



## What if Babel was just a Myth?

**Author/Director: Sandrine Loncke**

Producer: Sandrine Loncke

Country: France

Length: 56'

On the banks of the Moyen-Chari River, in Southern Chad, young linguist Florian Lionnet is documenting Láàl, a language isolate only spoken in two small villages, which is threatened of disappearing in the short to medium term.

For the time being, however, people in this part of the world commonly speak in between five and seven languages, each small society preferring to retain its linguistic identity, even if it means having to learn the many languages of its neighbours. Could it be that multilingualism is the 'natural' state of humanity? And for how much longer?

According to the UN, one language dies every fortnight. What are we actually losing with the death of those little languages?

Awards: Roma Prisma Independent Film Awards - Finalist "Best Feature Documentary" /  
Festival International du film chamanique, Sarlat - Prix du public /  
Awareness Film Festival, Los Angeles, US - Awareness 2020 Merit Award /  
Pärnu Film Festival, Pärnu, Estonie - Best Scientific Doc Award /  
International Festival of Ethnological Film, Belgrade, Serbie - Grand Prix Dragoslav Antonijević /  
#LabMeCrazy! Science Film Festival, Pampelune, Espagne - Finalist 'Best University Film' /  
Festival Curieux Voyageurs, Saint-Étienne - Prix Spécial du Jury /  
RAM Film Festival, Rovereto, Italie - Special Mention CinemA.Mo.Re /  
Espiello. Festival Internacional de Documental Etnográfico de Sobrarbe, Boltaña, Espagne - Guillermo Zúñiga ASECIC Prize /

Festivals:

Cinéma du Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, Paris, France, 2019 /  
Babel Film Festival (Cagliari, Italy), 2019 /  
Curieux Voyageurs, Saint-Étienne /  
Festival Ethnografilm, Paris /  
Intima Lente/Intimate Lens, Caserta, Italie /  
Institut Français au Tchad, N'Djamena /  
Festival International du Film Ethnographique du Québec, Montréal, Canada /  
Academia Film Olomouc (hors compétition), République tchèque /  
Conférence internationale « Langues minoritaires vocales ou signées & Espaces inclusifs », Paris /  
Raw Science Film Festival, Los Angeles, US /  
Festival Internacional de Cine del Cono SUR, Valparaiso, Chili /  
SCINEMA International Science Film Festival, Royal Institution of Australia /  
Conférence Internationale de la "Foundation for Endangered Languages", University College de Londres, RU /  
Tagore International Film Festival, Bolpur, Inde (Monthly Award Winner for the 'Best Documentary Film') /  
International Festival of Ethnological Film, Belgrade, Serbie /  
40è NAFA International Ethnographic Film Festival, Lisbonne, Portugal /  
#LabMeCrazy! Science Film Festival, Pampelune, Espagne /  
Awareness Film Festival, Los Angeles, US (Awareness 2020 Merit Award) /  
34è Pärnu Film Festival, Pärnu, Estonie /  
Festival Partances, Toulouse /  
Festival Findecoin, Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela /

7th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation,  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa /  
10è ACAMPADOC, Panama /  
Out of Africa International Film Festival, Nairobi, Kenya /  
Nuit européenne des chercheurs.es 2021, Saint-Etienne /  
RAM Film Festival, Rovereto, Italie /  
Festival Peuples et Musiques au Cinéma, Toulouse /  
Quetzalcoatl Indigenous International Film Festival, Mexico /  
World Film Carnival, Singapore / Festival Partances, Toulouse /  
16th Archaeology Channel International Film Festival, Eugene, Oregon, USA /

Espiello. Festival Internacional de Documental Etnográfico de Sobrarbe,  
Boltaña, Espagne /  
Festival Anako, Loudun, France /  
Cinematic European Film Festival, Bania, Roumanie /  
Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival, Seattle WA, USA.

Original version: French, Laal, Bua, Chadian Arabic, Bagirmi, Secret initiation  
language

Versions available:

French version

English version

Credits:

Author Director: Sandrine Loncke. photography: Charlotte Krebs, Sandrine  
Loncke . editing: Romain Grésillon . music: Sory Kandia Kouyaté, Oumou  
Sangaré, Badjé Makan Tounkara

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