

# PRESENTATION



**Extra & Ordinary People !  
International Films Festival**

**1<sup>st</sup> Edition**

**Namur, Belgium  
2 – 3 – 4 décembre 2011**

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<http://eopfestival.wordpress.com/>

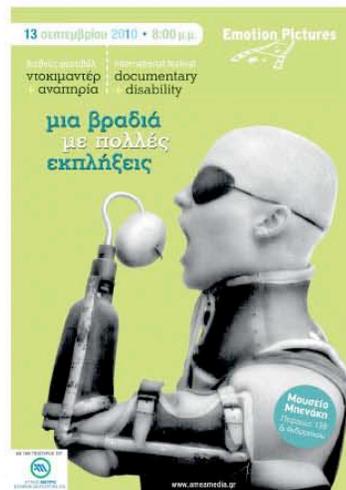


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**Emotion Pictures**



## An Emerging Concept in Various Countries

Around the world the theme of handicap has recently appeared in various films festivals. They seem to attract people concerned by the theme as well as general public. Here are some examples of recent Festivals:

- « **En Marche** » (2d edition, Cannes - France),
- « **Handifilm** » (3rd edition, Rabbat – Morocco),
- « **Emotion Pictures** » (4th edition, Athens - Greece),
- « **Mental Power** » (5th edition, Prague, Tcheque Republic)
- « **Sprout** » (8th edition, New-York – USA)
- « **Integration, You and Me** » (8th edition, Koszalin – Poland),
- « **Handica** » (8th edition, Lyon, France).

In Belgium, films on theme such as handicap and deficiency are quite rare and to say the least even almost inexistent. In spite of this lack of exposure, these films are invaluable mobilization tools particularly those responding to high standard of quality. They also act as ground-breaking tools for de-mystifying differences, deficiencies and handicaps.

Around the world there seems to be an impressive amount of high quality films on these topics also considered by the sampling of themes they relate to.

The absence of such images in the mainstream media channel makes it easier for the general public to stigmatize deficiencies. To a certain extend because of such lack of exposure to high quality films on the theme of handicap, stereotypes, and other vague 'clichés' are easily reproduced, at least socially.

For the medical or para-medical professional, a person with a deficiency is simply a patient taken in the reality of a consultation and is often labeled by the name of his/her deficiency or handicap.

This raises some questions:

- How would it be possible to transform the perception on deficiencies and handicap by the professionals and the general public as a whole?
- What are the realities, the capacities, the aspirations, the life and the perception of the concerned persons, on their own deficiency and handicap?
- What is the reality of the persons living with impairment once they have returned in their family and closed the doors of the medical consultation, school or social centers?

**Thanks to a great media support, such a Festival can bring elements of responses by aiming to unveil the realities of an impaired person, his or her family, and approach deficiency from the perspectives of capacities rather than limitations.**



Emotion Picture 2008, Athènes

Projections au Benaki Museum d'Athènes



Handifilm, Rabbat 2010

Luc Boland  
Réalisateur

Sanâa Karouani  
Présidente

Dr Hassane Benkhlaifa  
Handifilm

les animateurs du festival  
Télévision marocaine

## History of the Project

Luc Boland is a fiction and documentary director. He also is the father of Lou, a young boy who is affected by a very rare syndrome. In 2006 he produced a film (« Lettre à Lou »). As a professional and a concerned person, Luc attended several films festival around the world related to the topic of deficiencies and handicaps.

Then one day of June 2009, on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the International Film Festival « EMOTION PICTURES » entirely dedicated to the topic of handicap, he found himself screening an impressive selection of about forty films, short-films or docu-fictions exclusively on the topic of handicap from all parts of the world. These films were of high quality either artistically or through the rigorous and skilled approach of the topics of handicap. In spite of the use of the very common terminology of “disability” each film was instead talking about abilities, human values and struggles for respect of difference and growth of the person living with impairment. This festival was an excellent example of quality in terms of the selection of films.

On a similar note back home, the screening and the television broadcast of his own film, gave Luc Boland another confirmation of the importance and the relevance of the theme with audiovisual media, as he received approximately 4,500 emails from spectators from all walks of life.

This is how the idea of organizing a similar Festival in Belgium was born.

Thanks to the instant agreement and enthusiasm of Mrs. Maria Papalium, the Secretary General of the Film Festival held in Greece, a partnership was established aiming at sharing the film catalogue as well as communication and competencies.

Since then other collaborations have been established with Festivals held in Europe and elsewhere on the topic of handicap.



Eop! festival (congrès EACD, Bruxelles, Erasmes mai 2010)



Eop! festival (congrès EACD, Bruxelles, Erasmes mai 2010)

Mrs. Evelyne Huytebroeck – Mrs Maria Papaliu - Luc Boland  
Gov. Minister Brussels–Capital      Emotion Pictures      Eop !



Eop! festival (congrès EACD, Bruxelles, Erasmes mai 2010)

## A « Pilot » Edition (May 2010)

In 2009, Professor Dan (University of Brussels) contacted Luc Boland and asked him to organize Short-Films screening specifically focused on the capacities and realities of children living with handicap in the context of the 22d European Congress on Pediatric Medicine carded for May 2010.

As a result of this, “Fondation Lou” organized on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 a Special Evening of Short-Films during which ten short-films from around the world were screened.

The two hours side-event of the Congress was a real success by the number of attendees (more than 250), by the comments expressed by the spectators, or by the organizers.



## Festival International du film francophone de Namur



### Partenariats acquis ou contacts en cours



## Partnership and Competencies

A partnership with the **International French Films Festival of Namur (FIFF)** was established in view of receiving a strong artistic and technical support in the organization of such events. As a result of the consultations, the Executive Committee of the FIFF decided to delegate two persons to the Executive Committee of the “EOP!” Festival. A budget and a financial planning matrix were also produced in collaboration with FIFF.

A series of formal contacts with potential partners was also developed with **official government entities at the community, regional and provincial levels with Ministers and competent administrations in the field of audiovisual, handicap and equality of rights**. They all expressed enthusiasm and some even suggested subsidies for a 2011 edition. As an example the AWIPH (Agence Wallonne pour L’Integration des Personnes Handicapees – a Regional Governmental entity supporting the integration of people with disabilities) already carded a subsidy of this Festival in its 2011 budget.

Likewise, **Cap48** in the context of its support to projects allocated 50,000 € for the 2011 and 2012 Festival. **Cap48** also allocated substantive support to the establishment and structure of the association responsible for the organization of this event.

Last but not least, contacts are currently being held with **RTBF** (Belgium Radio and Television Broadcast) for a substantial media support, as well as the possibility of pre-sale and distribution of selected film/s or category winner/s of the Festival.



The **Executive Committee** of ‘EOP!’ Association is composed of the people with complementary competencies. Namely:

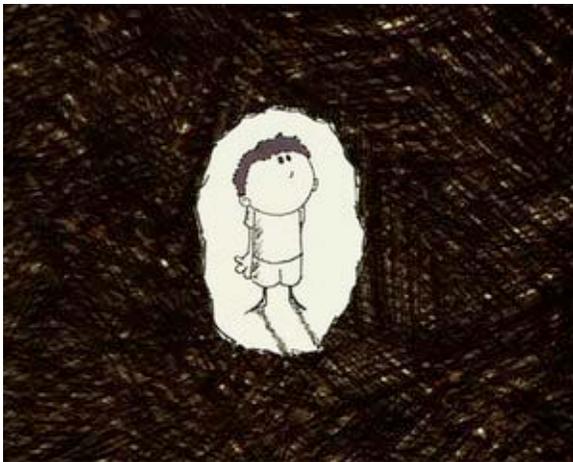
**Nicole Gillet** (FIFF General Delegate, **President of « EOP ! » Association**);  
**Damien Helbig** (Cap48 webmaster – concerned person, **Vice-president of « EOP ! »**);  
**Barbara Firquet** (FIFF Managing Director – **Treasurer of « EOP ! »**);  
**Luc Boland** (Fondation Lou, **Secretary and Managing Director « EOP ! »**);  
**Claire Colart** (former manager of documentary purchases at RTBF);  
**Karin Van der Straeten** (Assistant to the Director General of Children’s rights);  
**Yves Gérard** (Director General of RMB, Régie Média Belge),  
**Serge Kestemont** (Producer - Luna Blue Film),  
**Jacques Remacle** (Consultant, journalist, manager of cultural projects)  
**Frank Villano** (Producer- Director) :



« Blind Loves » de Juraj Lehotsky (Slovakia)



« DV8 : the cost of Living » de Lloyd Newson (UK)



« Mon petit frère de la Lune » de Frédéric Philibert (France)



« The Charm of Harm » de Gerald Teufel (Austria)



« Erotica Italiana : the disabled Person's Kamasutra » de Alberto D'Onofrio (Italy)

(Exemple de films soumis à la sélection du festival « EOP ! » 2011)

## Objectives

### *Extracts from the Statute of the Association*

*The primary objective of the association is the organization of a Film Festival on the Theme of Handicap, Deficiency and Difference.*

*The activities of « EOP! » aim at promoting the education, awareness and collective reflection on the representation of persons living with deficiencies and/or in situations of handicap through a selection of fiction or documentary audiovisual materials from Belgium and elsewhere specifically expressing the capacities of concerned persons.*

*In so doing the association aims at supporting the broadcast, as well as encourages and promotes the production of films on these topics and the inter-cultural and universal sharing of experiences.*

*The Association is authorized to conduct any activity directly or indirectly related to its social purpose with a particular focus on activities directly relevant to the valorization of the capacities of persons living with deficiencies and/or in situation of handicap: these activities can be in sports or cultural such as screening of films concerts, exhibitions, conferences, round-tables.*

### **A Public Event**

The objective of the Festival is to succeed in attracting the general public rather than concentrating on concerned persons (persons living with impairment, professionals from the media or audio-visual sector or supporters).

With this idea in mind, the media approach of the festival will be focused on communication.

The title of the Festival already carries the concept in its label. Phonetically translated from French it also inspires action with a simple statement as "Com' on!"

### **An Incentive for Production from Belgium**

In countries where such type of films festivals were held (i.e. Morocco, Greece) it was noted from the onset an increase in the number of productions and broadcast of films on the topics of handicap in the respective countries. Even if this is not the primary objective of the « EOP! » Festival, it is however our intention to open the doors for more communication on the topic.

# 1st Edition of « EOP ! » Festival

Namur, 2d, 3rd, 4th December 2011

December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the International Day for People Living with Disabilities. Piggy backing on that day, as well as bearing in mind other festivals carded in Belgium and elsewhere, and considering the great opportunity such a Festival represents for the media exposure on the topic of handicap, it was decided to hold the Festival around this symbolic date.

The city of Namur, and the location of the Festival have also been chosen and reserved thanks to the partnerships and competencies (the know-how in Namur), the accessibility of the location and their central position in the French-speaking part of Belgium

## Basic Principles of the Edition

The principles of the Festival are directly related to its primary objectives:

**A selection of high quality films (topic, analysis)**

**Accessibility of the films for all audiences aiming at demystifying deficiency and handicap**

## Programme

This first edition will present 9 long and medium films and 12 short-films over a period of 3 days and in 9 sessions.

The films will be collected by the organizers (call for submission on specialized Internet sites) or will be extracted from the catalogue of other foreign festivals.

**These films will be fiction, or docu-fictions.**

The programme will be articulated according to the selection of films, topics in **thematic sessions**: type of deficiency (i.e. blindness, mental handicap) or subject (i.e. sexuality of the person living with impairment, adventure/challenge, integration)

The «EOP!» Festival will also coordinate a «family» session (Sunday morning), special sessions for schools prior to the Festival and during the whole school year, as well as sessions in other cities of Belgium as many other festivals usually do in Belgium.

## A « Full » Accessibility Festival

« Eop ! » Festival will guarantee accessibility that all locations and screening events for all persons living with a handicap:

- **Location accessibility for persons with limited mobility;**
- **Partnership with TEC to facilitate transportation of persons with limited mobility to access the Festival;**
- Sub-titling and visio/audio impaired interpretation of the side events (sign language);
- **Audio-description** (for blind and visual impaired persons);
- **Pictogrammes** (information for persons with mental deficiency)

## A Lively Festival !

**Several initiatives** are planned to make the Festival a lively character:

- Meeting with the Public and authors and films actors;
- Presentation of Prize of the Public;
- A forum for Associations;
- A forum-bar;
- An exhibition of Arts and handicrafts produced par persons living in situation of handicap;
- A school competition.

Community organizations will be invited to participate and contribute to the event with volunteers for Welcoming committee, transportation, etc.)

## Communication

The Festival will gain from its partnership with a specialized communication agency in order to maximize the positive spirit and the communication strategy.

The partnership with the Radio-Television Broadcast of Belgium (RTBF) and the press will contribute to give the Festival its exposure.

The contribution from the community organisations will also guarantee a good media exposure.

Tickets will be sold at the symbolic fee of 2€/screening (the budget of the festival is connected with the ticketing fees) .

Seats will be offered via the large media as an incentive for curiosity.

## Submission of Entries:

Entries must be submitted to the Selection Committee by 1st July 2011.  
Registration Form available on the temporary website:

## Temporary Website:

<http://eopfestival.wordpress.com/>

## Conclusion

The XXth century left to humanity an impressive legacy of communication tools with no such comparison in the past. Amongst these tools, the dynamic image represents one of the most substantive tools to the point where it can influence lifestyles. It is therefore important for these tools to consider the topic of deficiency and handicap in order to respond to the statement that “we fear that we do not know”.

The ambition of the Festival is to find a listening ear amongst all the potential partners, so that we all together can help building an open-mind and participative society towards differences.

## Concrete Steps

- Dates: **2 – 3 – 4 Decembre 2011**
- **International Day of the Persons Living With Disabilities** (Giving the topic large exposure to the media;
- Festival over a period of **3 days (Friday evening>Sunday evening)**;
- School Sessions (Thursday and Friday prior to the opening of the Festival)
- Location: Cultural Hall of the Province of Namur.
- **9 sessions** (thematic: type of deficiency or topic)
- 9 long/ mediums films & 12 short films;
- **« Full accessibility » for persons living with disabilities:**
  - o Accessibility for persons with limited mobility and adaptable seats;
  - o Sub-titling and translation in Sign Language for meeting;
  - o Audio-description
  - o Pictogrammes
- **Prize of the Public**
- **Delocalized Sessions** in partnership with Regional centers of Awiph.
- Establishment of a **Forum** (bar, meeting point, exhibition of arts and handicrafts by persons with disabilities)
- In partnership with TEC: **Transport shuttle** services from various centers in the Wallonie Province of Belgium

### **Budget :**

A detailed budget has been prepared and can be requested.

### **Partnerships/Financial Planning:**

- **FIFF** (International Festival of French-Speaking Film – Namur – member of the Executive Committee of « EOP! »)
- **Cap48** (subsidies obtained in 2010)
- **Various Ministries and Administrations** (requests ongoing):
  - o Ministry of Health, Social Action and Equal Opportunities – Wallonia Region
  - o Ministry of Culture and Audiovisual of the Communauté Française de Wallonie Belgique.
  - o Secretariat of the Persons Living With Disabilities
  - o Ministry of Children of the Communauté française de Belgique.
  - o Province of Namur
  - o City of Namur
  - o Awiph (confirmed)
  - o Phare

- **Private Partnerships / sponsors** (ongoing):
  - o RTBF (communication) (in principle)
  - o National Lottery
  - o Banks (CBC – Fortis / Cera)
  - o Belgacom (Telecommunication Provider)
  - o TEC
  - o Press
  - o Credit Unions
  - o Automotive Sponsoring automobile (shuttle services for invited guests)
  - o SACD ou SABAM (prize)
- **Artistic Partnerships :**
  - o Transversal Collaboration (Films exchanges) with other festivals. Namely: « Emotion pictures » (Athens), « Entre deux marches » (Cannes), « Handifilm » (Rabat, Morocco), « Sprout » (New-York) ...
- **Community Partnership:**
  - o Contribution of community groups concerned by handicap

### **The Film Selection Committee:**

- Claire Colart (ex. manager at documentary purchases RTBF),
- Nicole Gillet (Delegate General of FIFF)
- Barbara Firquet (Managing Director of FIFF)
- Serge Kestemont (Producer – Editor)
- Damien Helbig (Webmaster – concerned person)
- Luc Boland (Director – Managing Director of « EOP ! »)

### **Additional Committee**

An additional committee is prescribed by the statute of the Association.

It will comprise of representatives of the administrations and line ministries as well as representatives of the community groups concerned by handicap.

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