

MOOK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# TEAMMATES ARE YOU READY?



*A film by Gilles Blaize*

*Original music by Dryden Hawkins*

*With the participation of the SNSM Training and Intervention Centre in Brest*

*A MOOK Productions & Tébéo, TVR, TébéSud coproduction, local TV channels in Brittany, supported by the Brittany Region*

MOOK

Tébéo  
Télé Bretagne Ouest



TébéSud  
Télé Bretagne Sud



CHUTTY!





## Synopsis

Twenty of them, mostly students or high school pupils, have been selected for lifeguard training at the SNSM Training and Intervention Centre in Brest.

From September to June, they will undergo intensive training, in the pool, on the boat, in first aid, on the beaches, in all weathers.

It's a year of building a team, transforming themselves and making these young people the next to go to the rescue on France's beaches in the summer.

This film is the story of their metamorphosis.

## Technical & artistic details

*Title* · **Teammates, are you ready?**

*Director* · **Gilles Blaize**

*Year of production* · **2024**

*Original music* · **Dryden Hawkins**

*Running time* · **55 minutes 58 seconds**

*Cinematography* · **Gilles Blaize, Nicolas Ferry, Katia Quéméré, CFI SNSM Brest**

*Format* · **1.78 / HD / 5.1 & Stéréo / VF (English subtitles)**

*Sound* · **Nicolas Ferry, Jeong Hee Cho**

*Production* · **MOOK Productions**

*Editing* · **Pema Wangye**

*In co-production with* · **Tébéo / TVR / TébéSud, local TV channels in Brittany, supported by the Brittany Region**

*Mixing* · **Frédéric Hamelin**

*Colour grading* · **Nico Peltier**

The documentary film « Teammates, are you ready », directed by Gilles Blaize, takes us behind the scenes of the training of apprentice lifeguards at the SNSM Training and Intervention Centre in Brest. In the starring role: the young trainees!

The film is the result of a chance meeting between two personalities. First, director Gilles Blaize, behind the cameras of his Brest-based company MOOK Productions. Opposite him, Nicolas Ferry, an educator working with teenagers at the Don Bosco association in Brest. The context of the meeting: the DAMMIE (reception centre for foreign minors and adults) where the former is making a documentary, «Le soleil se lève à Brest» (The sun rises in Brest), a 52-minute film that looks at the day-to-day lives of the young people in this structure and their educators, including Nicolas Ferry. Nicolas is happy to swap his «special educator» hat for that of trainer at the SNSM Training and Intervention Centre in Brest (CFI).

One film led to another and a friendship was born. And so Gilles Blaize came up with the idea of a documentary on the training of young CFI trainees, who are called upon to don the summer uniform of lifeguards on the beaches of France, and to add to the ranks of SNSM volunteers at the Brest CFI. Every year, the Brest CFI trains around twenty young volunteers aged between 18 and 22 in the best practices for rescuing people at sea and on land. It's an intense, rich training programme involving 400 hours of lessons in the pool, on the beach and in the new classroom on the Quai Malbert, culminating in the award of six diplomas, including the PSE 1 & 2 (team first aid), the BNSSA (national water safety and rescue certificate),

the boat driving licence (coastal option), the CRR (restricted radio-telephone operator's certificate) and more. Trainees will also be able to use these qualifications to take part in the DPS (prevention and safety measures) organised by the SNSM (Brest maritime festival, Granville carnival, Hellfest festival, nautical competitions, New Year's baths, etc.).

After seeing the first images captured during the Camaret sea training course (a sort of aquatic baccalaureate for the trainees), Gilles Blaize was won over: «There may be a story to tell about these young people and I saw something very cinematographic there», he says. The writing of the documentary therefore began in 2021, with a parallel presentation of the project to potential broadcasters. After the Covid episode, the filming continued in pairs, with Nicolas Ferry acting as guide!

Today, after long weeks of derushing, mixing and colour-grading, the documentary « Teammates, are you ready » (a title thought up with the trainees) is in the can! That's 56 minutes of footage for broadcast. This co-production between MOOK Productions and Tébéo, TVR, Tébésud (local TV channels in Brittany supported by the Brittany Region) will be on show by summer 2024 and will then be offered to independent cinemas and documentary film festivals.

Yvon Jézéquel





## Director's proposal

Walking down the ramparts of the Cours d'Ajot in Brest, I've always wondered what kind of world might be lurking behind the big blue door that bars the CFI building at the entrance to the port. There was something of the Batman and the Batcave about imagining that door swinging open to let out a cohort of superheroes and heroes hurled to the rescue of those in distress. Under the blue skies of Camaret, I witnessed the great manoeuvres of the sea training course which completes the trainees' year of training in May and where they meet up with the old hands who have come to update their skills, and I was impressed by the atmosphere that emerged. On the beach at Pen Hat, there was a remarkable cohesion and synchronisation between the hundred or so lifeguards, both trainees and experienced, in their actions, in their interventions, in a story that seemed to bind them all together as a single organism working towards the same goal. I immediately wanted to know this story, to find out how they had achieved such harmony. What investment, motivation and sacrifice could these young people have made? The answer lay in Brest, behind the big blue door.

The timeline of this film is that of the «maturation» of the young rescue swimmers. It feeds on their metamorphosis over the seasons, as they move into adulthood. We chose not to focus on one or the other, but to tell the story of the group's development, by immersing ourselves in it, in the setting of the CFI at the commercial port, the Foch and Saint-Marc swimming pools, the Rade de Brest and the beaches of Nord-Finistère. By placing our camera at the trainees' level, we sought to capture their feelings, share their experiences and the knowledge they have acquired, and understand how this spirit of commitment, solidarity and living together emerges and is nurtured. The original music is by Dryden Hawkins, who has been with me for several films now. A founding member of the group «The Loved One», who pioneered electronic music in the UK alongside «Depeche Mode», «Soft Cell» and «The The», Dryden has over the years created a unique musical universe that fills the space of the sequences and the time of the film with a subtle and profound emotion.

Gilles Blaize

## The Brest CFI

The French National Society for Sea Rescue (**Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer - SNSM**) is a non-profit organisation founded in 1967, at a time when recreational boating was booming. It is the heir to two hundred-year-old societies: the Central Society for Shipwreck Rescue (Société Centrale de Sauvetage des Naufragés) and the Breton Hospitaliers' Rescue Society (Hospitaliers Sauveteurs Bretons).

The SNSM is one of the most important players in sea rescue in France. It accounts for more than 50% of rescues - between 15,000 and 20,000 people helped each year - all resources combined, coordinated by the CROSS (Search, Surveillance and Rescue Operations Centres) and the MRCCs (Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres).

There are two types of lifeguard: **permanent onboard lifeguards** and **lifeguards swimmers**.

The mission of onboard lifeguards is **to save human lives at sea**, free of charge, on a voluntary basis, 24 hours a day, within the first 20 nautical miles. They can be found all along the French coastline, in the 208 life-saving stations.

During the summer season, lifeguard swimmers **supervise a third of France's beaches**, at the request and under the responsibility of the mayors who pay them. They are trained over 1 or 2 years at one of the SNSM's 30 Training and Intervention Centres (CFI), including the one in

Brest, where they acquire their qualifications, which are certified by national diplomas. The majority of future lifeguards are aged between 16 and 25, and most are high school or university students.

The worlds between these two types of rescuers communicate. Volunteer work at a training centre can be continued at a rescue station or at national level, and vice versa.

In addition, the Brest CFI provides the department's rescue stations, and possibly the general public and specific organisations, with the training courses for which it is approved. All the active members of the CFI and the stations are volunteers.

The Brest CFI is made up of more than 120 people: a volunteer management team, a team of qualified volunteer instructors, volunteers for logistical, technical, accounting and event support, etc., «old» rescue swimmers, «young» rescue swimmers, etc. All have **commitment, solidarity, humility and the desire to pass on their skills at heart**. Throughout the year, the CFI is also involved in the First Aid Scheme (DPS) during sports and water sports competitions and festivities. As well as learning a skill, becoming a lifeguard is also, and above all, an investment in a living community and a human adventure.

Nicolas Ferry





## Gilles Blaize

director / producer



Born in Rennes, France, Gilles Blaize started out as an assistant cameraman for Japanese television NHK in Paris at the end of the 90s, after studying History and Audiovisual Journalism. After working as deputy editor-in-chief of the interactive service on the I>Télé news channel, then as a documentary film-maker in London and Asia for the British NGO Tibet Foundation, he now lives in Brest, in the Finistère region of Brittany, where he produces and directs documentaries focusing on issues of solidarity, traditions and the transmission of knowledge.

### Filmography

**Getza, Helping Others** - 2021 - Documentary, 77 min - MOOK Productions / Tibet Foundation

**Le Soleil se lève à Brest** - 2018 - Documentary, 52 min - Bleu Iroise / TVR, Tébéo, Tébésud - Official select. Festisol 2019 / Festival Migrant' Scène 2019 / Festival Grains de sable 2019

**La Forêt des Carnutes** - 2015 - Documentary, 52 min - MOOK Productions / France Télévisions

**Les Ateliers Loire** - 2013 - Documentary, 52 min - les films du lieu-dit / France Télévisions - Official select. FIFMA 2018

**Pan** - 2012 - Short film, 3 min - Kab of Animook

**Warping on Water** - 2012 - Experimental documentary series, 7 X 6 min - Kab of Animook

**Call of the Snow Lion** - 2011 - Documentary series, 8 X 13 min - Tibet Foundation

**Rémi Maillard, L'âme du Laque** - 2010 - Documentaire, 20 min - Kab of Animook

**The Blue Scarf** - 2008 - Documentary, 52 min - Télévision Nat. Mongole / Tibet Foundation

**Le Pays des Khampas** - 2006 - Documentary, 36 min - Tibet Foundation

**Aldous à Londres** - 2005 - Short film, 20 min - BAB Production - Official select. TIFF 2005

**Return to Tibet** - 2005 - Short film, 3 min - BAB Production - Travercial Top 10 Travel Video Worldwide 2007 Award

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## MOOK Productions

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