

Introduction to “INSIDE-OUTSIDE”

59 mn

Film written, shot and edited by
Emmanuel and Maximilien Berque

Emmanuel and Maximilien Berque are two totally untypical adventurers who were nurtured on photography and movies from their most tender age. They both studied science at the University, then Maximilien went into movies in Paris at the Ecole Louis Lumière rue de Vaugirard in the early 70s. In 1981, at the age of 31, they decided to *shoot an adventure movie* (cf. “We are going to shoot a movie!”, Chapter 9 of their autobiography “The mutineers of the sea”, Robert Laffont publishing house, 2001).

It will not be fiction. They prefer by far the force of reality.

Since they have always been surfers, the adventure will take place at sea.

For maximum originality and interest, they opt for a simple synopsis – filming an extraordinary crossing. Something *unique*, a record no one *has ever gone for or even dared imagine!*

The setting? The Atlantic Ocean!

The accessory? They will design and then build a sailboat, a thing of beauty and **all the more remarkable for being tiny**, in lovingly varnished wood .

They remember Roman Polanski and Fritz Lang in “Noz w wodzie” (The knife in the water) and “Life boat” respectively. Their movie references were Godard, Cassavetes and Andy Warhol: therefore the script would be a “happening” and the editing would be done in real time.

Art movies never carry a commercial label. They too would do without any sponsor or even producer in order to have the freedom to make a totally personal movie.

The shooting begins!

After studying astronomy very closely and designing their own boat-making software, they set a first record by crossing from France to Miami without any electronics on a 4 m long plain, old-fashioned sailing canoe, without any distress beacon, no radio, no motor and no lifeboat, in order to *relive the sensations of the first explorers of the sea early conquistadors*. They made a 32 mn film, “The twins from the sea” shown on Canal + in 1995 and wrote their first book, “The mutineers of the sea” (Robert Laffont), which they describe as the “picaresque and existential tribulations of two non-conformist individuals in search of freedom. It is as easy to read as a detective story!”

And the shooting continues...

Thanks to their copyrights fees, they designed and built a new boat, a 300 kg outrigger sailboat, the Micromégas 3 on which they once again crossed the ocean. But this time *without a compass, nor a watch, nor a sextant or GPS system, without a log or a radio,*

without a map, or a book or even a guide of the stars, to help them as they headed for the island of Désirade in Guadeloupe. With nothing but the stars to guide them.

To make their movie and despite the appallingly primitive living conditions on board their makeshift vessel, night and day they filmed relentlessly with their mini DV camera, they recorded the sound on a mini-disk, and systematically took photographs on the four boxes they took on board.

After 6000 km of sailing and in spite of some twenty very cloudy days, they landed exactly on the tiny island they had aimed for, *a truly unique achievement in the history of navigation!*

The rushes were finally in the box! They are now 53 years-old. They took care of the editing, all by themselves, in order not to be constrained by a production company nor any potential broadcaster.

Such is the story of their film “Inside-Outside”, a movie that seems very simple, but which in reality required over twenty years of studies, of work and a high level of risk taking for it to become a reality.

It is exceptional for more than one reason.

On the boat, the shooting itself was a true performance, carried out in less than 1.5 cubic meters and five square meters during 27 days!

“Inside-Outside” is definitely *not a documentary*. It is the movie of an extraordinary adventure, but it is above all an art movie. A drama that opens on the theme of memory, slowly enters the psychology of the twins alone in the middle of the ocean, in their tiny boat, with the stars above their heads, their ever-changing mood in line with the sky and the light, to end in the way of a dream...

One finds the famous three units of the classical play: *time, space and action*.

At the end of the movie, as if on board, the spectator scans the horizon to discover the island dreamt of, finding in a way the sensations of the *early adventurers*, like no other film had done before!

“**Inside-Outside**” (french title “Huis clos sous les étoiles”) is a pure work of art, and has the power of reality.

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