



origins

A T A L E O F L I G H T

directed by
Roman HILL

written by
Corentin DUVAL, David ELBAZ et Thomas CADÈNE

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password : iiko

Since the Big Bang, light is the source of all things.

This bold scientific assertion by astrophysicist David Elbaz reveals that light not only creates the Universe but also tells its story.

In a powerful visual spectacle crafted by Roman Hill, *Origins* is an scientific and poetic tale for all audiences, depicting the marvelous dance of light, the architect of the cosmos since the dawn of time.

Production: IKO / ARTE France

Duration: 58 min in 8 episodes

Contact: contact@i-k-o.fr

Viewership in Europe: 1.5m views (Youtube and arte.tv)

a tale of light

Origins is not a typical scientific documentary, it's a true tale, a cosmic story where light itself is the main protagonist and narrator. Light is given a voice to recount its journey across billions of years, from its explosive birth in the Big Bang to its role in crafting every star, planet, and form of life.

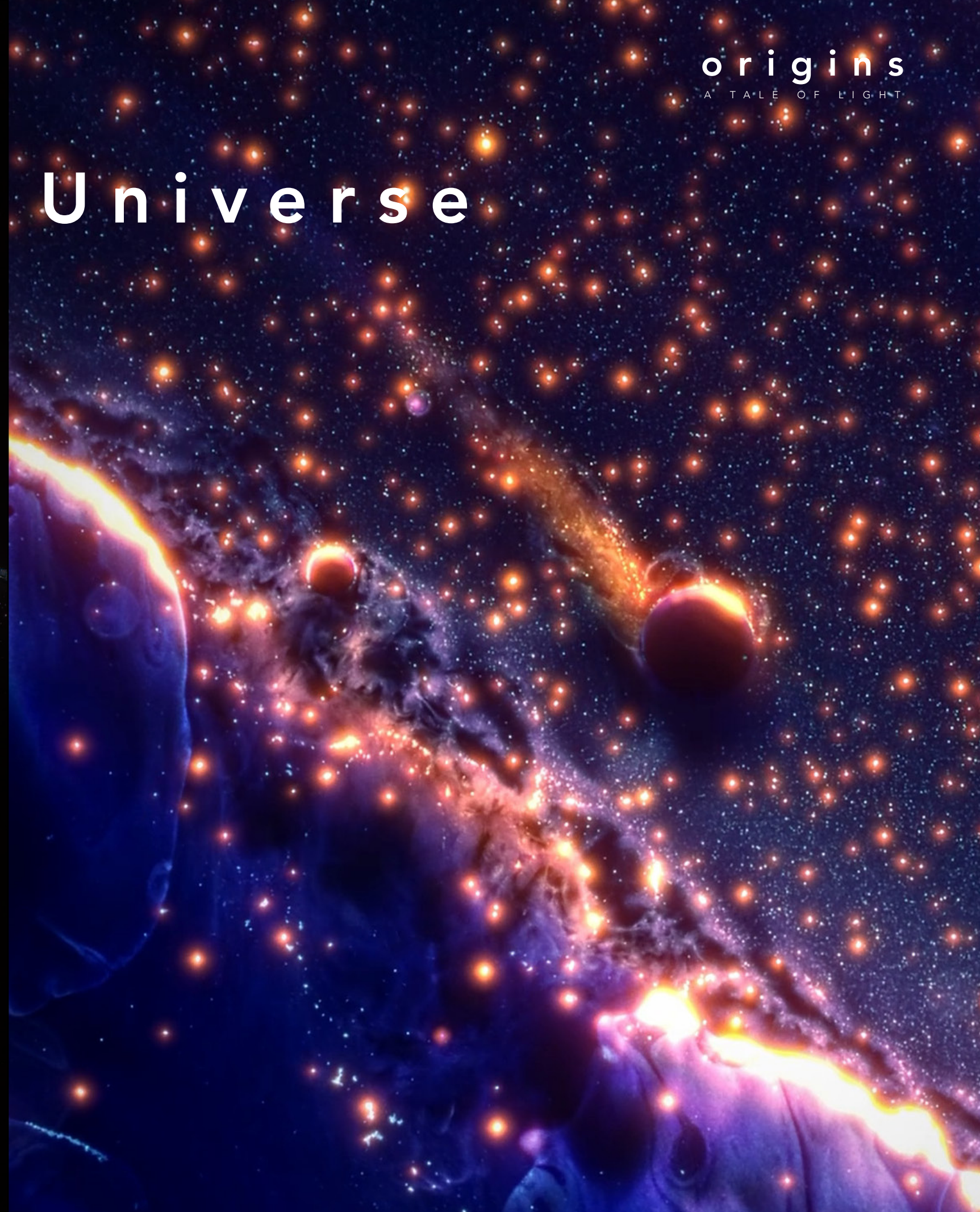
As both a storyteller and an active force shaping the universe, light embodies the essence of the tale, guiding viewers through the mysteries of the cosmos with a blend of wonder, science, and poetic exploration.

The narrative transforms complex astrophysical concepts into an accessible and deeply human story, where light's quest to proliferate and illuminate becomes a metaphor for the universe's own drive toward complexity and creation.

story of the Universe

Origins aims to tell the universe's story from the unique perspective of light itself. By giving light a voice, it transforms complex scientific concepts into an accessible and compelling tale that captures both the mind and imagination. Light becomes the protagonist, guiding us through its journey from the Big Bang to the end of time, revealing its role as both architect and narrator of the cosmos.

Inspired by the work of astrophysicist David Elbaz, this approach leverages his insights on light's fundamental role in structuring the universe. Elbaz's research shows that light not only illuminates but also shapes the cosmos, from stars and galaxies to life itself. By blending science with storytelling, *Origins* offers a fresh, poetic perspective on the universe, making the mysteries of the cosmos resonate with audiences in a way that is both scientifically rigorous and profoundly human.

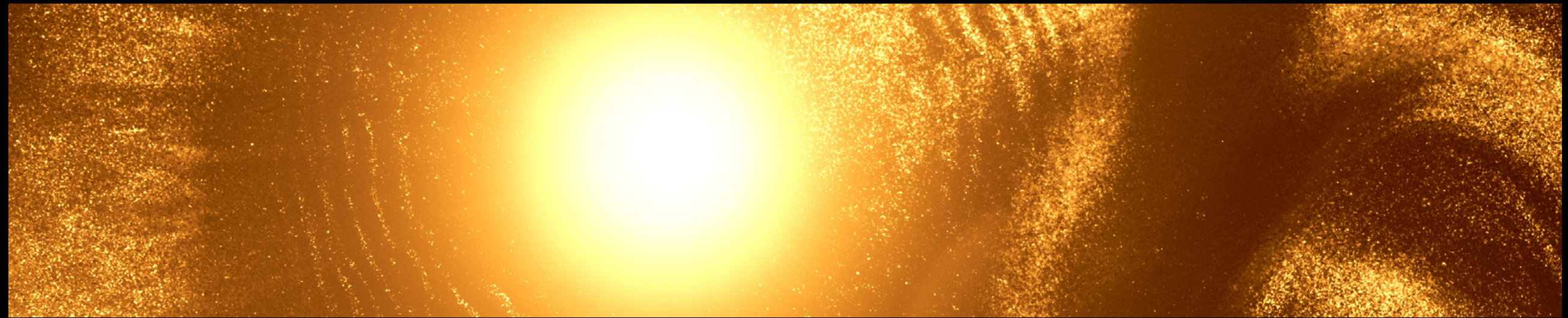


cosmic matter



Director Roman Hill brings the universe to life in *Origins* through his unique visual approach, transforming the unseen and the inaccessible into mesmerizing, poetic imagery.

Rather than using standard 3D animation, Hill employs innovative techniques like filming microscopic interactions with paint drops, ferrofluids, and other materials to evoke the textures and behaviors of cosmic matter. These organic images capture particles, nebulae, and black holes, allowing viewers to experience the raw, physical nature of the universe. Hill's craftsmanship produces images of extraordinary finesse, each frame is both an abstract artwork and a scientifically grounded representation. His ability to blend the abstract with reality gives *Origins* a unique aesthetic, immersing audiences in the beauty of space while staying scientifically accurate.



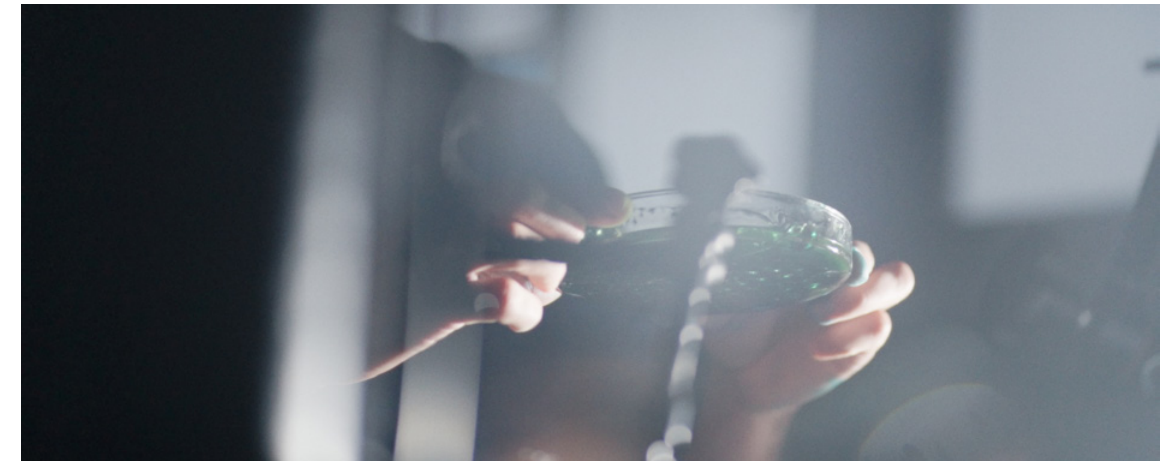
director



Roman HILL

Roman Hill is a French-American artist and director who explores microscopic worlds to illustrate the vastness of the universe and understand the origins of life. Working in his Paris studio, he focuses on abstract visual universes at microscopic scales. His unique approach has led him to collaborate on diverse projects, such as the film *Ma voix t'accompagnera* (2020), the immersive installation *Life and Chaos* (2019), and the exhibition *Illumination* (2021). He has also directed works like *As Above* (2020) and *Genesis* (2015), and contributed to the film *Whale Nation* (2022) and the project *Academia* (2018).

<https://vimeo.com/romanhill/showreel2020>



authors



David ELBAZ - Astrophysicist

David Elbaz is an astrophysicist and Scientific Director of the Astrophysics Department at CEA. He is also the editor-in-chief of Astronomy & Astrophysics and has advised ESA and CNES. Ranked among the top 1% of most-cited researchers globally (2020), he specializes in studying galaxy formation. He has won the Chrétien Prize of the American Society of Astronomy (2000) and the Jaffé Prize of the Académie des Sciences (2017). Committed to science outreach, he shares knowledge through conferences, books, and performances. His works include *In Search of the Invisible Universe* (2016) and *The Most Beautiful Trick of Light* (2021), both award-winning books.



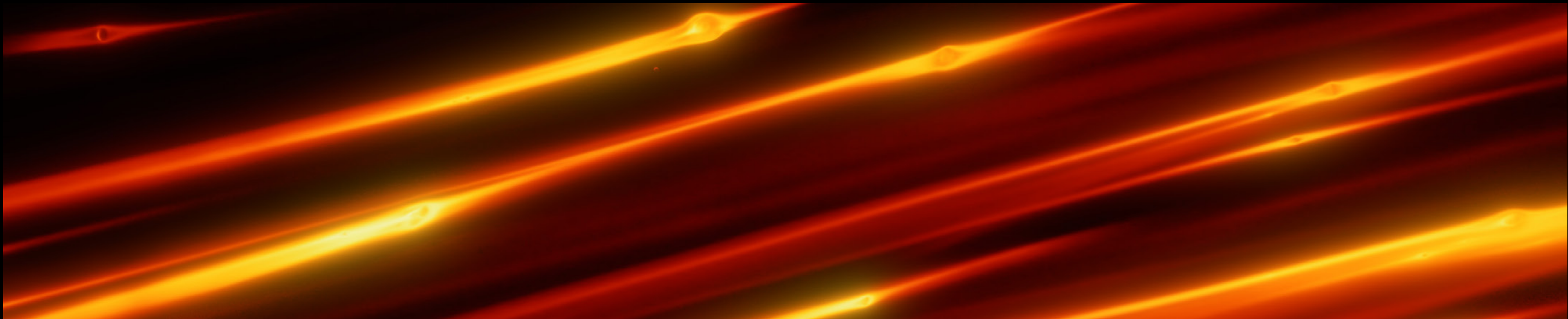
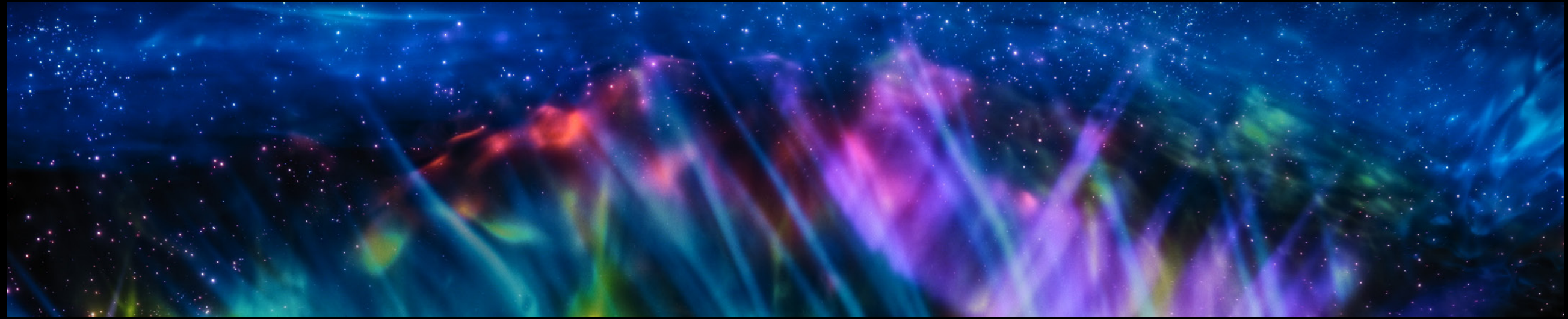
Thomas CADÈNE - screenwriter

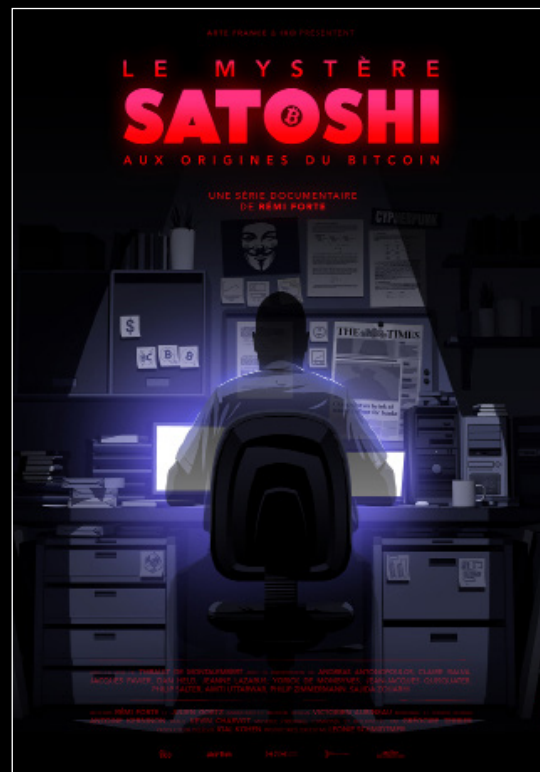
Thomas Cadène began his career as an illustrator but quickly transitioned to writing, focusing on comics. In 2009, with Sébastien Vassant, he co-founded a comic festival, and in 2010 launched *Les autres gens*, an online comic series with over 100 contributors, later published by Dupuis. He has since written numerous comics, including *Alt-Life*, *Soon*, and *BFF*. Cadène has expanded his work into various formats, including screenwriting for European broadcaster ARTE, co-creating on digital series for Arte, co-created *Été* for Instagram, and developed the TV and comic series *Fluide*. He writes for video games (*Unmaze*), works in journalism, and created the podcast *Roger Est Mort* in 2022.



Corentin DUVAL - screenwriter

Corentin Duval is a science journalist, author, and director, specializing in creating educational and documentary audiovisual content. He has worked in various production roles, contributing as an author and leading the artistic and editorial direction of several programs for french public broadcasters ARTE and France Télévisions. Corentin holds an engineering degree and a master's in Audiovisual, Journalism, and Science Communication from University Paris Diderot.





iko

IKO, founded in 2009, is a cutting-edge audiovisual and interactive production company dedicated to creating compelling stories that address the most pressing issues of today. Specializing in content designed for all screens - video games, virtual reality, documentaries, and fiction series - IKO delivers innovative and impactful experiences. Led by founder Igal Kohen, the company is a member of the prestigious Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris Network, PXN (the French association of independent new media producers), and Unifrance.

<http://i-k-o.fr>