



futuroscope

THE POWER OF ATTRACTION

CHASSEURS DE TORNADES



PRESS KIT



THEA AWARD

Parc du Futuroscope has won the world entertainment industry's highest award.

With **six European awards** to its name already, Futuroscope's latest show, Chasseurs de Tornades, has now received the industry prize for the World's Best Attraction: the much coveted "**Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement**"!

The decision to reward the artistic and technical excellence and the innovation that went into the attraction was taken by a jury of professionals from the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA). Futuroscope was chosen from among 300 entries that included theme park giants from around the world. Following the announcement of the winners at the IAAPA Expo in Orlando, Florida, **the Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement** will be officially presented to the teams from Futuroscope on **the 15th April 2023**, at the 29th annual Thea Awards ceremony **in Los Angeles**.

The jury has already hailed the bold development of a film that blends real and virtual images and integrates them with a next-level technological system to produce a thrill ride for the whole family.

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SUMMARY

THE WEATHER FORECAST FOR FUTUROSCOPE

Tornado warning !

In July 2022, Futuroscope opened its **dynamic new family-friendly attraction** "Chasseurs de Tornades", which is inspired by great, extreme adventures that pitch man against the natural elements. Visitors join weather scientist Mélanie Melville and tornado chaser Alex Faure as they head off on a mission to use their ultra-powerful probe **TrombX** to stop a tornado that is about to devastate the town of Poitiers! The revolutionary technological system combines with the highly immersive dramatisation to send Futuroscope's visitors hurtling into the heart of a tornado, where they will feel the thrill of riding in the centre of an event that is as fascinating as it is unpredictable!

A world first immersive whirlwind of technologies

Futuroscope has always excelled at finding new technical and technological innovations that bring immersive experiences to its visitors.

The 120-seat dynamic platform from Canadian firm Dynamic Attractions will make visitors feel like they have been swept up by the tornado and leave them flabbergasted!

At 21 million euros, Chasseurs de Tornades is Futuroscope's biggest ever investment, and a demonstration of its teams' full technical, design and artistic expertise. Futuroscope follows on from "Destination Mars" and "Dances with Robots" by continuing to create thrill-filled attractions that deliver wonder, laughter and entertainment for all the family (min. height 1.05 m)!



RATCHETING UP THE STORY
IN 3 STEPS

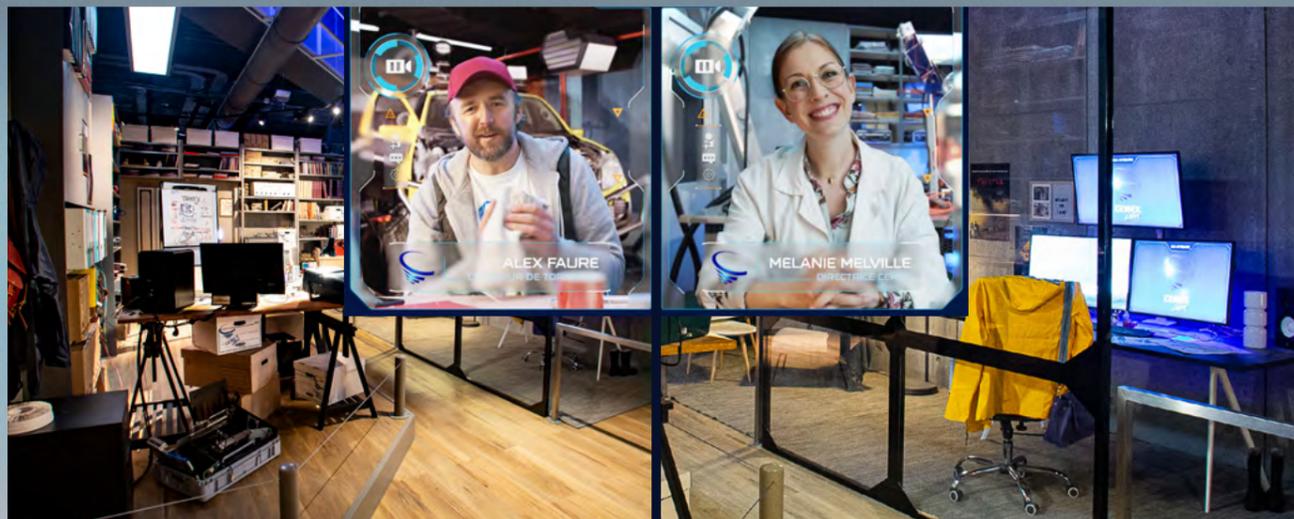
1 THE CALM BEFORE THE TORNADO ...

Open day at the Extreme Weather Observation Centre!

The growing public appeal of science tourism has persuaded Futuroscope to open the doors of its hitherto secret **Extreme Weather Observation Centre** to visitors. Scientist and Director of the Centre **Mélanie Melville** and tornado chaser **Alex Faure**, whose jobs are to monitor the formation of tornadoes near Futuroscope, are hard at work! Open days like this are an opportunity

for them to introduce **TrombX**, a prototype probe they have developed to be placed inside a tornado and annihilate it from the inside. TrombX will be launched into the tornado by **Bully**, the **rigged-up vehicle** they have designed for exactly that purpose. But as they are calmly presenting their system, a Doppler radar detects a violent tornado closing in...

The walkthrough tour of the Extreme Weather Observation Centre features a series of sets that recreate Alex's and Mélanie's workplaces.



1/ Mélanie's and Alex's offices

Here are two work atmospheres that neatly reflect their individual characters. Mélanie's office is tidy, orderly, with everything in its place. In Alex's, however, disorder rules, with papers strewn across his desk and notes left lying around...



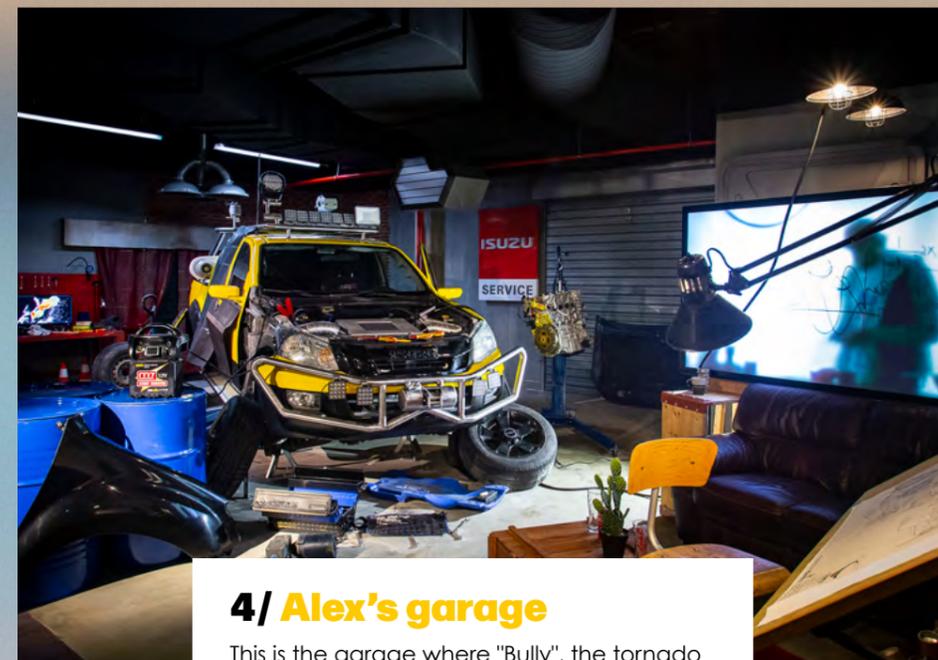
2/ The tornado simulator

This laboratory is equipped with an enormous glass tube, and is where Mélanie and Alex attempt to generate and study air flows and tornadoes of different intensities. The simulator lets them perform scaled experiments to find new ways of controlling tornadoes, including the TrombX probe.



3/ Mélanie's workshop

Visitors watch as Mélanie sets up and programs TrombX. At the moment, she is having technical issues charging up the probe...



4/ Alex's garage

This is the garage where "Bully", the tornado chaser's special pickup truck, is kept. Bully has a super-powered electric engine that can take it to breathtaking speeds, and is fitted with Venturi technology that keeps it on the ground at top speed despite the fierce winds.



5/ Tornado monitoring HQ

This last part of the centre is dedicated to tracking tornadoes. A video-mapping table displays a radar map covering a 10 km radius around Futuroscope, with rain shown moving towards the Park in real time.

RATCHETING UP THE STORY
IN 3 STEPS

TORNADO WARNING IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE !

The visit continues with the conference room, for the official unveiling of **TrombX and Bully**. Alex and Mélanie appear virtually on stage in a holographic laboratory, and each gives a presentation on the progress of their technological research.

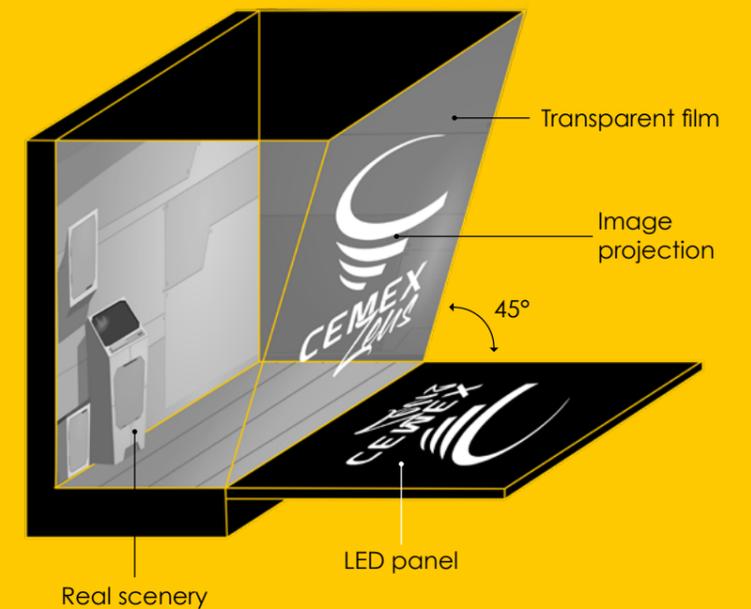
Alex then leaves the laboratory and reappears on stage in person, where he delivers a miniature simulation of an F5 tornado. All of a sudden, the Doppler radar detects an F3 tornado headed straight for Futuroscope! All visitors must now join Alex and Mélanie inside a safe room.



VIBRATING FLOOR

Visitors watch the TrombX presentation on a vibrating floor with a shuddering sub-bass sound output that simulates the rumbling tornado.

HOLOGRAPHIC THEATRE



The theatre uses "Pepper's Ghost", a technique that reflects images created by LED panels in the stage floor onto a transparent film placed at a 45° angle. The angle of the reflected images on the film makes them appear horizontally at first, then vertically, and, in *Chasseurs de Tornades*, in the middle of a laboratory set. With this technique, fictitious characters can be inserted into real scenery.

REDUCED-SCALE SIMULATION OF A TORNADO

A tornado is created on the stage using water-based smoke (**low fog**) that is released from the floor and suctioned upwards against a cross-wind.

RATCHETING UP THE STORY
IN 3 STEPS

OFF WE GO WITH THE TORNADO HUNTERS!

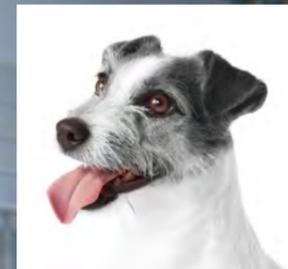
Although Mélanie and Alex do intend to get the visitors to safety first, they also have something else in mind: **get in their pickup truck** and take the visitors along for the ride as they chase the tornado and test TrombX by launching it into the belly of the climatic beast that threatens Futuroscope.

Visitors are strapped into a **dynamic rotating platform surrounded by an 8-metre-high cylindrical screen** that shows the ultra-realistic images of an unimaginable experience face-to-face with **the full force of a powerful tornado**.

As they are swept up in the realism of the adventure taking place all around them, surprised by the screens that retract at certain points to reveal stages where the ride segues from virtual reality to live action, the visitors are totally immersed in the scenes.

As they are rocked and hustled every which way by the billowing winds, dazzled by the lightning flashing across the turbulent skies above Futuroscope, **they speed after tornado-chasing duo Melanie and Alex**, who are determined to put an end to the tornado. And that means facing all the same dangers, with debris thrown up by the tornado turning into projectiles, other vehicles driving or sitting wrecked on the dual carriageway next to Futuroscope, not forgetting the explosions, fire and accelerating platform...

DID YOU KNOW ?



The cast of *Chasseurs de Tornades* includes a dog! The charmingly named Monette, to give her her real name, has also featured in adverts for Virbac and Pedigree, and plays J'accuse alongside Omar Sy in the Netflix series *Lupin*.

THE LARGEST INDOOR CYLINDRICAL LED SCREEN IN THE WORLD

360° immersion in a cinematic and live-performance adventure !

Visitors are wrapped within the outstandingly high quality images by a **17-metre-diameter by 8-metre-high cylindrical screen** that surrounds the rotating platform. The 420 m² screen surface uses 800 LED files to bring visitors pictures of very high quality.

At 11 metres in diameter, the purpose-built 120-seat platform can rotate and move along 3 axes with a 1-metre amplitude. Nine drive units rotate the platform, and six drive units provide the dynamic motion with the help of hydraulic jacks. The platform can rise, drop and tilt while rotating (7 seconds for 1 full turn) at a tangential speed of up to 30 km/h!



The scenario dreamt up by Futuroscope includes live scenes, so the project designers devised an all-new mechanical system that slides four sections of the screen into the ground at specific moments: one section lets viewers in and another lets them out of the cylinder, while the other two open into real scenery featuring real actors.

The result is a virtual adventure that merges with live action for added immersive effect.

RATCHETING UP THE STORY IN 3 STEPS

A BLOCKBUSTER OF UNPRECEDENTED IMAGE QUALITY

Putting together a non-standard technological system that offers brand new, original content is now a trademark of Futuroscope.

A mix of real and virtual images "made by Futuroscope"

Futuroscope's creative teams joined the immersive-experience film specialists at 5 Motion to script the scenario for Chasseurs de Tornades and produce a spectacular action film that combines real-life images with computer-generated special effects from Digital District.

The special format used to film the images in Chasseurs de Tornades involved around forty people at a studio in Aubervilliers, Paris. The scenes with actors used a range of technologies (wind machines, wiring,...) worthy of a blockbuster movie.

The ultimate image and sound experience

The images in Chasseurs de Tornades are delivered by LED tiles in 21K format, with a quality that far surpasses the 4K resolution defined as Ultra HD. This very high resolution produces hyper-realistic images that reveal the slightest detail in outstanding sharpness, and deliver an exceptionally vivid brightness in an infinite range of colours to give visitors to Futuroscope the ultimate immersive image experience.

Futuroscope chose the next-gen L-ISA 18.1 immersive sound system from L-Acoustics to ramp up the film's immersive feel even more and add cutting-edge realism to the sound experience.

System overview

- 120-seat, jack-mounted, 3-axis rotating dynamic platform that lifts, drops, tilts and rotates visitors through the action.
- Rotational speed up to 30 km/h, gentle reversing action.
- LED circular screen around the platform, measuring 17 metres in diameter by 8 metres high for a projection surface of 420 m².
- Two large, sliding screen sections that descend through the floor to transition into two live-action scenes.
- Powerful wind effects from 40 ceiling-mounted fans.
- Heavy smoke and spark pyrotechnics.
- Cloud-generating smoke effects.
- Moving scenery.
- Real, moving 4x4 ISUZU vehicle on stage.
- L-ISA 18.1 sound system from L-Acoustic.



Chasseurs de Tornades, 1st delivery of the "Vision 2025" attractions

On the 12th October 2020, Futuroscope signed off the "Vision 2025" project that presented plans to build 3 major attractions in 5 years, and expand the Park with a resort consisting of two theme hotels along with an experiential restaurant and a waterpark, all linked to a bustling plaza.

Two years later, the new Chasseurs de Tornades attraction, Station Cosmos hotel and Space Loop rollercoaster restaurant have already been added to the Futuroscope landscape.

And this is just the start of a new chapter in our story...



FRENCH TALENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

To make their vision reality, the designers behind *Chasseurs de Tornades* brought in some of the most renowned, highly specialised technical expertise in France and worldwide.

FILM & MEDIA

Director: François-Xavier AUBAGUE

Production: 5 Motion

Original score: Benjamin Ribolet

Executive production: Apaches Production

CGI/ Special effects: Digital District

BUILDING

Extension architect: Sindou Faurie Planson & Associés

Special effects: Crystal Group

Scenery motion systems: Ingeliance

Effects lead: FMD (Futuroscope Maintenance & Développement)

Project management: Rémi CODRON & Adrien RABAT

Artistic director: Futuroscope creative team

Scenery: Raphaël Daguet/AAB

PLATFORM CREATION: DYNAMIC ATTRACTIONS

Dynamic Attractions is a high-tech ride manufacturer from Canada that specializes in 'never-done-before' attractions. Before building rides, it became famous for engineering the world's largest telescopes. The company also helped build L'Extraordinaire Voyage at Futuroscope.

« Futuroscope's imaginative park inspires guests. Likewise, its brilliant team dared us to create what previously had been impossible »

states Guy Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, Dynamic Attractions.

You won't find any of the attractions at Futuroscope anywhere else in the world. From ideas to completion, Futuroscope turns to the know-how and expertise of three in-house teams:

THE CREATIVE TEAM

The team led by **Olivier HÉRAL** comes up with new immersive experience concepts, the narrative content and set design, manages the media, creates the graphics displays and style, and oversees the artistic processes at each stage of the project.

THE PROJECTS TEAM

The team led by **Elodie ARNAUD** is made up of building operations engineers, project managers who can oversee eight projects at a time and manage every stage in the construction of an attraction, restaurant and hotel, from design to delivery.

THE FMD TEAM

FMD is a Futuroscope subsidiary managed by **Thierry PIRODEAU**. The team is made up of technicians who specialise in devising the audiovisual content, customised special effects, and electro-mechanical systems that are used to create Futuroscope's technical innovations.

KEY FIGURES

CIRCULAR LED SCREEN



420 m²

viewing area

(17 m in diameter by 8 m high)

PLATFORM CAPACITY



120 seats
900 riders/hour

POWERFUL WIND EFFECTS



40 roof-mounted fans

PLATFORM SPEED



30 km/h
(gentle reversing)

BUDGET



21 millions euro investment

Futuroscope thanks
its partners

ISUZU

KING TONY
Enjoy your work

AIGLE
DEPUIS 1853



futuroscope **THE POWER OF ATTRACTION**

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