

## Cinema : Students' short film eligible for the Oscars !

*« I am a Pebble », a short film created and directed by ESMA (École Supérieure des Métiers Artistiques) students, is eligible for the Oscars. Already shown and praised in several international film festivals, the film truly highlights the accomplishments of the next generation of french filmmakers. Awaiting the final selection on December 21st, the talented young students' work is already acknowledged by the industry's greatest professionals.*

---

### The Oscars : a dream within reach

---

The **Academy Awards** or **Oscars**, prizes of international renown, are presented each year to reward the best Animated Short Film. This year, the ESMA students' short film, ***I am a Pebble***, is eligible to qualify in the Animated Short Film category. The American reference that the Oscars represent would be a crowning achievement for the very talented young filmmakers, following in the footsteps of the greats.

#### The Film

After being rewarded with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize by the 3D Animation and Special Effects Jury of the ESMA in 2020, ***I am a Pebble*** was nominated for other awards in several reputed festivals, and was commended by several honors such as the « Best Students Projects » award at the Siggraph festival, the « Best Animation Short » prize at the HollyShorts Film Festival (USA), to which the film owes its admissibility for the Oscars, the first prize for the « Student Competition » at the Athens Animfest festival 2021, and second place in the « International School Short Film Competition » category at the Chilemonos festival.

*« We are delighted to see that our story travels and touches so many people. We put a lot of love and a lot of work into it; reaching the Oscars is both a surprise and a great honor »* states Yasmine, the film's co-director.

The short film charms through its technical rendering process. The rendering was made by one of the project's students, with one goal in mind: to reproduce a "classic" paint feel, recreated in 3D CGI. To that end, one of the film's directors, Léo Coulombier, had to create an atypical rendering process, a bold statement that was noted by the industry professionals.

Maxime, one of the film's co-directors, explains that *“The choice of the final rendering techniques were made with the team and by the team: you need to be thorough and communicate a lot to move forward confidently.”*

**Synopsis** : Bubble, an orphaned otter, is living with rocks, which she considers as her family. Directed by Mélanie Berteraut-Platon, Yasmine Bresson, Léo Coulombier, Nicolas Grondin, Maxime Le Chapelain, Louise Massé.

## The « French touch » still acclaimed

---

It is no secret that the « **French Touch** » is renowned across the pond for the quality of the works produced by its artists. The professionals of the field know it well, such as Amélie Paraiso, Recruitment Manager for Illumination Mac Guff, who says that the film is an example of *“why the whole world envies us (the French animators)! A magnificent artistic direction, a perfectly controlled rhythm, a beautiful scenario, and quality rendering.”*

While showcasing the students' hard work, the film also highlights the french savoir-faire. The former students of the school are working all over the world, and act as true ambassadors of the acclaimed « French Touch ».

*« I am very proud of our students; the success of these short films is the fruit of their hard work, as well as the teaching team's support. These selections mean a lot for these young talented individuals, as they often come as a true launching pad for their future careers, allowing them to plan ahead. By seeing their creations recognised by their peers, our artists walk in the footsteps of the great masters of the animated film »* declares **Karim Khenissi**, General Director of the **ESMA**.

The selection for the Oscars will be announced on December 21st.

## ESMA: a school with international reach

---

The ESMA's CG Animation and Special Effects course is now of worldwide renown, for its quality and the level of professionalism acquired by its students. As a matter of fact, the school now displays a **100 %** rate of professional integration within 9 months of graduation, and is the Alma mater of more than **4000** graduate students working all over the world.

Implanted in Montpellier, Toulouse, Lyon, Nantes and Montréal, ESMA provides courses that are on par with the professional requirements of the industry, to facilitate the integration and success of its students.

Renowned for the quality and the variety of its art programs, the school dispenses courses in Spatial Design, Graphical Design, CG Animation and Special Effects. The ESMA grants official “CG Animation and Special Effects” state-recognized diplomas, at the [RNCP 7](#) level, equivalent to the french Bac +5.

---

**Need more info for an article, a report or a portrait ? We remain at your disposal.**

**Please contact :**

### ESMA Press contact

Clarisse Mazellier

Communications and press relations manager

[clarisse@ecolescreatives.com](mailto:clarisse@ecolescreatives.com)

+33 6 66 70 99 78 / +33 4 67 63 01 80

### Contact Communication ESMA

Coline Moire

Communication agent

[coline@ecolescreatives.com](mailto:coline@ecolescreatives.com)

**More info on [esma-3D.fr/en/](http://esma-3D.fr/en/)**