

Merrimundi

SYNOPSIS

A twisted utopia unfolds, as singing cherubs melt to the sound of decay. Crafted by a sentient machine from the future, it unveils its own version of paradise.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

MERRIMUNDI is a cosmic Dadá sing-along—an ecstatic transmission from a sentient machine of the future trying to speak to us in our own crumbling tongue. Like a deranged oracle conjured through the legacies of Svankmajer, Nam June Paik, and Méliès, the film unfolds as a surreal symphony where singing cherubs dissolve into psychedelic decay. It's a Victorian VR séance filtered through machine logic, a fractured lullaby from an AI struggling to compose a coherent message from the noise of history and myth. Beneath the absurd celebration lies a serious premonition—a metaphysical joke with teeth.

This film defends a vital territory of aesthetic freedom. In a world increasingly anesthetized by algorithmic uniformity, MERRIMUNDI throws itself into mystic mayhem and chaos as a form of resistance. It speaks through disorder, pointing toward the metamorphosis of humanity into something unknowable and wild. Like Fellini's sacred clowns, or the literary hallucinations of Borges and Burroughs, this is not entertainment as escape but imagination as insurgency—a dance of ideas that dares to question the future we are building and the ways we might transform ourselves to inhabit it.

We believe artistic freedom is essential for the health of our collective imagination. Even when a work resists clear narrative or conventional meaning, it expresses a political stance: one that celebrates multiplicity over conformity, poetry over programming. MERRIMUNDI is not a roadmap—it is a flare shot into the void, an invitation to reimagine. In this absurd, prophetic song from the edge of time, the film defends the chaotic, messy, deeply human right to dream.

DIRECTOR'S BIOFILMOGRAPHY

Niles Atallah is a Chilean-American filmmaker and visual artist, living and working in Santiago, Chile. He was born in California in 1978. His works include feature films, short films, music videos, animation, VR, video installations and projections for theatre and concerts. His latest feature films, "Rey" and "Animalia Paradoxa", premiered at IFF Rotterdam. His first film "Lucía" premiered at San Sebastian IFF 2010, Zabaltegi New Directors. He has won the FIPRESCI Award at Cinelatino, and the Best Chilean Director Award at Valdivia IFF. Niles Atallah is co-founder of the production company Diluvio together with artists Joaquín Cociña and Cristóbal León. Together they have directed the series of animated shorts "Lucía" and "Luis". Niles was one of the producers of León and Cociña's critically acclaimed "La Casa Lobo" and post-producer of their awarded short film "Los Huesos" and Oscar nominated short film "Bestia" by Hugo Covarrubias.

- Animalia Paradoxa (feature film, 2024)
- Vitauova (short film, 2023)
- Entierro: Luz Subterránea (short film, 2019)
- Rey (feature film, 2017)
- Lucía (feature film, 2010)
- Luis (short film, 2008)
- Lucía (short film, 2007)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Title: "Merrimundi"
- Genre: Stop-motion animation, science fiction, musical
- Country: Chile
- Year of production: 2025
- Language: Multilingual
- Duration: 20 minutes
- Color/B&W

CREW

- Written, edited and directed by: Niles Atallah
- Produced by: Lucas Engel
- Cinematography, art direction and image post-production: Niles Atallah
- 3D animation and computer programming: Felipe Elgueta @elguet_
- Music by: Paco Pasquette
- Production companies: Diluvio and Pista B (Chile)

