

THE MONSTER OF NIX

**NEW ROSTO FILM HITS THE SCREENS
THIS SPRING**



**The animated fairy tale “*The Monster of Nix*”
(Holland / France / Belgium – 30’)**

PARIS – January 24, 2011

***The Monster of Nix*, the highly anticipated animated musical by Dutch artist and filmmaker Rosto, is nearing completion. The 30 minute long, existentialist fairy tale will hit the screens Spring 2011.**

The Monster of Nix is the most ambitious film production by Rosto to date. Development of the international co-production has taken over five years. Main producer Studio Rosto A.D and co-producers Autour de Minuit (France) and CinéTé (Belgium) made the film in association with French broadcaster Canal+ and the Dutch broadcaster AVRO.

Rosto's previous films have been described as hyper-intense cinematic experiences. Unconventional stories take place in an apocalyptic universe of surreal landscapes inhabited by dark alter egos. Not the kind of cinema for children, some might say.

"We should not underestimate the little bastards," grins the director of *The Monster of Nix*. The film is as compelling and visually overwhelming as its predecessors but this time suitable for kids from 10 to 100. "Strange kids, maybe" adds Rosto smilingly. The dark fairy tale tells of Willy, a troubled boy who fights the destructive force of an all-devouring monster in the village of Nix.

Music has always been a crucial ingredient in his films and for *The Monster of Nix* Rosto again composed the score himself. He explains: "Although I hate musicals, I made one. This film is driven by music. A major source of inspiration has been Disney's *Silly Symphonies* from the thirties."

Many of the characters in the film have appeared in Rosto's previous work. The Langemanne who appeared in the award-winning short film *Jona/Tomberry* (Grand Prix Canal+ in Cannes 2005) reappear as the mysterious forest spirits. Their nemesis Virgil is incarnated this time as a huge bitter black swallow. And he is really pissed off.

ABOUT ROSTO/STUDIO ROSTO A.D

Director/artist Rosto, and his studio Rosto A.D, are well-known for music videos, television-work and independent short films in home country The Netherlands.

The short (*the rise and fall of the legendary*) *Anglobilly Feverson* had its world-premiere at the Rotterdam Filmfestival, followed by an impressive string of international prestigious festivals and worldwide recognition of Rosto's work. The next short film *Jona/Tomberry*, winner of the Grand Prix Canal+ at the Cannes Filmfestival 2005, concluded a trilogy of *Mind My Gap* films. *Mind My Gap* is Rosto A.D's mixed media project that started with an online graphic novel (still running on www.rostoAD.com), and expanded with music and print as well as films. Currently a retrospective/exhibition of all Gap-outlets is touring around the globe and a DVD of the trilogy and related works was released.

Rosto is currently working on several spin-offs from the *Mind My Gap*-universe, like the Langemanne-film *The Monster of Nix* and the music-project *Thee Wreckers*.

Filmography

1999 *Beheaded* - 3.10 min

2000 *Mind My Gap* - Running Internet-series

2001 (*the rise and fall of the legendary*) *Anglobilly Feverson* - 10 min.

2005 *Jona/Tomberry* - 12 min.

2006 *Big White/Big Black* - 4 min.

2009 *Thee Wreckers: No Place Like Home* - 6 min.

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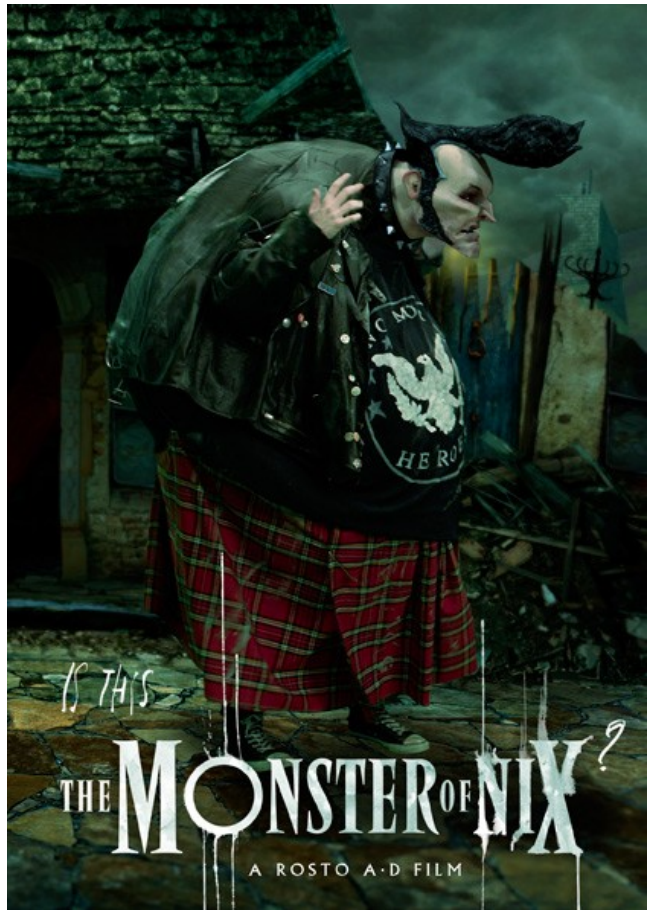
ABOUT AUTOUR DE MINUIT

Autour de Minuit is a film production company based in Paris created in 2001 by Nicolas Schmerkin. The company aims at supporting aesthetically innovative projects, and develops original graphic worlds with a solid content. Hybridization gives the opportunity to explore new ideas and sensations in plastic art and intent to provide with visuals never to be seen before. The production catalogue includes short classics as *Obras*, *Flesh*, *Carlitopolis*, *Dix* and *Logorama*, Academy Award winner for best short animation in 2010.

Since 2004, *Autour de Minuit* also deals with world distribution of animations and digital works, including Rosto's previous works. The company is now developing several feature films and animation shows.



ROSTOSTILTSKIN



THE ELDERLY PUNK



THE CURSING WITCH



JONA/TOMBERRY