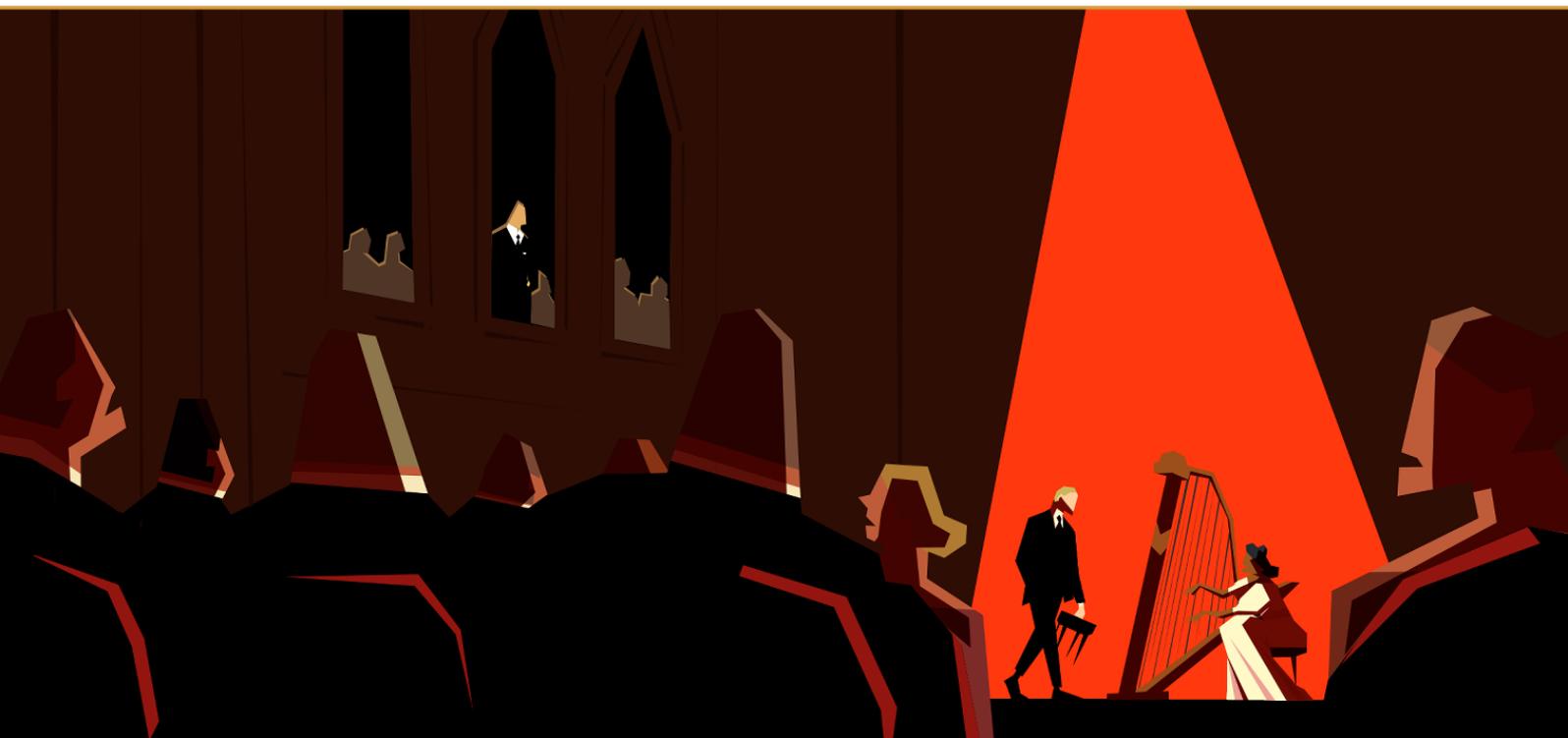




## PITCH

1907. *Magnifica*, a young Costa Rican harpist, is preparing for an important concert at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels where she studies. Her fiancé, Edouard Mailly, jealous of her talent and recognition, boils after not being chosen to play and decides to steal her show. *Magnifica* will have to prove this is where she belongs.

*Our movie "Magnifica" was inspired by the life of Pacifica Zelaya.*





# SYNOPSIS

In 1905, Magnifica, a very talented harpist from Costa Rica is invited to study at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, in Belgium.

She soon becomes one of the best students, if not the best. As months go by, she's getting more attention for her performances and eventually meets one "special" student: Edouard Mailly. He's a charming musician, son of one of the main teachers of the Conservatory. But despite his position, Edouard isn't a very good student.

Magnifica and him will fall for each other and get engaged. Yet, the more the young lady will get to be known among the Belgian society, and appreciated for her harpist talents, the more Edouard will become jealous and frustrated.

He, as a rich white man, couldn't stand being in Magnifica's shadow, her, a woman of color. And so, as she flourished, invited in high class gatherings, he started to find ways to control her life, trying to get into her light by any means necessary, on stage, to be the pride of his father... until this sad day of September 1907 when he brutally assassinated her.

Our movie "Magnifica" is about her last evening. It is inspired from the life of Pacifica Zelaya, talented harpist who went to this same Conservatory, but unfortunately was killed by her fiancé.

A century later, we rediscovered her story and intended to bring back to life a wonderful musician's voice, victim of a femicide in the early 1900's and nearly completely forgotten, by adapting a short story inspired by her life into a 2d animated movie. This way, we wish to pay a tribute to this historical figure, while showing how misogyny, sexism and how violence against women are still sadly normalized nowadays.



# MEET THE DIRECTORS



&



From nearly complete strangers to close friends, the directors Rose GALLERAND and Azélie MICHOUX lived quite the adventure to make their movie “Magnifica” happen.

Former students from Gobelins, they grouped together driven by the same objective: telling the story of this forgotten yet talented harpist from the early 1900’s, Pacifica Zelaya. With Rose specialized in visual development and storyboard, and Azélie as well in storyboard, but also in animation, the duo built this story and film to denounce issues still normalized nowadays like sexism, violence against woman and more.

In addition, and in parallel of this project, Rose is working on several projects she wishes to carry out someday. As for now, she’s working in storyboard and visual development! While Azélie is a 2d animator and illustrator, working on comic books and animatics for personal and professional projects between the animated ones and her Dungeons and Dragons and catacombs sessions.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHERE DOES THIS STORY COME FROM? WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS ONE?

"**Magnifica**" is a character heavily inspired from *Pacifica Zelaya*. A few months before the beginning of our last year, we heard about her story from one of her descendants. As women ourselves, the subjects of sexism and femicide affect us deeply ; therefore we were touched and frustrated by what happened to this woman, even more so after learning her fiancé and murderer was never condemned for his crime. The same man who, a few years later, would kill again...The kind of story that keeps repeating itself nowadays, everyday, everywhere in the world.

## WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU FACED?

Probably to be starting the project as a group of seven people and to end it as two directors. We had to adapt the project, the amount of work and ourselves to the remaining time, while doing our best to preserve the core of "**Magnifica**", which is this story inspired by *Pacifica Zelaya's* life.

Thankfully, we received the very welcomed help from several people, especially from *Titouan GUILLEMOT* along the way and learned a lot from this experience and our mistakes. In the end, this was quite a challenging movie, but also a very interesting and rewarding year, which will help us apprehend the future and the next challenges more peacefully and with a better understanding of the pipeline and a greater ability to adapt.

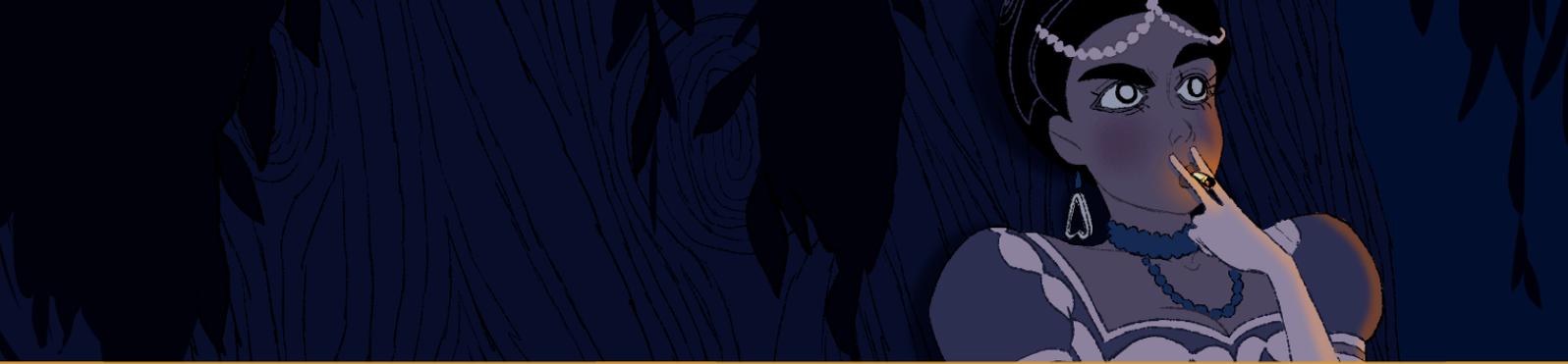
## WHAT WERE YOUR REFERENCES?

Mainly *Mucha*, *Miyazaki*, *Disney*, *Satoshi Kon* and *Gruau*. We tried to mix a semi-realistic traditional 2D animation style with the influences of the era (Art Nouveau, 1900s...)

## WHAT WERE THE BEST PARTS OF THE PROJECT?

Probably to be finishing a shot completely and for the first time for the movie ! It's one of these moments which gives you the most satisfaction and motivation, getting to see how the movie will really look like in the end.

There was also this amazing day during which we recorded *Josephine PLAGNOL*: she's the harpist who interpreted the beautiful piece of the performance. This day, it really created a bond between the composers, the sound engineers, the musicians and our main characters !



# TECHNICAL DETAILS

TITLE *MAGNIFICA*

GENRE historical drama

YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2022

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN France

RUNNING TIME 6'28"

LANGUAGE French and Spanish

SUBTITLES English

TECHNIQUE 2d animation

FORMAT Cinemascope (2,35:1)

SPEED 25 fps

SOUND MIX channels 5.1



# CREDITS

Directors and Animation

Rose GALLERAND & Azélie MICHOUX

With the contribution of

Titouan GUILLEMOT

And the help of

Elifsu MERIÇ, Johanna BOUAOUICHE,  
Audrey CHEVROLLE, Chloe DE CREPY,  
Théo GUYOT, Juliette LAURENT,  
Benjamin MELLIER, Quentin RIGAUX,  
Artur ALBUQUERQUE & Finn FALK

Production Management

Youna LE VAOU, Chloe MARCEL,  
& Juliette VACHER

Scenario

Rose GALLERAND, Azélie MICHOUX,  
Merel HAMERS, Preetam DHAR,  
Alex AGUILAR & Elena GIL SALAZAR

Film editor - Compositing

Rose GALLERAND, Azélie MICHOUX  
& Titouan GUILLEMOT

Sound engineer  
Sound Designer - Mix

Clement NALINE & Mathieu TIGER  
Laurent JIMENEZ

Voices

*Edouard* - Sebastien SOULEZ LARIVIERE  
*Magnifica* - Monica ABULARACH  
*Esperanza* - Angela MARTI  
*Professor Alphonse* - Frederic NAGORNY

Music by

Samuel MAROT SAFERIS & Julien VERMEULEN

Interpreted by

Josephine PLAGNOL & Samuel MAROT SAFERIS

Foley

Christophe BURDET