

A stylized 2D CGI illustration of a park. In the foreground, there is a circular fountain with several water jets spraying upwards. A path leads from the fountain towards the background. On the left and right sides of the path, there are manicured hedges and small trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and a bright sun with rays. The overall color palette is warm, with greens, yellows, and oranges.

VERSAILLES UNLEASHED

ELLIPSAN!ME
PRODUCTIONS

26 x 22' / Adventure and Comedy / 2D rendered CGI
6+

MEDIA TOON

Belfort and Lupin come to the aid of their animal friends in 17th century Versailles

Versailles, Louis XIV, Colbert, Madame de Maintenon, Le Nôtre, and Vauban are names that history has not forgotten. But who the heck are Diane, Tane, Ponne and Chevalier?

At the feet of the noble, bewigged figures of history lived another four-footed court. The royal hounds, lap dogs, horses of the cavalry, exotic birds, and the elephant of the world's first zoo comprised a furry and feathered "high society" of their own, dictated by the court etiquette of Versailles.

Belfort, a young spaniel, is King Louis XIV's favorite pet. **Lupin** is a mongrel who harkens from the gardens. Neither dog abides by the rules that forbid them from being friends and helping those in need. Life in Versailles is rife with snags and glitches, and human concerns have unexpected repercussions in the animal kingdom.







AUGUSTIN PROSPER DE BELFORT,

(better known as Belfort)

Born in the luxury and comfort of the palace, Belfort is **Louis XIV's favorite dog**. He is a royal spaniel with a lofty and proud gait, silky coat, well-trimmed claws, and a shiny medal. And yet, Belfort can't stand the endless rituals dictated by the court etiquette of Versailles. He loves spending time with his friend, Lupin, and lounging around the King's cabinet. Belfort jumps at every opportunity to escape the Royal Dog Valet, Bazire (who, unlike Belfort, has the greatest respect for protocol).



A distinguished, refined, and royal pup

Belfort is one **smart** puppy! He is so well-educated and so cultivated, in fact, that he **has lost his animal instincts**: he has no sense of smell or direction and is very uncomfortable when duty requires him to venture into the dangers of the palace gardens!

Because he does not have the typical attributes of a royal dog, Belfort is **the black sheep** of his family. He is unlike them, and they tease him for it. But Belfort prefers this freedom to be friends with whomever he pleases! He is a **rebel with a heart of gold**, and his eyes shine with a warmth of humanity, a quality all too rare among palace animals. Could this be why Louis XIV likes him best of all?





LUPIN

(just, Lupin)

Born outside the palace, **Lupin lives in the groves and gardens of Versailles**, and knows every nook and cranny! A dog without a pedigree and of unknown origins, Lupin looks like a wolf. This is problematic at times: some animals are afraid of him, and humans pull out their pitchforks when they see him coming! But that doesn't weigh too heavily on big-hearted Lupin or keep him from being a **generous and kind** canine.





An adventurous and reckless wolfdog who is as free as the wind

His strength? His snout! Lupin has an extraordinary sense of smell! He can follow a scent for miles! Just by entering a room, he can tell who—human or animal—was just there and what they had for dessert, the day before!

Lupin has **no family or owner**. He is entirely **self-taught**, having observed nature and the world around him. He wouldn't trade places with "those palace lap dogs" for anything in the world! Lupin was made for the great outdoors and adventure, which is a good thing as the gardens of Versailles are full of it!





BELFORT & LUPIN

an outstanding and extraordinary doggie duo

Though their lifestyles and upbringings couldn't be more unlike, and though they don't always understand each other - Why doesn't Belfort like rolling around in puddles?! And why is Lupin unable to resist the temptations of a cream puff?!—**these friends see beyond their differences to enjoy what they have in common.**

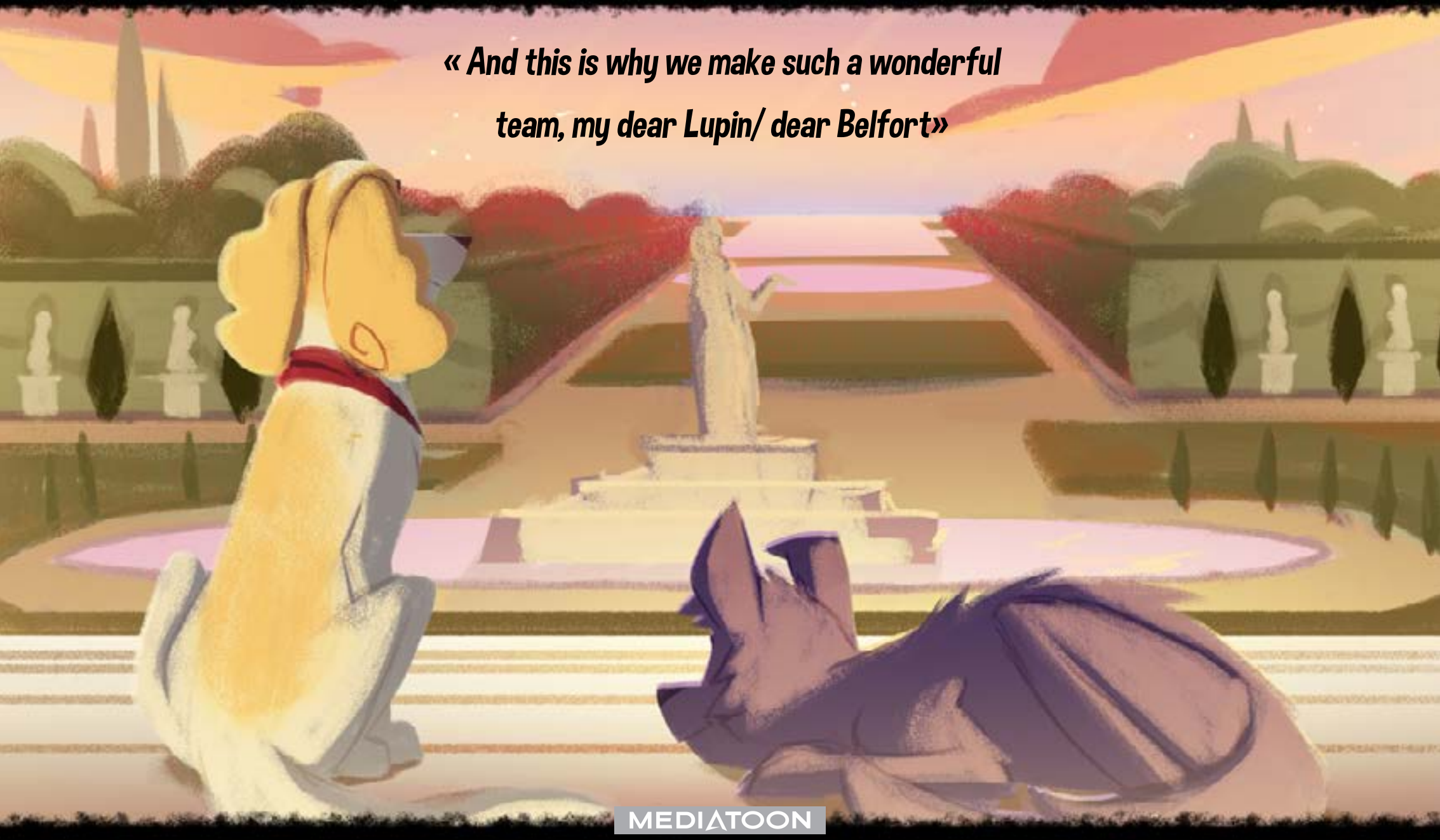
Belfort and Lupin are the most empathetic critters in Versailles! Even before they met, each pup took it upon himself to help his fellow animals regardless of their origin or species. This is the very essence of their partnership! And, **by working together**, Belfort and Lupin can tackle even greater challenges.



They are complementary, providing the expertise and competence the other lacks it. Belfort has had almost all “the animal” bred out of him (no sense of smell, no sense of direction), whereas Lupin has the keen instincts of a wolf (a highly honed ear and masterful sense of smell)! On the other hand, Lupin who knows nothing about humans or court manners, must rely on Belfort for his knowledge of history, art, court life and etiquette.

Belfort and Lupin are black sheep among their own. Belfort's purebred family teases him for having such lousy dog skills. Lupin is an orphan wolfdog who is seen as frightening. Belfort and Lupin are unlike their own kind, different, strange, abnormal. Which is perhaps why the two of them understand each other perfectly.

***« And this is why we make such a wonderful
team, my dear Lupin/ dear Belfort »***



SECONDARY CHARACTERS

Animals

Ariane

The royal architect Vauban's pet, **Ariane, is a gorgeous Siamese cat** who saunters with grace. Though this highly intelligent cat may seem haughty at first, she really is a good soul who regularly helps Belfort and Lupin out. "Dogs would be useless without the intellect of cats." Her Little-Miss-Know-It-All attitude annoys Lupin (or is this just the eternal cat-dog rivalry?). Dynamic, Adriane can spring to action on a moment's notice and doesn't hesitate to dig her claws in!



Gazette

Gazette **knows ALL the court gossip** (human and animal). Here's why: Gazette nest is strategically located in the Queen's wig. Extremely observant, she is a specialist in human nature! She loves to study and imitate their behavior and social codes (even if she doesn't always understand them). This is why she walks on two legs!

SECONDARY CHARACTERS

Humans

Bazire

Bazire is the Royal Dog Valet. He is also a royal spoilsport. Bazire personally oversees the bathing, brushing, and styling of the dogs. He truly cares about the dogs and sees to it that their toilette is always impeccable. Very respectful of court etiquette and protocol, Bazire gets very upset when Belfort is not where he is expected AGAIN.

Princess Marie-Adelaide of Savoy

This 11-year-old girl is Louis XIV's niece. **She loves animals** (ALL KINDS of animals!) so much that the king gave her the royal menagerie (the zoo). She spends all her time there, petting and feeding the animals, and getting dirty! She loves Belfort and Lupin, who bark when they need her help because she always understands!



Louis XIV



“The King!” When His Majesty is announced, time stops. No one moves. His mere presence commands silence. There’s no need to raise one’s voice to be obeyed, a glance is all it takes.

This quasi-divine entity who governs Versailles is both respected and feared by the court. He is a calm (but demanding) and intelligent monarch, and lover of the arts, animals, and entertainment.

When evening comes and he is alone, Louis XIV eagerly abandons his royal persona (and his wig) to enjoy some downtime (and cookies) with his royal dogs. He has even been known to play with Belfort, his favorite pet.



THE SET

The animal world in Belfort & Lupin is divided into 2 distinct realms:

The palace v. The outdoors

Over the course of their adventures, the two friends will freely move around the sumptuous palace interiors (various rooms, **The Hall of Mirrors, the King's Chamber**, etc.) as well as the stables, groves, gardens, forest, and—

— **the royal menagerie** (the world's first zoo)! According to historical archives, the zoo was home to animals from around the world: an elephant, ostriches, a crocodile, big cats, a camel, Barbary sheep, cranes, a beaver, a cassowary, water buffaloes, turtles, hummingbirds, parrots and parakeets, pink flamingos, gazelles, and llamas!



STABLES



THE ROYAL STABLES OF VERSAILLES

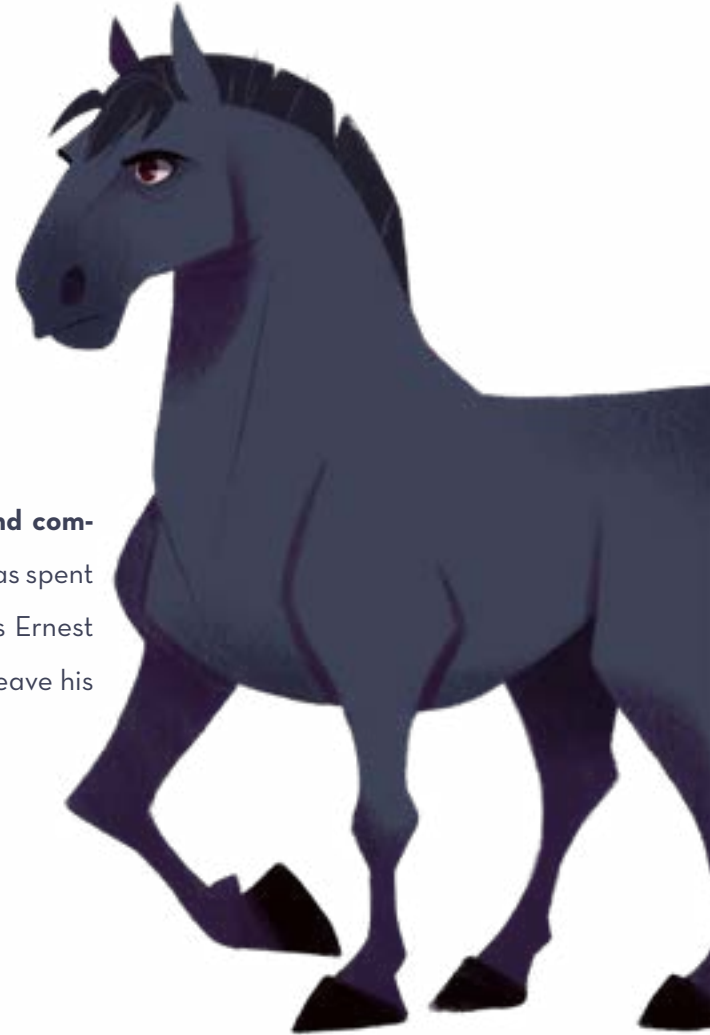
Ernest

This young steed, **the newest member of the royal guard**, lives in the royal stables of Versailles. He never refuses a “mission” and tries to adopt the appropriate military attitude in every situation, which is adorable because Ernest is new to the job and can be somewhat awkward.



Bucephale

This senior horse, who speaks in **military terms and commands authority**, oversees the stables. Bucephale has spent his entire life in the service of humans and reminds Ernest of his place when the spirited young horse tries to leave his stall to help Belfort and Lupin.



MENAGERIE



MEDIATOON

THE ROYAL MENAGERIE OF VERSAILLES

Madame Rosa

5 tons of high society! Madame Rosa is **a gracious elephant** who lives at the royal zoo. A gift to Louis XIV from the King of Portugal, Madame Rosa has a Portuguese accent and is critical of life in Versailles, constantly comparing it to the good old Iberian days.

Madame du Bec & Madame de Buc

2 ostrich groupies, Madame du Bec et Madame de Buc, accompany Madame Rosa wherever she goes and, of course, agree with everything she says!



And the others!

Because Versailles simply wouldn't be Versailles without the courtesans, foreign dignitaries, gardeners, valets, and servants! They are part of the scenery!





THE STORIES

Animal issues!

Unbeknownst to the humans living at the court of Versailles, their animal neighbors have great intrigues and adventures of their own! Belfort and Lupin don't care about saving the King; human issues don't interest them in the least!

That a troop of swans is unable to give its aquatic show in the fountains, however, or that Belfort's friend Gazette is homeless when the Queen's wig disappears, or that a young marmot is mysteriously taken from her home in the mountains and brought to the court, now those are issues that call Belfort and Lupin to action!

Belfort and Lupin are there to help animals in distress.



DID YOU KNOW?

Added educational value

Did you know that mice nested in the wigs of courtesans? That porters carried the King's chamber pot through the castle and gardens? That whistles were used to conserve water among the palace fountains? These historical facts are an integral part of the series and are woven into Belfort and Lupin's adventures. Viewers will learn interesting new facts about life in Versailles and that they can share with friends and family. Belfort and Lupin isn't a documentary, but a well-documented series.

At the end of each episode, a short segment (approximately 1 minute long) develops the historical elements present in the episode, placing them in their historical context. Archival material and a narrator give the segment a documentary feel.





SAMPLE PITCHES

Marmot on Ice

As a blazing hot sun descends upon Versailles, Belfort and Lupin meet a young marmot named Joran who was inadvertently delivered to court along with a load of ice the King ordered! She'll need the pooches' help to get back home to her family in the mountains. After several unsuccessful attempts, Belfort and Lupin realize that they have no choice but to melt all the ice in the icehouse under the cover of night! To these ends, our friends will need the assistance of Madame Rosa, the high-society elephant, who sleeps like a log.

Bucephale's Show

An important horse show is being prepared at the royal stables. Unfortunately, the king's horse Bucephale has insufferable leg pain that no one manages to soothe or heal! The poor horse will be kicked out of the stables and taken to the meadow. Belfort and Lupin do everything in their power to allow their friend to participate in the horse show and stay in the royal stables!

Ostriches On the Loose

The news that the royal hatmaker has plans to use ostrich feathers in his new design puts ostriches Madame Du Bec and Madame De Buc in a tizzy. What if this becomes a trend?! They would be plucked bald! Belfort and Lupin manage to calm the avian courtesans by offering to help. Their plan? Exfiltrating the ostriches from the royal menagerie and convincing the royal hatmaker to come up with a better design.



SAMPLE PITCHES

A stylized illustration of a room. On the left, a large window with a white frame looks out onto a bright, hazy landscape. To the right of the window, a painting in a gold frame hangs on the wall. Further right, a blue curtain with gold tassels is pulled back, revealing a glimpse of a room with a yellow wall and a pink object. The overall style is soft and painterly.

The Maze

Lupin dares Belfort's sisters to find their way out of the garden maze. According to legend, any animal that enters never returns! Even though his sisters aren't very nice, Belfort cannot simply sit by as Tane and Ponne get lost in the maze forever! He convinces Lupin to join the mission, which is no easy task. They'll have to find Belfort's sisters in the maze and get them out before nightfall.

Belfort, Elite Dog

The royal dogs are being put to a test before the king: they are to find a scented handkerchief hidden somewhere in the forest. This is a very bad news for Belfort who has no sense of smell! He is convinced that he'll lose his standing with the king and finish his days in a kennel! Lupin, whose sense of smell is legendary, gives his friend a crash course on sniffing, but to no avail: Belfort is hopeless! Lupin suggests that they cheat and that he finds the handkerchief for Belfort. But Belfort can't possibly accept such an arrangement.

Family Portrait

Louis XIV has commissioned a portrait of Diane and Belfort from the royal painter! But Tane and Ponne, Belfort's sisters, feel Belfort is unworthy of this honor ("he's useless as a dog") and will stop at nothing to keep him from posing. Seeing Belfort's devastation at disappointing not only his master but his mother, Lupin makes sure his friend gets in that portrait!



THE CREW



T. J. STEHLY

Showrunner

Screenwriter and script editor for several animation series (Calimero, Barbapapa, Abraca...) Teddy J. Stehly was born to a French father and a Gypsy mother. He grew up shared between two radically opposed worlds. Always fascinated by Versailles, it was during an umpteenth visit to the Palace that he noticed the presence of numerous animals in paintings and statues... He imagined "Belfort & Lupin" as a series combining both his passion for Versailles and the contrast of his family origins.



JUSTINE CUNHA

Artistic director

Justine has always been a big animation, comics and mangas fan. After a year of prep school at LI-SAA , two years of DMA (art diploma) at Sainte Genevieve and three years of studying CG at SUPINFOCOM , she finally starts to work in animation. She begins as a co-director for a TV show called Storytime, then decides to focus on character design in different animation studios. In 2018 she is contacted on social media by Carbone ; a comics scenarist. Together they created the trilogy « Through Lya's eyes » at Dupuis editions, the last volume came out in march 2021.



PHILIPPE VIDAL

Director

Philippe Vidal started his career with Ellipsanime in 1993 after leaving the Gobelins school of animation. He embarked on projects such as Babar and Tintin where he was in charge of the layout department. He then became a director from 1996 to these days, and is best known for directing "the Garfield show" (Dargaud Media/ Paws inc) from 2008 to 2014 and "Bobby and Bill" series (Dargaud Media) from 2014 to 2018 among many other shows. He also directed the "Becassine Movie" that was released in theaters in 2021.

VERSAILLES UNLEASHED



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