



TRACKING SATYRS

—
MML COLLECTIVE
+ STÉPHANE MONTAVON
2019-2022



TRACKING SATYRS

—

SYNOPSIS 03

DIRECTOR'S INTENTION 04

PROTAGONISTS 06

PRODUCTION /DIRECTING 09

RE-READ IKHNEUTAI, A SATYR DRAMA 13

BIOGRAPHIES 14

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER 16

—

*I cry for a dead world.
But I who weeps am not dead.*

Pier Paolo Pasolini

SYNOPSIS

Apollo lost his herd of cows. Furious, he goes across the worlds to beg the forest spirits to help him. Sylenus and a gang of satyrs agree to find his cows trusting the promise to receive money and freedom, but the traces are lost and the satyrs drift long, before they fall on the disrespectful monster who has stolen the cows from their master. This monster is none other than a toddler named Hermes, frustrated at not being recognized as a god, he insists on inventiveness and cruelty to prove his divine belonging, alongside his guardian nymph Cyllene, tormented between the mischief and genius of her protégé.

Will the Satyrs discovery be worth the price of their freedom?

"Tracking satyrs" is an update of a satyr play created by Sophocles and originally entitled "Ikhneutai". This strange quest is reenacted nowadays in Poland in the form of a docu-fiction. A drift over remixing the ancient and the current times, enjoying to blur the representations, inviting to observe a world of the margin, a counter-model to reflect our time through a narrative both funny and disturbing.

INTENTION

The ambition of our mise-en-scène is to create a hybrid visual world, intertwining the ancient narrative with our contemporary era.

The result will be a silent black and white film, which focuses on the unusual relationships and behaviors between living beings and spirits that the mythological narrative can imagine. The world of satyrs is a humanity at the margin, a world both comical and disturbing, a shifted counter-model where we are amused to undo the norms of society.

We peopled it by looking for incarnations to the ancient characters in today's reality. This new personification will be concretized with characters extracted from their daily life — the way they are — by analogy with their role in the play. Thus, the porosity between the real person and the figure that she interprets allows us to enrich the plot of Sophocles and broadens our proposal, to rethink situations inspired by the ancient world in relation to contemporary experiences.

It will give us the opportunity to rethink our actuality through a timeless, transgressive and enjoyable scenario, to question gender identities and social behaviours of nowadays via a myth coming from the origin of European civilisation.



Apollo meets Silenus



Hermes & the lost cow



Sleeping Satyrs

PROTAGONISTS

Re-staging Antiquity invites us to revisit the mythological representation inspired by the present times.

From this perspective, the choice and the work with the actors is crucial, to create interference and points of passage between their life experiences and the narrative of the play.

After a research held in Poland we were able to constitute a troop of iconoclastic characters, determined to follow us, to be part of this world.

List of main characters:

Apollo (outraged God)
Silenus (the old satyr, sniffing an opportunity)
Satyr I (young lecherous satyr)
Satyr II (young idle satyr – then an other character)
Hermes (child and half-god frustrated and ambitious)
Nymph I - Cyllene (tormented guardian of Hermes)
Nymph II (wood wanderer)

APOLLO / KRZYSZTOF ZALEWSKI

A homeless poet and songwriter. Descendant of a cattle farmer and an alcoholic. Due to his difficult past and complicated family relations, he shuns people. For 5 years, a nomad wandering all over Poland, living in nature – by the sea, lakes, mountains and forests – in search of seclusion and inspiration for his work.

SILENUS / DARIUSZ JEŻ

Former prisoner, gangster, convicted for extortion and tax evasion. Today he is an actor.

SATYR I / MICHAŁ PERŁA

A poet, and a performer. He is an activist involved in work for the LGBT movement in Poland. He was one of the co-organizers of the first Pride Parade in Białystok in 2019, which had an extremely dramatic course, which showed to what extent Polish society is struggling

SATYR II / ADAM ORGANISTA, then SYLWIA BAUDELAIRE

Adam is a professional actor who is not afraid to question his own limits, physical and mental. He transforms himself into Sylwia: a 24-year-old rapper, actress and transgender escort.

HERMES / ARTUR SIWIŃSKI

A child suffering from short stature, or growth hormone disorder. He likes to observe nature and construct cranes and robots out of Lego bricks. Son of a painter and a film director.

NYMPH I – CYLLENE / EMMANUELLE WILSON LÉOPOLDINE YENO

A refugee from Gabon. A long journey brought her to Poland in 2018. She is a single mother of almost one year-old boy living in a small, one bedroom apartment in Warsaw, from which – due to her personal situation – she rarely leaves. Recently, she started working in a kindergarten.

NYMPH II / JULIA POZIOMECKA

An author of paintings, poems, collages, zines and video performances on Instagram. The topic to which she constantly returns in her work is sexual violence, especially when it involves young women in adolescence. The artist herself is dealing with depression and anxiety resulting from sexual abuse. She considers herself as a person affected by borderline disorders and pop star syndrome.



Nymph II



Silenus



Nymph I – Cyllene

PRODUCTION / DIRECTING

The Greeks and our scholars analyzed Ikhneutai & the myth of Hermes as the invention of music and the lyre. We tend to discover rather the invention of the reign of sound and its paradoxes.

In result we chose to make a "silent" film in black and white that fully dialogues with an original soundtrack (composed by Stéphane Montavon, poet and Swiss sound artist) and the voiceover. This assembly has the function of imposing a singular temporality on the film thanks to the discrepancy cultivated between sound and image.

Also, the silent action allows us to confront other forms of bodily expressions than the naturalistic one, from the pantomime through the slapstick, in reference to the comic spirit of the satyr drama and the silent films of the interwar period.

The film is constructed like a puzzle in 8 episodes.

8 EPISODES

- 01 APOLLO LOST HIS COWS
- 02 CYLLENE & HERMES
- 03 A NYMPH & SATYRS
- 04 SATYRS & SILENUS
- 05 THE CARAPACE
- 06 NYMPHS' WALK
- 07 TRACKING THE NOISE
- 08 THE SOURCE OF THE NOISE

TECHS & TEAM

Title:

Tracking Satyrs (ENG) / L'Appeau (FR) / Wabik (PL)

Duration:

93 mins

Picture:

Digital 2k, NB, format 1:66:1

Sound:

5.1

Directing, editing and screenplay:

Collectif MML (Gilles Lepore, Maciej & Michał Mądracki)

Surround soundtrack:

Stéphane Montavon (CH)

Cinematography:

Olaf Malinowski (PL)

Producers:

MML studio / Michał Mądracki (PL)

Madants / Beata Rzeźniczek (PL)

Prince Film SA / Pierre-Alain Meier (CH)

Stéphane Montavon (CH)

This work is produced with the support of:

Eurimages

Cinéforum and Loterie Romande

The Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

SRG SSR Success Passage Antenne

FOC Success Cinema

Project presented at:

FIDLab Marseille, 2020

— Vidéo de Poche Award —

Agora Market at Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 2020

— Eurimages Lab Award —

Polish Days at New Horizons International Film Festival, 2020

eurimages



CINÉFORUM



swiss arts council
prohelvetia

FIDLab

NH
nowe
horyzonty



SALONIKI INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
THE AGORA
WORKS IN PROGRESS

TRACKING SATYRS

RE-READ IKHNEUTAI, A SATYR DRAMA

Sophocles is known to us as one of the three tragedians, alongside with Aeschylus and Euripides. An Author of the fifth century BC and one hundred and twenty-two plays, mostly lost, with only seven that survived to our times. Plus one. The seven tragedies, on the one hand, that tradition has laid down at the foundation of the classical canon, and a satyr play on the other hand, of which only fragments remain, discovered in Egypt in 1912, the *Ikhneutai*, in French: *Limiers*, in English: The Trackers.

Debris belonging moreover to a non-noble genre were doubly neglected. Satyr drama has a close link with tragedy, which history has dislocated: in fact, it was customary in Athens to present three tragedies first, then a drama whose figures were satyrs as a series of four plays being played by the same actors. It was, concluding the theatrical performance with a tragedy that amuses itself and also to keep in the city a place for Dionysus.

The story of Hermes' genius has first been told in the Homeric Hymns, before Sophocles seizes upon what was already a travesty of epics, and does not reduce it again, on the occasion of his satyr play, in a funny quest that ends in a moment of listening as well as panic and enjoyment - this having the function of a relief after the set of tragedies.

According to the Hymns to Hermes, Apollo himself finds the thief of his flock: the brat monster who wiped out his pearls is also the inventor of an instrument with its unheard sound. Hermes appears there like a divine, hyper-gifted thief of fire & aspiring to become the king of the bandits: he will delight with his lyre the ears of all the Pantheon. In exchange for this wonder, he obtains from the god of the gods, permission to continue to make all the audacity he would like.

Sophocles emphasizes drifting listening, listening on the alert, terrified, as well as questioning the sound cause, rather than the charm of the lyre. He adds a layer of comedy with the figures of satyrs, cowardly hunters whose lookout makes them drift long.

This satyr play being fundamental in the history of music and sound comes to sweep the human pain and speeches in favour of an open conclusion that continues until today & distills the secret that comforts satyrs & other characters out of the norms of our society to live their differences.

BIOGRAPHIES

COLLECTIVE MML

Since 2008, Maciej Mądracki, Michał Mądracki and Gilles Lepore create experimental films and video installations under the moniker of MML collective. In their films, they focus on ideology, fantasy or myths which have shaped and influenced the destiny of a specific community. Their practice in situ allows them to elaborate a narrative frequently intertwining the reality and the imaginary.

Their works have been shown in contemporary art spaces and institutions, such as Anthology Film Archives in New York, as well as in major film festivals like MoMA Docfortnight in New York, IDFA in Amsterdam (NL) or FID in Marseille (FR).

Maciej Mądracki (1984) studied film & media at Jagiellonian University and directing at the University of Silesia in Katowice (PL).

Michał Mądracki (1979) is a Polish novelist, filmmaker and a producer

Gilles Lepore (1972) is a swiss-italian filmmaker, an independent artist navigating between Switzerland and Poland.

Filmography:

- Praca Maszyn [The Work of Machines], 2010
- Sans bruit, les figurants du désert [Noiseless, desert extras], 2017
- Trahir la place [The betrayed square], 2018

BIOGRAPHIES

STÉPHANE MONTAVON

Stéphane Montavon [1977] is a poet and sound artist. After studying modern literature, Latin, linguistics and medieval French in Neuchâtel, Berlin and Boulder, he was a member of the research centre for image science Eikones (SNSF-NCCR Iconic criticism, University of Basel) and published articles on Debord, voice and audio-vision. He mainly creates docu-fictional polyphonic pieces and installations, composed with field recordings mixed with interviews and sound archives, focusing on the voice and the disarticulation of the visible and audible thing.

<https://www.littaurale.ch/>

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

MML STUDIO

Simultaneously with MML collective, a film production association based in Poland was created to support their projects and those of other filmmakers open to experimentation.

It consists of films, videos and installations that reflect, through the mixture of sensibilities, an often unusual perception and listening of the world, trying to share what seems most ambitious and sometimes confusing to an audience.

It aims to accompany films with singular sensitivity from their imagination to the reality of cinema.

Filmographie :

– Praca Maszyn [The Work of Machines], 38', 2010

Documentary > Producer

(World premiere FID 2010)

– Sans bruit, les figurants du désert [Noiseless, desert extras], 64', 2017

Documentary > Associate producer

(World premiere FID 2017)

– Trahir la place [The betrayed square], 43', 2018

Documentary essay

(World premiere Ji.hlava 2018)

– Nadchodzą zimni ogrodnicy [Cold pudding settles love], 19', 2018

Animated film > Producer

(European premiere Oberhausen 2019)

Contact :

Michał Mądracki

ul. Tyniecka 191 E

30-376 Cracovie

Pologne

—

mml.produkcja@gmail.com

michal.madracki@gmail.com

0048 519801206