

LES ENGAGÉS (WOKE): **A FRENCH LGBT SERIES NOW AVAILABLE ON** **AMAZON PRIME VIDEO**

***Les Engagés* – titled *Woke* internationally – is a French short format series about the abundant, colorful world and the everyday life of several engaging and passionate activists who run a Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Center in Lyon, France.**

Developed for Studio 4, the digital series division of French public broadcaster *France Télévisions*, *Les Engagés (Woke)* premiered in France to great critical acclaim on May 17, 2017 (International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia).

Les Engagés (Woke) was the first LGBT series ever produced by a French national broadcaster. It also broke ground for having a gay Muslim character as the lead.

**The complete first season – 10 x 10 mn – is now available to stream
in the US and the UK on Amazon Prime Video.**

There is no anticipating the breaking point. **Hicham Alaoui** (Mehdi Meskar) suddenly decides to run away from his unsuspecting family, leaving behind the teenager bedroom where he spent the first 22 years of his life. He goes to Lyon, looking for the only gay man he knows: **Thibaut Giaccherini** (Éric Pucheu), 28, an LGBT activist. A few years before Thibaut had tried to kiss Hicham, who responded with a punch in the face.

Now, Hicham is ready. Thibaut becomes a role model in his quest to find his own personal, sexual and political identity. Hicham admires his fights. He's fascinated by his abundant and politically engaged world. He's envious of his apparent strength... But, as he learns to know him better, Hicham sees more of Thibaut's faults and contradictions. This strength is a mask. To keep it on, Thibaut can swerve perilously. Hicham comes to realize he must trace his own path.

Les Engagés (Woke) has been selected in numerous TV, web and LGBT festivals (*HollyWeb* 2018, *Paris Courts Devant* 2017, *SerienCamp* 2017 in Munich, among many others). It won **best digital series** at the *La Rochelle TV Fiction festival* (one of the biggest TV festivals in France); **best series, best writing** and **best actor – Mehdi Meskar** at the *French-speaking webseries festival (FFW)*, and **best LGBT series** at the *2017 UK Web Fest*.

Resources:

- Amazon Prime Video links:

US: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B07BCM2ZZB/>

UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/video/detail/B07BCM8TN3>

- Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nromyfTpxxw>

- Credits:

A series created, developed and written by Sullivan Le Postec.

Directed by Jules Thénier and Maxime Potherat.

Produced by Sophie Deloche and Baptiste Rinaldi.

Starring: **Mehdi Meskar** (Hicham Alaoui) and **Éric Pucheu** (Thibaut Giaccherini).

Also starring: **Denis D’Arcangelo** (Claude Favre), **Nanou Harry** (Nadjet Alaoui), **Claudine Charreyre** (Murielle Leko), **Franck Fargier** (Amaury Mercœur), **Claudius Pan** (Bastien Lijepo), **Pierre Cachia** (Mickaël), **François-Xavier Phan** (Liao), **Romain Ogerau** (Laurent), **Anaïs Fabre** (Rose).

An Astharté & Compagnie and France Télévisions coproduction. With participation from TV5 Monde. With support from Centre National de la Cinématographie et de l’image animée, Fonds Images de la Diversité (Commissariat à l’égalité des territoires and CNC), Région Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, and ADAMI.

- IMDb:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6472922/>

- About series creator Sullivan Le Postec

For more than ten years, Sullivan Le Postec wrote about TV series as a journalist, in French magazines or on the web. He then began the transition to become a TV writer himself, penning episodes for a couple of French series. After that, he spent a year in Berlin and graduated from Serial Eyes, Europe's premier postgraduate training programme for television writers and producers. Thanks to Serial Eyes, he got to learn from mentors such as Frank Spotnitz, Jeff Bell, Channing Dungey or Julian Fellowes.

Les Engagés (Woke) is the first series he created, a passion project he started developing in 2010! The second season is currently in preproduction. "Through the series, I raise questions about activism that obsess me," says Sullivan. "I used to be an activist, I'm not really anymore. I feel that activism has maybe never been needed more than today, but also that it's an impossible, unbearable life. There's this great paradox. Everyone aspires to be himself, which is perfectly legitimate. But how do you

reconcile that with the building of a collective action, which is necessary to move things forward? This is what Thibault and Hicham show: we need Thibault's radicalism and combativity to meet Hicham's empathy and humanity. We need these two characters to talk to each other and work together".

- **About Mehdi Meskar**

Mehdi Meskar is an up and coming French actor. Mehdi speaks five languages (French, Italian, English, Arabic and German) and works not only in France, but across all Europe. He recently completed in Croatia and Holland the shooting of the movie *Rafaël* directed by Academy Award Nominee Director Ben Sombogaart.

"Hicham carries with him all the battles one may have to fight to do what he really wants," says Mehdi of his role. "He is a very contained person - someone who has been conditioned by society to contain himself. But there is also explosiveness in him. Juggling between the two was pretty interesting".

- **About Éric Pucheu**

Éric Pucheu is an accomplished stage actor, currently starring every night on Parisian stage sensation *Edmond*, from writer director Alexis Michalik. After several appearances in film and television, most notably on *Tuer un homme*, *Les Engagés* (*Woke*) is a break through role.

Of Thibaut, Éric says *"I was initially attracted to the ferocity of his commitment. I wanted to defend this tortured figure who, if he is not devoid of sincerity, hides behind his activism".*

Contact

We are available for any questions, or maybe to set-up email or Skype interviews.

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