

Paris, May 17, 2021

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## A Tribute to Olivier Jean-Marie: Creator, Director, Mentor and Pillar of Xilam's Studio



Olivier Jean-Marie passed away last Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 2:00 pm, at the age of 60. He died peacefully surrounded by his family, following a long illness.

The XILAM studio—and the entire world of French animation—owe a tremendous debt to this great director. Not only did he helm more than 300 episodes of Xilam's ***Oggy and the Cockroaches*** series, but also ***The New Adventures of Lucky Luke***, which attracted as many as four million viewers every Sunday evening on France 3. We further owe to him two feature films: ***Go West, a Lucky Luke Adventure*** and ***Oggy and the Cockroaches: The Movie***. He directed the second season of ***Space Goofs***, having brilliantly overseen animation of the first. He also created and directed the series ***Zig & Sharko***, and contributed to conception of ***The Daltons***, ***Rolling with the Ronks!*** and ***Mr Magoo*** series. Last but not least, he also penned several hundred episodes of the above-mentioned series.

This incredible list of accomplishments offers a glimpse into his role as the main founder of the slapstick spirit that defines XILAM's studio, to which he remained faithful until his retirement in 2018. As early as 1996, he laid the foundations of this creative approach, which the studio has utilised and continuously enriched for 25 years; a comedic grammar that has been passed on to several generations of directors and animators. When Disney with ***Chip &***



**Dale**, followed by DreamWorks with **Mr Magoo**, came to ask Xilam to revive their classic characters, it was to Olivier's know-how and creative energy that the studio owed this honour. Director, writer, animator, designer and editor, Olivier was committed to mastering every task in order to perfect his art and then pass on his learnings to the next generation.

Marc du Pontavice, CEO and Executive Producer of Xilam, said: "Olivier was an animation master, a mentor and a friend. His talent and vision have inspired so many artists, who will carry on his legacy. He will also live on through the characters he created, beloved by generations of kids who grew up with them."

It is with great sorrow today that the whole of XILAM studio resigns itself, after 25 years of companionship, to the fact that we will no longer have the opportunity to laugh at Olivier's gags or bask in the warm light of his friendship.

We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Agnes and his daughters lanka and Julie.

For those who would like to leave a testimonial, you may submit your thoughts at the following link: <http://bit.ly/LivreDorOlivierJeanMarie>

## About Xilam

A major player in animation, Xilam is an integrated studio founded in 1999 that creates, produces and distributes original programmes in more than 190 countries for both children and adult audiences. Xilam content is broadcast on television, and is also available on SVoD platforms including Netflix, Disney+, Amazon and NBC Universal, and ADVoD streaming platforms including YouTube and Facebook.

With its creativity and capacity for innovation recognised worldwide, and editorial and commercial expertise at the cutting edge of its industry, Xilam is positioned as a key player in a fast-growing market. Each year, Xilam builds real successes and capitalises on its powerful historical brands including *Oggy and the Cockroaches* and *Zig & Sharko*, as well as new properties such as *Oggy Oggy* for a preschool audience, *Moka*, *Mr. Magoo*, and Academy Award® nominated adult feature film *I Lost My Body*. Xilam's expanding and strong catalogue now consists of over 2,200 episodes and three feature films.

In 2019, Xilam acquired Cube Creative, a studio providing the company with unique expertise in 3D and computer generated images. Xilam employs more than 500 individuals, including 400 artists, across its studios in Paris, Lyon, Angoulême and Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam.

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