Julien Dexant

BIOGRAPHY

After spending three years at the Estienne school in Paris and a short stint in advertising, Julien Dexant joined the Digital Imaging Laboratory in Angoulême, where he graduated in 2002 with a European Master's degree and a graduation film, Metro Psycho Solo.

After a second short film, Ego Sum Petrus, produced by Les 3 Ours and selected for more than forty festivals, he began working as an animator in 2004 with the artist Vuillemin. In 2005, the film U by Grégoire Solotareff and Serge Elissalde marked his first feature-film experience. In 2006, he became head animator on Fear(s) of the Dark with Richard McGuire and Charles Burns, and on the short film L'homme à la Gordini by Jean-Christophe Lie (César for Best Animated Short, 2010).

Over the course of his projects, Julien Dexant has perfected his technique and expanded his skills through work on animated series, documentaries, advertisements, storyboards, and project development. In 2010, he collaborated with Zabou Breitman on the feature film No et moi and with Rémy Vandenitt on Betty's Blues. This was followed by the feature film Loulou: l'incroyable secret by Grégoire Solotareff (César for Best Animated Feature, 2014) and The Red Turtle by Michaël Dudok de Wit (Special Award, Un Certain Regard, Cannes, 2016), produced by the Japanese studio Ghibli.

In 2016, he joined the London studio Lupus for the feature film Ethel and Ernest, adapted from the work of Raymond Briggs, and the BBC Christmas special We're Going on a Bear Hunt. Subsequent credits include Lorenzo Mattotti's feature film The Famous Invasion of Bears in Sicily; Éric Briche's short film Volcelest (in competition at Cannes in 2024); Michel Hazanavicius's feature film The Most Precious of Cargoes (also in competition at Cannes in 2024); and, more recently, Le Corset by Louis Clichy (Jury Award at Cannes 2026; Audience and Jury Awards at Annecy 2026) and Viva Carmen by Sébastien Laudenbach (also in competition at Annecy 2026 and in La Quinzaine at Cannes 2026).

Since 2016, Julien has been a lecturer at Gobelins in Paris, EMCA, and l'Atelier in Angoulême.

Also a musician, he released an album in 2019 that was noticed by critics and led to performances, notably opening for Bertrand Belin and Piers Faccini.

Dr. Mohamed Ghazala

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Mohamed Ghazala is an Egyptian animation filmmaker, educator, researcher, and cultural promoter. He is the Chair of the School of Cinematic Arts at Effat University in Saudi Arabia and Vice President of the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), representing the Arab and African regions.

He is also the founder of ASIFA Egypt. Ghazala has served on the juries of major international animation festivals, including Annecy, Zagreb, Stuttgart, Hiroshima, Manchester, and Monstra.

He is the author of Animation in the Arab World and Animation in Africa and has dedicated his work to advancing animation education, research, and cultural exchange across the Arab world and Africa.