

32  
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COLLECTIF



# LAKAY SE LAXAY

Un film d'Aurélien Vallotton & Célia Burnand

## LAKAY SE LAXAY

A Film by Aurélien Vallotton & Célia Burnand

Haïti - Switzerland  
2017 - 57 mins - color - 1.78  
French - Eng Subs - Dolby SR

### Contact

32 Dec - Collectif  
Ch. Riant-Pré 8  
1010 Lausanne  
Switzerland



Tel. +41 79 687 28 33  
aurelien.vallotton@32dec.ch

## SYNOPSIS

On January 12th 2010, an earthquake devastated the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, and its outskirts. Subsequently, some Haitians living abroad decided to return to live in their home country to engage in its reconstruction process.

What are the stakes of these returns?

At the intersection of search of identity and an ideology of development, this documentary question, through various life stories, return experiences and perceptions of Haitian returnees as well as their position in the development of their country.





## THE BEGINNING

At the beginning of the documentary there was Célia, a sociologist working in the field of migration and humanitarian affairs, who carried out an ethnographic fieldwork in Haiti on the return migrations of the Haitian diaspora after the earthquake of January 2010. Aurélien, film director and cameraman, joined this research. He filmed and recorded over 20 interviews. Upon returning from this first trip, the analysis of the interviews revealed contradictions and sensitivities from one protagonist to another. A dramaturgy emerged and gave Aurélien the idea to make a documentary was born.

Célia submitted her thesis in summer 2014 and Aurélien began to set out a documentary on the basis of these interviews. Two more trips were necessary to complete the interviews and make a film out of it.



## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

The use of qualitative methods for the interviews is the starting point for a critical reflection on the codes of TV documentaries. The following questions were therefore raised by Aurélien:

- How to film Haiti as a white westerner film director?
- How to film, and with which approach?
- How to make protagonists' discourse transparent to the montage manipulations?
- How to use voice-over, computer graphics, music, titling and chapters?

These considerations on the realization process have led to the implementation of specific rules to raise reflection on the content from the form.

Here are two examples:

### *Interviews*

The documentary is based on a sociological approach based on semi-structured that does not limit respondents to a set of pre-determined answers. This leaves the opportunity for the interviewer to explore particular themes or responses further. Speech thus is not orientated or directed but reappropriated by the interviewees. Consequently, it has been decided to edit these interviews in their authentic form, without cutaways and with jump-cuts so that the spectator sees the editorial inherent "manipulation".





*Voice-over and « canvases »*

The narrative is based on a Haitian voice-over. It was chosen not to play it under cutaways or scenes of Haitian life to avoid a feeling of "comment". This voiceover is thus placed only on top of canvases, specially stitched for the film: both canvases and voice-over are complementary. Moreover, complementarity and symbolism between image and voice have been created to avoid redundancy. These canvases also make it possible to obtain, with singularity and aesthetics, a real continuity over the entire film.

They spoke about their return migration experience

**Natalie Desrosières**  
Architect



**Yonel Fleurissant**  
Rural development service provider



**Damien François**  
Teacher, Development service provider



**Joane Matthey**  
Founder of the brand « Vèvè Ayiti »



**Lesly Jr Etienne**  
Engineer



They spoke about return migration perception

**Dr. Francis Saint-Hubert**  
Specialist in Haiti to U.S migrations



**Dany Laferrière**  
Member of the Académie Française



**Damien François**  
Sociologist



**Prof. Louis Délima Chéry**  
Head of Faculty for Educational Sciences



**François Guillaume II**  
Minister for Haitian Living Abroad



## AURÉLIEN VALLOTTON

Film Director

Born in 1989 (27 years old) in Lausanne (CH) Aurélien Vallotton attended the preparatory year of the Ecole de Photographie in Vevey and then entered the Geneva Film School, where he obtained a diploma in Film Direction in 2010. In 2011, he was hired by the regional television "La Télé", first as a cameraman and then as a director. In 2013, he joined the Swiss National Television (RTS) as a cameraman on a part-time basis, enabling him to continue his career as a television director, as consultant or as film director for his first documentary project: LAKAY SE LAKAY.



## CÉLIA BURNAND

Sociologist

Born in 1990 (26 years old) in Lausanne (CH), Célia Burnand went for the first time in Haiti in 2008. She gained interested in Haitian history, culture and society while she studied History at University of Lausanne and Sociology of migrations at University of Amsterdam where she dedicated her thesis on return migration of Haitian diaspora after the earthquake of 2010. For her fieldwork, she's going to Haiti with Aurélien Vallotton, film director and childhood friend, who filmed the interviews. That's how the documentary LAKAY SE LAKAY was created.





## CREW

Directed by	Aurélien Vallotton
Research and Interviews	Célia Burnand
Assistant Director	Ricardson Angrand
Logistics Port-au-Prince	Marie-Dieulène Alouidor
	Libonet Fénéus
Logistics Desarmes	Céline Nerestant
	Wedson Nerestant
Project follow-up	Jaques Favre
Director of Photo. (canvas)	David Klaus
Narration	Katiana Milfort
Music	Aurélien Vallotton
	Zach Rüegg
	Libonet Fénéus
Post-production manager	David Klaus
Montage	Aurélien Vallotton
Sound Mixer	Frédéric Piccand
Sound restoration	Francine Margot
Graphics	Aurélien Vallotton