

« MIDNIGHT ROAD »

a short-film by
ED PICARD



SYNOPSIS

« Midnight Road » is a 16 minutes short film, a dramedy soulfully set in an oniric world.

In a dreamy empty city, two persons with a different definition of life meet: a desperate 40yo writer who has lost all faith and the lively young man he was when he was a teenager. Tired of his situation and lack of success, the writer wants to change life and give up on his dreams, his 'younger self' disagrees and tries to convince him to keep fighting. These two characters have a brotherly relationship made of jokes, advices, goodwill and conflict. On the bench of a night shop, they will discuss about their vision of life, creativeness, about love and other mishaps.



STATEMENT OF INTENT

The idea of the film came from a question which came during bad times:
« Did I disappoint the teenager or child I was? ».

« Everybody can relate to this – this kind of envy you feel towards the teenager you were. This kid who was immortal to us and as strong as his dreams. This envy can turn you against yourself. Nils and I wanted to create characters which each are allegories of fatalism and naivety, an explosive mix. » Ed, co-writer and director

Firstly amused by the extreme positiveness of his mate, he will quickly reject it. He will blame all his failures on the person he used to be. This naive child who dreamt too hard in the first place and who made him live a life that never made him happy. He badly believes his dream of being a writer killed him.



STATEMENT OF INTENT

In a time where the culture of success and happiness have never been that strong, we would like to talk about failure, about those who don't succeed.

« Midnight Road » is the inner path of a depressed man, a psychologic and oniric drama, or comedy, or both actually. This film talks about the deep self-doubts of a failed artist and shows the will to talk about a generation.

« *We tried to turn a really really sad story into comedy because for us that is the only way of dealing with it.* » Nils Ketterer, Co-Writer

Even though the story will easily talk to creatives, we want to speak to everyone because frustration and failure are universal subjects. We are all losers in a way. Losers who ask themselves the question: « What would my life have been if I had taken a different decision at one point? »

The open end strengthens this idea. Even if we give clues, we want the viewer to decide the fate of our hero and find an answer to the question: « Will he give up on his dreams – or will his teenage self win him back? »



VISUAL IDENTITY

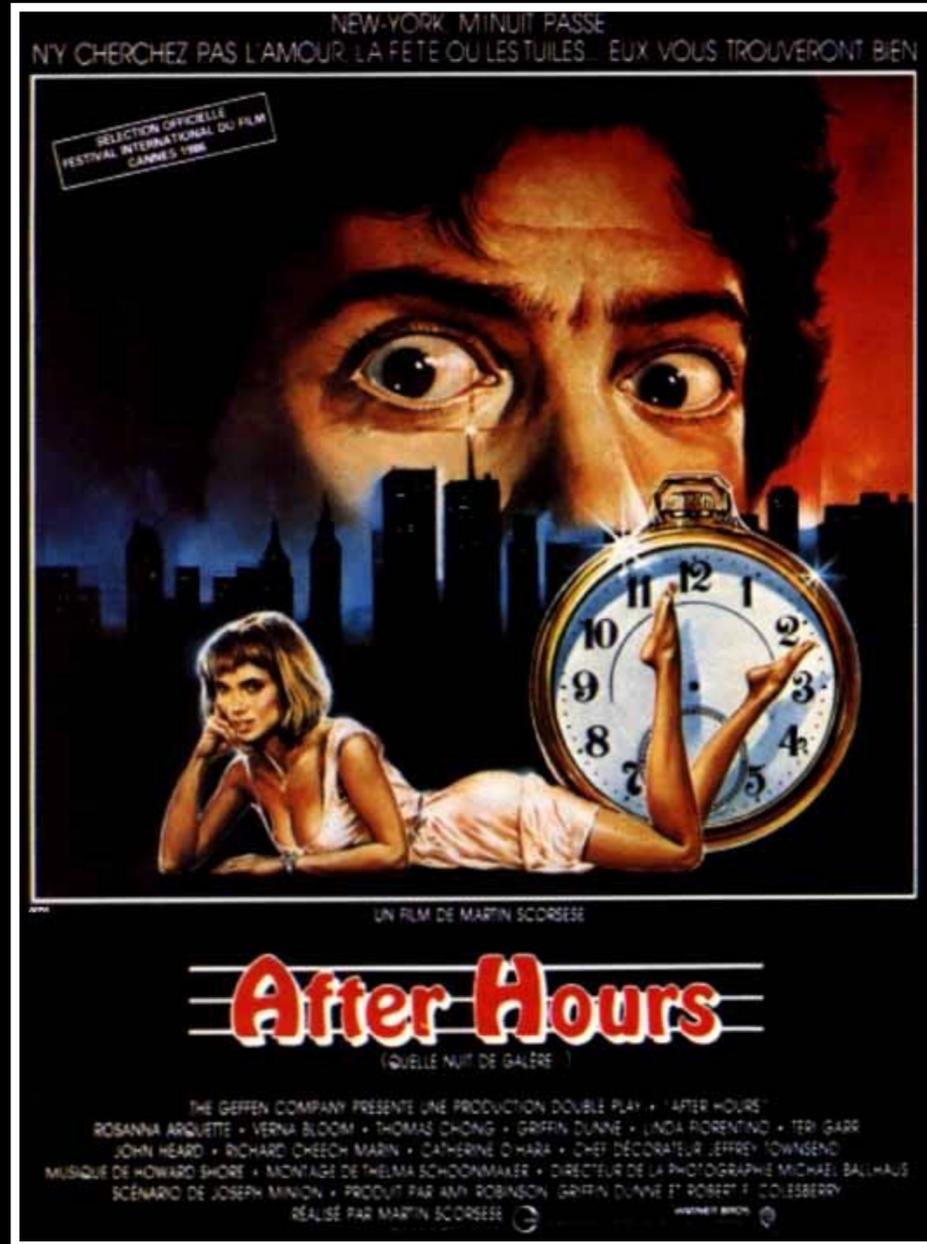
We like how dreams have been put on screen by Martin Scorsese in « After Hours » and John Landis in « Into the Night ».

We want a light inspired by 80s films: wet night, smoke, neons, empty streets. Only the fighting scene will be shot in Black & white to make it even more special.

We see the film mainly shot in steady-cam to always have the feeling of « floating » and also to straighten the oniric aspect.

The dream side will also be present in the editing: we want to jump from a sequence to another without transition and add surreal elements, the small errors in the matrix of a dream.





MUSIC & SOUND

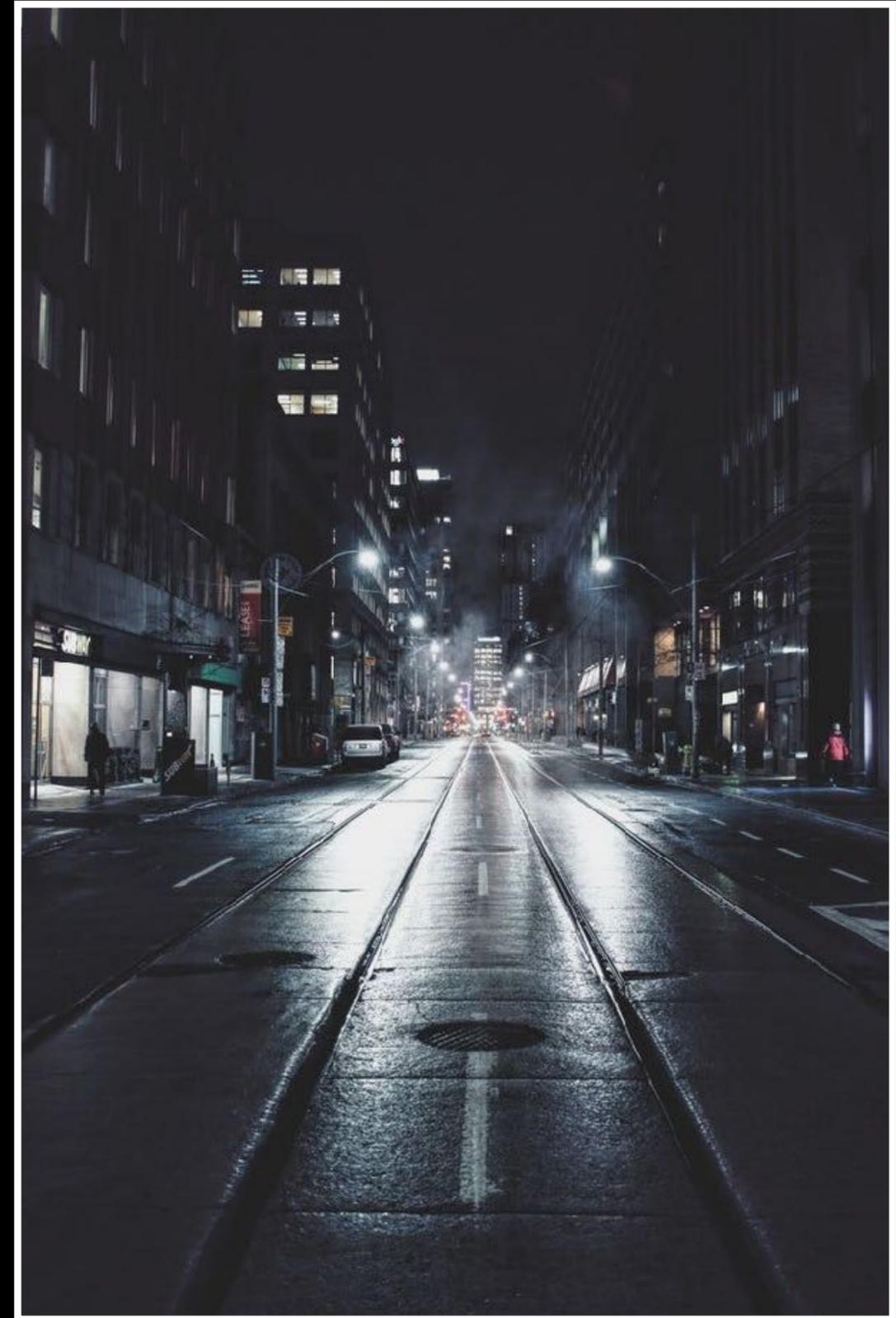
The sound ambiance will also be closed to this dream aspect: very atmospheric.

Minimal electronic music will be the main style of the sound track. Music from Stranger Things is a good example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRt2K50GP9Y>

For the end titles, we want a break and play with the idea it's a dream with this Huey Lewis & The News music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzIbyDbmsyg>



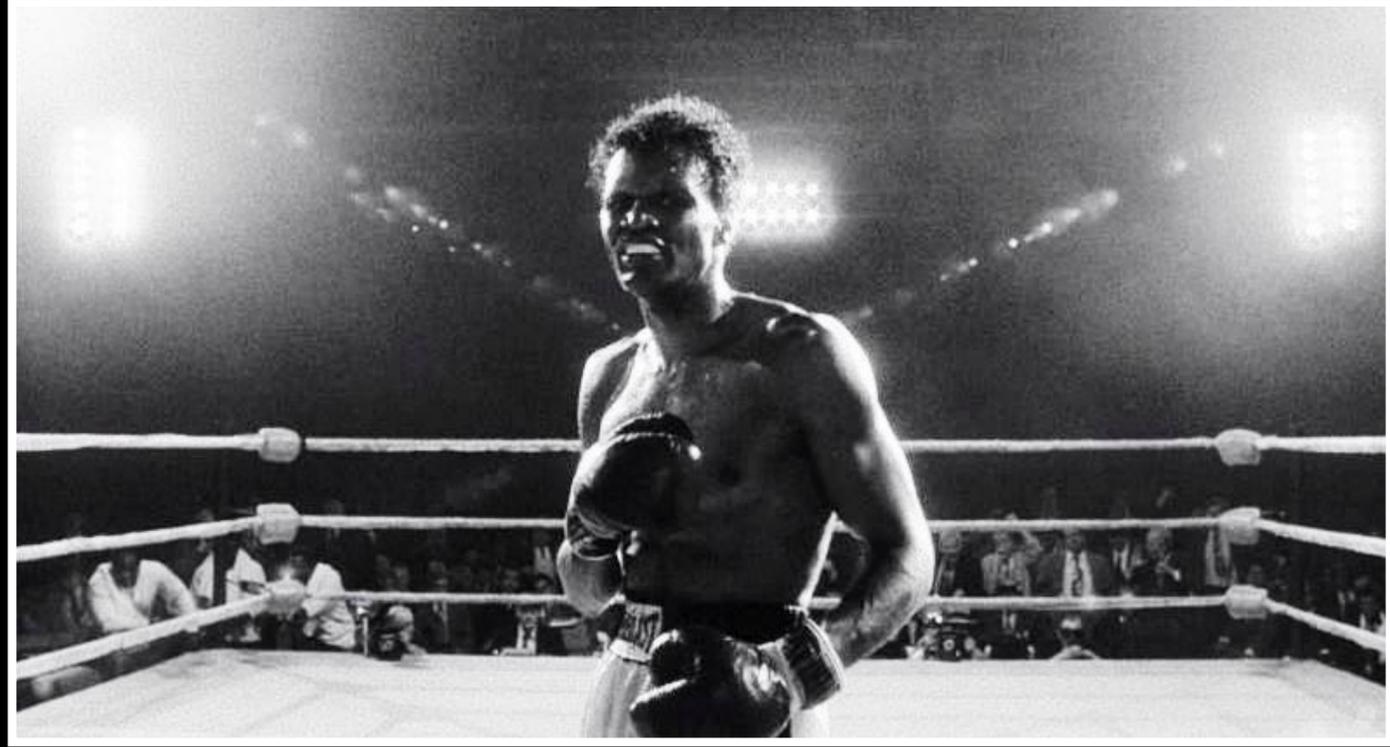
LOCATION

We imagine the film shot in an old industrial neighborhood of a big city. East London could work but Berlin would be the best place for many reasons. Ed, the director and co-writer, has imagined this story when he lived in Berlin and it reflects this part of his life. Nils, the co-writer lives in Berlin and so does Mehdi, the main actor.

Ed says: « There is something very special in Berlin during the winter. The night falls very early, it's cold and the city is empty. It's totally different from the summer when the city could look like a seaside resort. There is something unreal at this time of the year, it's timeless and it has a strong feeling of loneliness and melancholy in the air »



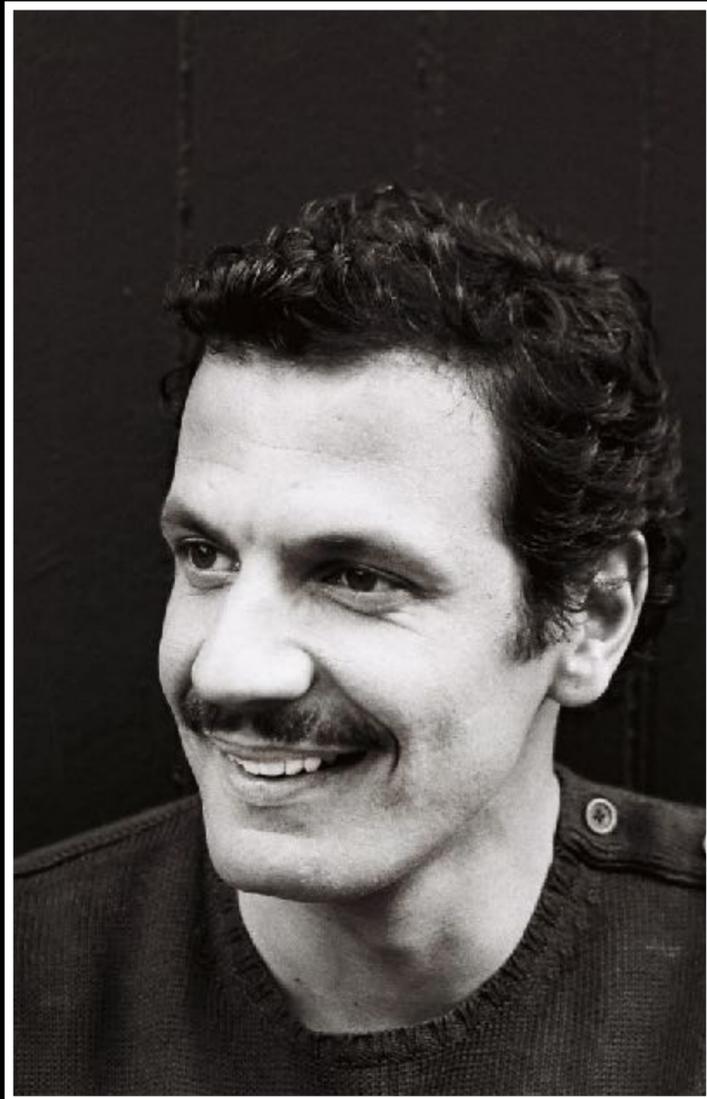






THE CAST

MEHDI NEBBOU: « The Man »



Mehdi Nebbou was born in Bayonne, France, to a German mother and an Algerian father.

He started his career by appearing in the film *My Sweet Home* (2001), directed by Filippos Tsitos. In 2004, the director Samir Nasr offered him the leading role in the film *Présumé coupable* (2004), which won the Golden Gate Award for best film at the San Francisco Film Festival. 2005 was a turning point in Nebbou's career thanks to the film *Sleeper* (2005) by German film director Benjamin Heisenberg. The film received excellent reviews and was selected for the 2005 Cannes Film Festival.

In 2006 he played Ali Hassan Salameh in the Steven Spielberg blockbuster film *Munich* (2005). In 2007 for his performance in *Teresas Zimmer* (2006), directed by German film director Constanze Knoche, he won the award for best actor First Steps Awards. In 2008 Nebbou worked in the Ridley Scott film *Body of Lies* (2008) with Leonardo DiCaprio. There he played Nizar, an Iraqi linguistics doctorate turned Al-Qaeda operative who approaches CIA to defect after being enlisted by his jihadist superiors for suicide bombing. In addition, he played in several French TV series and films, among them as a disabled ex-middleweight boxing world champion in *Douce France* (2009) for which he won the award for best actor at 2009 at the Rochelle TV Festival. He also played Mustafa Larbi, a sadistic and unpredictable drug dealer in Season 2 of *Spiral* (2005), the successful Canal+ TV series.

In 2010 he played Bruno in the Salvatore Allocca Italian romantic comedy *Come trovare nel modo giusto l'uomo sbagliato* (2011) and in 2011 Amin in the French action film *Forces spéciales* (2011) with Diane Krüger. In 2012, he acted in an Indian film *English Vinglish* (2012) with Sridevi, directed by Gauri Shinde. In 2015, he is in *Homeland* (2011) season 5. He is fluent in French, German, English and Italian.

FULL FILMOGRAPHY: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0623854/bio?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm

THE CREW

ED PICARD: Writer & Director

Born and raised in Paris, Ed starts doing films in Hi8 when he was a kid. Teenager, he follows a cursus specialized in cinema in high school, writes and directs 3 short films and won prizes in several different festivals.

After attended ESRA, famous cinema school in Paris, Ed Picard starts as a PA on commercials and feature films sets in Paris. He works then for Ali Mahdavi, photographer and art director of « Crazy Horse ».

En 2010, Ed starts working for Thierry Mugler famous director and fashion designer. He assists him in the creation of the « Mugler Follies ». Ed will become Art director and writer on seasons 2 & 3 of this new cabaret. In 2014, Mugler brought Ed to Berlin for the creation of the biggest show in Europe : « The Wyld ». During this time, Tango never stopped to create and make videos and decided in 2015 to devote this whole time to his passion : making films.

In 2017, Ed moves to London and associate himself with his friend and colleague, the post-production manager and VFX artist JM Seneca. Together, they create the filmmaker duo "Tango & Cash" specialized in commercials and music videos.

His work as a director: www.tangoxcash.com



THE CREW

NILS KETTERER: Co-Writer

Nils Ketterer was raised between the autobahn, a drug park and an empty circus tent in the east of Munich, Bavaria. He left the city as soon as he could which was by the age of 18. For years he went on to live and work in ten cities of seven countries, partly as journalist, musician, construction site worker or pizza guy. He lived in cottages of the Swedish forests, on abandoned Greek islands, or Andalusian hills at the sea. Stories always seemed to come to him naturally, so he regularly contributed texts for german magazines and blogs (e.g. glamour, vice). The moment he realised this lifestyle actually had made him a writer, he settled down in Berlin (because he was misled to think rent was cheap there) and has since written a novel, two movies, and a number of short stories and poems that can be found on his website www.txtappeal.de and soon with the publishing house Rowohlt. He always chooses the good life over a successful life. But a little success wouldn't be so bad, he thinks.

Nils Ketterer knows the way to a successful story: By the age of 19 he had already written a title story of Germany's biggest tabloid Magazine GALA. A few years later, in 2013, he wrote a "critic of the alps" for VICE MAGAZINE that went viral in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. A bit later, in 2014, another of his essays went viral. This time in GLAMOUR Magazine, where he took a humorist and courageous stance towards modern day feminism and gender equality

His work as a director: www.txtappeal.de



THE CREW

TOBIAS MARSHALL : Director of Photography

Tobias' route into Cinematography, began working as Assistant Cameraman in 2003. Experience gained from working with such greats as Woody Allen (Scoop '05), Ridley Scott (Robin Hood '08) and Roger Deakins ASC BSC (Skyfall '12) led him to shoot Commercials, Music Videos, TV and Features worldwide as Director of Photography, most recently serving as 2nd Unit DoP on NBC's 'Odyssey' in Morocco, Broadcast on the BBC in 2015. Ed and him worked together on 3 films including the award-winning fashion film « Film Me »

His work: <http://www.tobiasmarshall.com/>



JM SENECA: Post-Production Manager & Art Director

JM Seneca worked for ten years at Fix Studio, a commercial post-production company based in Paris. Specialized in VFX and Flame, he worked on big projects (Guerlain, L'Oréal, Tiffany's, Mercedes, etc.). He is often called on shooting sets to supervise Visual Effects. On the side Cash is always ready for action and works with Photographers and Filmmakers, to improve his skills and creative abilities.

JM & Ed met in Paris 17 years ago. Used to work together since, they create the filmmaker duo « Tango & Cash » in 2017. More than business partners, JM is Ed's art director for his artistic projects and helps him for all his creative decisions.

On this project, JM will bring his professional knowledge to lead the post-production.

Thank you!

