



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION
SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

A FILM BY

NGUYỄN THIÊN ÂN

THE DREAM IS A SNAIL

GIẤC MƠ LÀ ỐC SÊN

This film is supported by CJ SHORT FILMMAKING SUPPORT PROJECT IN VIETNAM
in association with COMMAND+ART a KONTRIBUTE production "THE DREAM IS A SNAIL"

starring LÊ ANH TUẤN, NGUYỄN ĐỨC MẠNH, NSUT PHI ĐIỀU, TRẦN KỶ ANH

produced by THẢO QUIẾNGG, BAO NGUYEN, ANDERSON LE cinematography by CHANANUN CHOTRUNGROJ production designer KI NGUYEN line producers TRUC NG - THỤC MAI

first assistant director LÊ PHƯƠNG second assistant directors TỬ TSÀN - HIẾU NGUYỄN gaffer THÁI CƯỜNG sound post production SIGON SOUND

costume designer BẾ LỚN hair & makeup BIA HUYỀN edited by TẠO ĐỒ written and directed by NGUYỄN THIÊN ÂN



KONTRIBUTE



EQUATORIAL



A struggling young artist takes an odd job as a human racetrack in a senior rejuvenation workshop, only to develop an obsession with the hypnotic sensation of snails gliding across his skin.



SYNOPSIS

Huy, a struggling background actor, lands an odd gig at a senior rejuvenation workshop where snails race across his body. Briefly transformed into an unlikely attraction, he's soon replaced by a more appealing performer. Unable to forget the feeling of being seen, Huy spirals into obsession, returning to reclaim that fleeting validation. *THE DREAM IS A SNAIL* explores longing, spectacle, and the thin line between vulnerability and performance.



Director Thien An Nguyen

Born on June 28th 1998 in Ho Chi Minh city (VIETNAM)

Thien An Nguyen is a Vietnamese filmmaker working at the intersection of fiction and reality. A self-taught director with a background in music videos, commercials, and documentaries. His films offer a satirical lens on society, where drama stems from social paradoxes and challenges, engaging the audience with a humorous tone.

His latest short, "The Dream is a Snail", developed through the CJ Short Film Project in 2025, world premieres in competition at the 79th Cannes Film Festival, marking his emergence on the international stage.

Director's Filmography

2026: GIAC MO LA OC SEN (THE DREAM IS A SNAIL) - fiction - 15'
2025: PHONG THU BI MAT (THE UNSEEN STUDIO) - non-fiction - 30'
2023: RÔ BÔ (MY DAD IS A ROBO) - fiction - 11'



Trailer / Press Kit

Director's statement

While the youth are still adrift, the snails, at the very least, know exactly how to latch firmly onto the male models' nipples!

Vietnam is on the fastest track of development in Southeast Asia right now, which has unintentionally thrown a whole generation of young people into a whirlwind of rapid change. Naturally, while the upper classes monopolize the resources, the masses have no choice but to go with the flow of being pushed around. As a result, they find themselves in an era of blurred concepts and society offers no real values to hold onto, so these young people just turn to chasing short-term pleasures.

Rather than approaching this through conventional social critique, I wanted to evoke a quiet sense of unease, reflecting a deceptive and disorienting era by constructing a bleak, near-future world shaped by an absurd, postmodern aesthetic. The goal is to allow the audience to observe a world operating on its own bizarre principles, yet one that remains inextricably linked to the broader canvas of our reality.

THE DREAM IS A SNAIL seeks to resonate with an era where people are trapped in roles they must play out to the end, and play flawlessly, while desperately struggling to find the scarce remnants of authenticity left within themselves.

Fiche technique / Technical data

International Title: **THE DREAM IS A SNAIL**
Original Title: **GIẤC MƠ LÀ ỐC SÊN**
French Title: **LE RÊVE EST UN ESCARGOT**

Vietnam / South Korea – 2026 - 15m - Couleur - 1.76 - Dolby 7.1
Vietnam / South Korea – 2026 - 15m - Color - 1.76 - Dolby 7.1

Tournage Ho Chi Minh Ville, Vietnam - Arri 35 - Alexa Mini
Shooting Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam - Arri 35 - Alexa Mini

Scénario et réalisation / Written and directed **Producteurs délégué / Producers**

Directrice de la photographie / Cinematographer
Premier assistant réalisateur / First assistant director
Monteur image / Film editor
Monteur son / Sound editor
Costumier & maquilleur / Costume & make-up

Productrices exécutives / Line producers

Chefs décorateurs / Production Designer
Co-scénariste / Co-writer
Coproducteur / Co producer

Producteurs associé / Associate Producers

Thien An Nguyen
Thảo Quiêngg
Bao Nguyen
Anderson Le
Chananun Chotrungroj
Lê Phương
Tao Do
Vũ Thành Long
Bé Lớn
Bia Huyền
Truc Ng
Thục Mai
Kì Nguyen
Ly Nguyen
Chananun Chotrungroj
Kha Bảo
Ha Anh
Command+Art
Equatorial Ho Chi Minh City
KAT House

Avec le soutien de / Supported by

CJ Short Filmmaking Support Program in Vietnam
CGV Vietnam
CJ Culture Foundation
L'Institut français du Vietnam

Fiche artistique / Cast

L'Artiste Escargot / The Snail artist
Le Programmateur / The Curator
La vieille dame / The old lady
La Fille Tomate / The Tomato girl

Tuan Anh LE
Duc Manh NGUYEN
Phi Dieu NGUYEN
Ky Anh TRAN

Contacts

THIEN AN NGUYEN

Director

T +84 934 090 699

E thienanvn1412@gmail.com

IG @ancomnieu

THAO QUIENGG

Producer

E quiengg@kontribute.tv

Production Companies

KONTRIBUTE STUDIO

E production@kontribute.tv

Command+Art

E contact@command.art

EAST Films | INT'L CONTACT

E anderson.le@east-films.com