

Philippe Avril

Film producer

Email: phavril@unlimited-films.net

Mob. : +336 08 49 01 52

Skype: philippe.avril

Office address: 5, rue de Champagne,
F – 67300 Schiltigheim, France



Born 1954 in Paris. Nationality: French
Mathematics and physics studies.
Former engineer and scientific researcher.
Graduated EAVE-Europe in 1992.
Positions: C.E.O. (Unlimited), General Manager (Les Films de l'Étranger)

From 1974 to 1981, Philippe Avril worked as a journalist and cinema critic. He shot and produced a first full-length film in 1979. In 1989 he founded in Strasbourg a first production film company ('Les Films De L'Observatoire') mainly developing creative documentaries and soon focused on international co-productions (documentaries, feature films) for cinema and television and based in Strasbourg and Paris (France).

Since June 2002, Philippe Avril is managing 'Unlimited', an independent French company with offices in Strasbourg and Paris, capitalized by European shareholders: production companies and professionals based in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria and Germany. Unlimited's strategy is to enlarge at an European level the perspective to internationally co-produce arthouse films and to discover new talents.

Since October 2003, he is also managing a small independent company, 'Les Films de l'Étranger' (co-owned till 2011 by Francisco Villa-Lobos) dedicated to difficult projects on the edge of the market.

Lecturing at the Marc Bloch University (Strasbourg) from 2001 to 2009, intervening regularly in international workshops and training courses in France and Europe, Philippe Avril has been the French national co-ordinator of the Media Programme EAVE (European Audio-Visual Entrepreneurs) from 1997 to 2011.

Philippe Avril's early international co-productions were with Central and Eastern European filmmakers: Dusan Hának (*Paper Heads*), Petr Václav (*Marian*), Valdas Navasaitis (*Kiemas*), Bakhtiyar Khudojnazarov (*Luna Papa*). Since 1997, he explored also co-productions with Asian filmmakers: Park Kwang-su (South-Korea, for *The Uprising*, 1997), Aoyama Shinji (Japan, for *Eureka*, 2000), Garin Nugroho (Indonesia, for *A Poet*, 2001), Sabiha Sumar (Pakistan, for *Khamosh Pani/Silent Waters*, 2003), Vimukthi Jayasundara (Sri Lanka, for *The Forsaken Land*, 2005).

During the 2000's, he co-produced *Juventude em Marcha (Colossal Youth)*, by Pedro Costa (Portugal), *La Fine del Mare*, by Nora Hoppe (Germany), *Welcome to Bataville*, by François Caillat (France), *4 Months, 3 Weeks & 2 Days*, by Cristian Mungiu (Romania), *Teza*, de Haile Gerima (Ethiopia), *China is Still Far*, by Malek Bensmail (Algeria), *The Day Will Come*, by Susanne Schneider (Germany), *First of All Felicia* by Razvan Radulescu and Melissa de Raff (Romania), *Between Two Worlds* by Vimukthi Jayasundara (Sri Lanka). Last co-productions include: *The Ditch* by Wang Bing (China), *Virgin Goat*, by Murali Nair (India), *The End of Silence*, by Roland Edzard (France), *Chatrak (Mushrooms)*, by Vimukthi Jayasundara (India) and *The Fifth Season*, by Peter Brosens and Jessica Woodworth (Belgium).

Main awards or selections in festivals:

- *Paper Heads*: Slovakian long-length cinema documentary, Golden Spire Award (San Francisco, 1996), Special Prize of the Jury (Karlovy-Vary, 1996).
- *Marian*: Silver Leopard, Locarno, 1996.
- *Kiemas*: selected at Director's Fortnight, Cannes, 1999
- *Luna Papa*: Best artistic contribution (Tokyo, 1999), Golden Balloon, Nantes, 3 Continents, 1999.
- *Beyond the Forest*: Audience Award, Marseilles, 1999.
- *Eureka*: selected in official competition, Cannes, 2000.
- *Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)*: Golden Leopard, Best actress Silver Leopard, Locarno, 2003, Silver Balloon and Audience Award, Nantes, 3 Continents, 2003.
- *Massaker*: Fipresci award, Berlinale, 2005, Panorama section.
- *The Forsaken Land*: Camera D'Or for the best directorial debut, Cannes, 2005 (Un Certain Regard).
- *Juventude em Marcha (Colossal Youth)*: selected in official competition, Cannes, 2006.
- *4 Luni, 3 Saptamini si 2 Zile (4 Months, 3 Weeks & 2 Days)*: Golden Palm and Fipresci Award, Cannes, 2007.
- *China is Still Far*: Special Jury Award, 3 Continents, Nantes, 2008, Grand Prize, DokFest, Munich 2009.
- *Teza*: Special Prize of The Jury, Osella for the best screenplay, Venice, 2008. Golden Tanit, best music, best cinematography, best screenplay, best male supporting role, Carthage Days 2008. Golden Unicorn, Amiens, 2008, Golden Stallion, Fespaco, Burkina-Faso, 2009.
- *Between Two Worlds*: selected in official competition, Venice, September 2009.
- *The Ditch*: selected in official competition, Venice, September 2010. French release by Capricci Films: March 2012
- *La fin du silence (The End of Silence)*: selected at Directors' Fortnight, Cannes, May 2011. Special mention of the Jury, 27th Haifa international Film Festival, Oct. 2011 – French release by Equation: December 2011
- *Chatrak (Mushrooms)*: selected at Directors' Fortnight, Cannes, May 2011.
- *The Fifth Season*: selected in official competition, Venice, September 2012 then in many international film festival (2 awards in Venice, 3 in Valladolid).