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Reports

SURPRISE

Interviews

**GRRRoodies** 

# MaGRREzine

Issue 7 · September 2021





UPDATE ON

# FRAGMENTS



Jonathan Favre-Godal and Théo Rivière





A new KamiMaï escaped from the Grimoire!





## Editorial

Hello everyone,

GRRRE Games celebrates their 3 years of existence this month. The time for us to take stock on our gaming adventure. Back from Vichy's festival, we speak, once again, of KamiMaï, our first signed game in 2018, before DANY, and for which we offer you a GRRRoodies at the end of this magazine.

We also take advantage of this issue to present to you Fragments and their authors: Jonathan Favre-Godal and Théo Rivière.

Thanks again for your support.

Have a playful reading!

Florian **GRRRE Games** 



The magazine that bears no resemblance to any other! MaGRRREzine #7 September 2021

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## **Summary**



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**Production schedule** 

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**Presentation** KamiMaï

**Review** Video reviews, podcasts and articles around games



The GRRRoodies!

A new exclusive KamiMaï

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# Report

# GRRE GAMES is 3 years old!

September 2018 - September 2021:

The opportunity for us to take some time and look back on what we have accomplished so far.





GRRRE Games since its beginning!

# The situation, 3 years after its creation

GRRRE Games was officially born in September 2018, and Dany, our first game, came out in January 2019.

About 160 000 copies of our games found a home in twenty
different countries or so. This number is tiny compared to
big players of this business but for us, this is huge.
Each day, we think about all the players, and board games stores that support us. We started from scratch and the progress made is fabulous.

We are aware of the work done, of the nights and weekends of work, but also of how lucky we are to be where we are now.

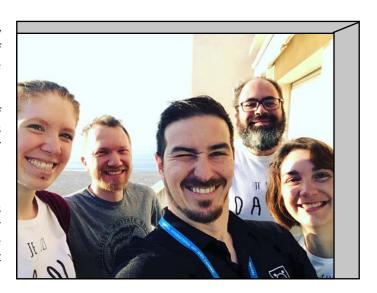
# The philosophy of our company Game publisher is a passionate job. A wonder can express your gaming and artistic needs in a second company.

Game publisher is a passionate job. A wonderful job in which you can express your gaming and artistic needs in a community we love.

Since the foundation of the company, by Céline and me, it was clear that we could not rely financially on this structure so we could keep our liberty of choice, action and creation without fearing failure and financial peril.

To publish a game, it is a submission. Each of our games must be marked by our "touch" in its mechanics as in its artistic direction. However, our job means something only if there is people enjoying our games. This is the true purpose of our job.

We work based on crushes we get on projects and wanted, since the beginning, to own a proper catalogue. This may cloud the identification of the GRRRE Games "touch", yet it is here and will assert itself in the coming months and years.



The GRRRE Team



Blackrock International team

In addition to BlackRock Games that distributes our games in France, we can count on BlackRock International: Aurore, Hervé, Jonas and Thibaut who presents our games to our foreign partners.

Thank you for your wonderful work!

As a publisher, we find ourselves at the crossroads of creation and an economic challenge, between the authors and the distributor.

In order to produce new games and pay our partners a fair amount, we need a stable liquidity, so the desire of creation, the access to our games and the sales meet.

The whole Blackrock Games team was there and was always very helpful. We thank them wholeheartedly.

Now, GRRRE games consists of Céline who lead the company masterfully and also deals with game development, Valériane who handles the graphical side of the job, Camille who deals with the French-English translations and a bit of communication, and finally myself.

Each GRRRE games member accepts the editorial line GG and the risk implied.

Thank you, once again for your support and the shared gaming fun.



from Phil Vizcarro and Antoine Baillargeau

Released in January 2019, we wanted to be noticed with this first game. The risk-taking was certain with a black and white game with puzzling illustrations for many and so for the theme. We are very proud of our first game that associates visual, creativity, bluff and hidden roles.

Many enjoyed Dany: between 30 000 and 40 000 copies found a beautiful home throughout the world. Sadly, this year has seen the game out of stock for more than six months because of production and transportation issues.



from Antoine Bauza, Corentin Lebrat, Nicolas Oury, Ludovic Maublanc and Théo Rivière, illustrated by Naïade

Released in June 2019, the beginning of the game was unsure. Then the grapevine through the summer made it take off in the fall.In this juiced up Rock-Paper-Scissors game, our little cats courageously fight against Robodog.

It was welcome by 30 000 to 40 000 people and a partnership was signed the US publisher The Op to release licenced version. Soon, you will discover this game under the theme of the Ninja Turtles, at least, in the US...

## A REVIEW OF OUR GAMES





#### **OCTORAGE**

from Nicolas Normandon and Florian Grenier, illustrated by Bruno Tatti

Released in July 2019, Octorage's plan was to renew the old Crazy 8 for your evening with friends. The game draw inspiration from a movie so bad it is good called Octaman. Based on the timing between playing cards and pass, the game aims to be simple, easy to play with a mixture of luck, thinking and risk-taking to make the games alive and full of interactions.

Alas, the finalisation of the files was rushed due to a lack of experience. Octorage suffered a proofreading issue and badly placed sentence which made the game unplayable. In a hurry, an erratum as added to the box but some reviewers had already badly criticized the game. Furthermore, the release in the beginning of July in an almost complete anonymity did not help and the implantation in the stores was very bad.

It is, to this day, our only game in sale... We sometimes have feedbacks from players who love this game and still play it. It pleases us a lot. Only 3 000 people bought the game. It will, however, bounce back again in China where it will be localised this year!



#### **NIDAVELLIR**

from Serge Laget, illustratred by Jean-Marie Minguez

Released in January 2020, our fourth game was our « All in »! Although the relative success of Dany and Super Cats would allow us to hold on for another year but almost all our treasury was invested in the production of Nidallevir. With a good implantation but a slow start in the stores then a nice grapevine vibe for a climax at Cannes. Nidavellir is definitely our biggest success. It has done as good as we expected. They are currently a little bit more than 60 000 copies that found a home in 20 different countries. We hope to reach 100 000 copies by the end of the year!





#### CONNEC'Team

from Jonathan Favre-Godal and Corentin Lebrat

Released in May 2020, at the end of the first lockdown, this cooperative, smart and quick ideas association game went completely under the radar. Critics were good but the stores implantation was low. Hopefully, the international market fell for this nice game and we should reach 10 000 copies soon enough.



#### DANY goes to Hollywood

from Phil Vizcarro and Antoine Baillargeau

Released in May 2020 as well, like CONNECTeam, this second box bringing new illustrations and a new role, the Reason of Dany, did not have the same success as its big sister in France. However, the game works well abroad, particularly in Japan.





#### **THINGVELLIR**

from Serge Laget, illustrated by Jean-Marie Minguez

Released in December 2020, the first expansion of Nidavellir conquered you! The feedbacks are excellent and many are the ones that do not play anymore at Nidavellir without this expansion. It brings even more possibilities and strategies to the game. We are thrilled by the warmth welcome you gave to it.





#### KAMIMAÏ

from Masakazu Takizawa, illustrated by Valériane Holley

Released in June 2021, it is our first contracted game. And yes, we contracted it before Dany. It needed a big amount of development to adapt it for the targeted audience, and find the proper materials. Sadly, it reached too few stores in our opinion. We want to make everything we can to give each our game a chance, for their authors, illustrators, even if we have to delay other projects...



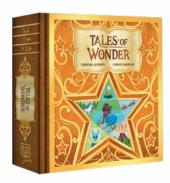


#### **FRAGMENTS**

from Jonathan Favre-Godal and Théo Rivière, illustrated by Magali Aude and Raphaël Samakh

Forecasted for October 2021, it is a hybrid role playing game without any game master or preparation, entirely based upon the storytelling, for 45 minutes to 1 hour games.

In this first box, you may immerge in a Postapocalyptic universe or in a world where super powers are a thing.



#### **TALES OF WONDER**

from Christine Alcouffe and Ludovic Maublanc, illustrated by Christine Alcouffe

Forecasted for November 2021, it is a formidable game of storytelling and memory that promises touching and wacky stories with the whole family and completely crazy with adults.



#### **BINGO ISLAND**

from Corentin Lebrat and Ludovic Maublanc, illustrated by Valériane Holley

Forecasted for the first quarter 2022, Bingo Island takes you in a very light management game for the whole family. Develop your island, welcome some animals there and go fish for treasures... But beware of the crabs!



WE SPOKE ABOUT BINGO ISLAND, OUR NEXT GAME TO BE RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER 2021. UNFORTUNATELY, WE PREFERRED POSTPONE ITS RELEASE SO THAT KAMIMAÏ CAN FLOURISH AND TO AVOID COMMUNICATING ON TWO GAMES AT ONCE. WE RELEASE FEW GAMES PER YEAR COMPARED TO OTHER JUGGERNAUTS WHO RELEASE TWENTY OR SO GAME A YEAR. WE CHERISH EACH OF OUR GAMES HOPING THEY WILL FIND THEIR AUDIENCE. SOMETIMES, IT IS THE CASE, SOMETIMES IT IS NOT. ANYWAY WE OFFER A DEAL. WE TRY TO OFFER ORIGINALITY AND DIFFERENT GAMING FEELINGS. RELEASING BINGO ISLAND, AT A MOMENT WHEN WE DID NOT GIVE KAMIMAÏ A SECOND CHANCE WOULD BE A HERESY ACCORDING TO US.

#### **CYRANO**

from Angèle and Ludovic Maublanc, illustrated by Camille Chaussy



A reissue of the game published by Repos Production in 2010, it is a poetry game where, in order to win, you need to demonstrate originality and good taste

The work on this new issue is coming to an end as we write those lines. The development guideline was to make this game more accessible, more contemporary, and easier to move with more compact components, associated to a shorter game time for more intense feelings.

## OUR GAMES TO COME

#### **LOCKDOWN**

from Nicolas Normandon, illustrated by Vincent Lefevre

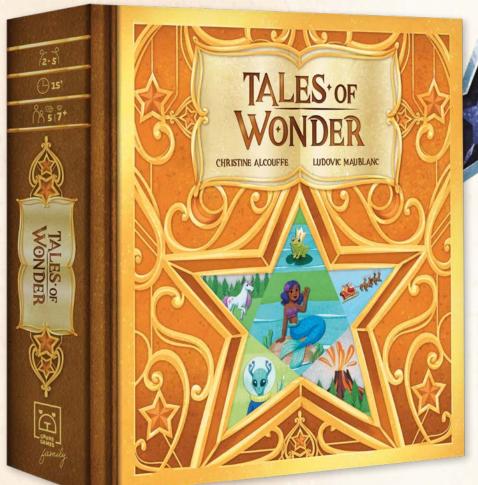
It is also a reissue of one of our favourite games. The shift to publishing allows us to work on games we loved at their release. It is a pleasure to be able to collaborate with creators to put such good games back to the taste of the day!

Lockdown is the newest version of Mall of Horror released in 2005. Our work consisted in restructuring the game to make more nervous and oppressive and also, to adapt the overused zombies theme and full of testosterone of the end of the nineties, to an atmosphere of end of the world completely in adequacy with the stressful period of the years 2020. In short, the game is meaner than before and you are really going to lose your friends.











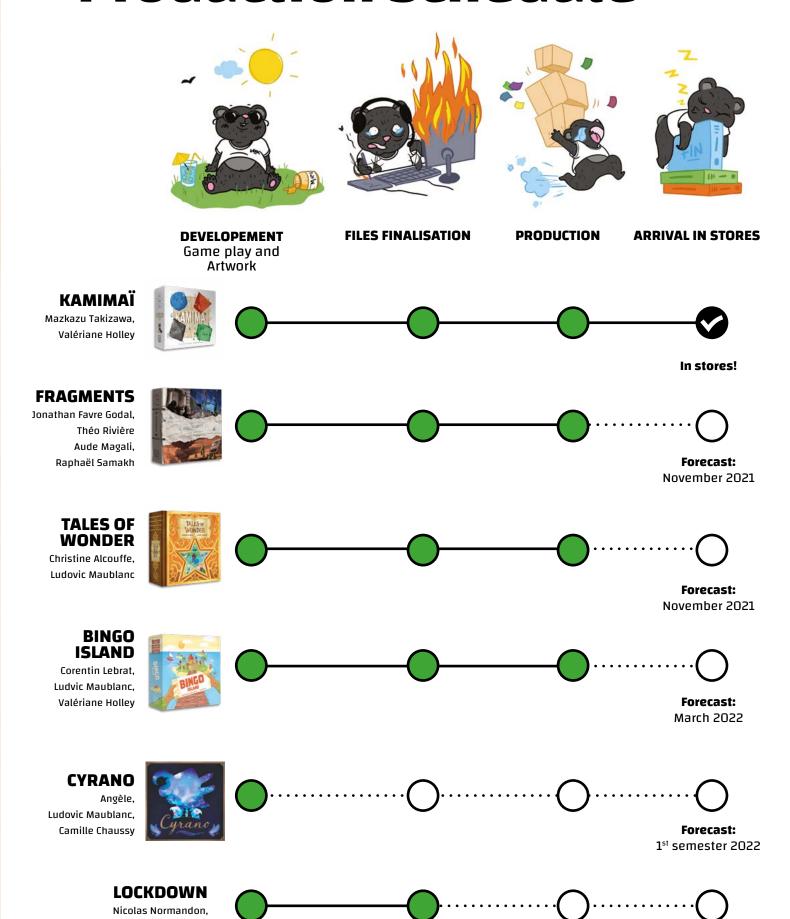
# AVAILABLE SOON

NOVEMBER 2021 C





## **Production schedule**



Vincent Lefevre

Forecast: September 2022

# What's

# MEWY

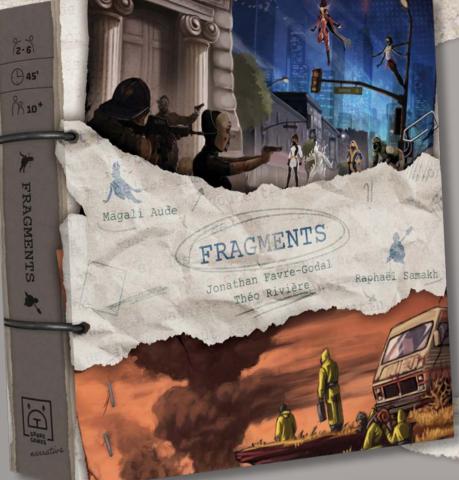
The Narrative range offers gaming experience around creation.

This could take shape of a hybrid game without any game master nor preparation as Fragments or more disconcerting experience as poetry creation via Cyrano.

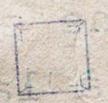
Anyway, the game fun and the shared adventure will be paramount.



#### A GAME WHERE YOU CREATE A STORY IN WHICH YOU ARE THE HEROES.



A game from Jonathan Favre-Godal and Théo Rivière illustrated by Magali Aude and Raphaël Samakh.

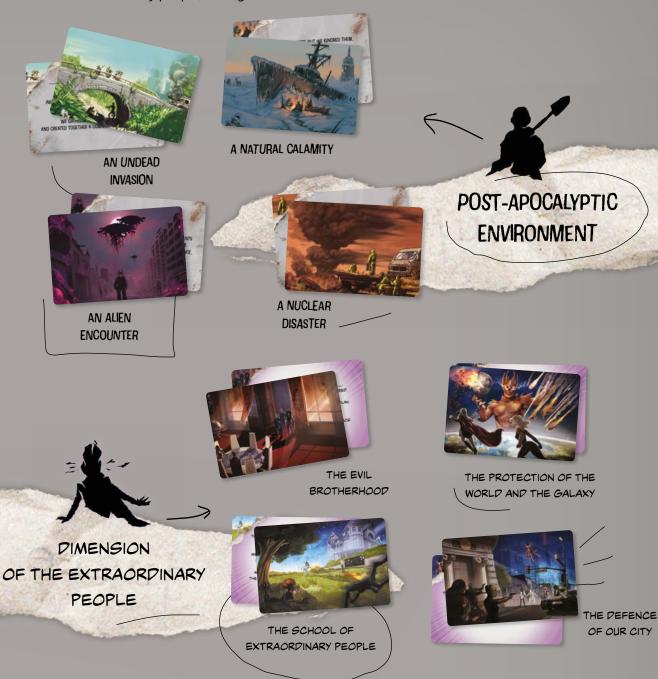


Release forecasted for November 2021



Without knowing exactly why, you have the possibility to travel through time and space and incarnate a character.

Together, explore 2 different universes: The post-apocalyptic environments or the dimension of the extraordinary people, through 4 themes each.



At each game, you will get a character that you will define in a few seconds so you can launch yourself into the adventure.

Each round, draw a Word card and tell a fragment of a story. The Symbol-Icon match will change your adventure in a god or a bad way.

through which you will evolve.





Interview

## Jonathan Favre-Godal & Théo Rivière

#### A few words of presentation?

**Jonathan** Bookseller, game author for a couple of years (Connec'Team for instance) and I hope that soon I will be a biker when I will finally pass my driving exam.

**Théo** My name is Théo, I am a French person living in Brussels. Creating games has been my full time jobs for 3 years now. Next to that, I co-created the Kaedama Team, a group of authors that answers the publishers' needs.

Where the idea of Fragments did came from?

**Jonathan** We wanted to create, Théo and me, a game that would link RPG and narrative games, as For the Queen by Bragelonne does.

The idea was to have a game done in 60-90 minutes at maximum, so it was important to make a game with a rather small amount of setup and not too long explanations at the beginning. Likewise for the character creation which can be rather long in some RPG.

**Théo** It is Jonathan that contacted me with this idea in mind. On my side, I am very much interested by roleplaying games and the hybrid

games, so I accepted very quickly his invitation on this project.

#### Which were the key stages of the development?

**Jonathan** The key development was to find a way to frame the story without being too directive for the storyteller. The constraint of the "key word" of the scene was, for us, the solution. The small mechanic that forces the "negative" or "positive" outcome to the storyteller was the real plus of the gaming adventure.



**Théo** There was several moments that changed the gameplay, particularly the addition of a deeper characterisation of the characters and the universe. The biggest change happened after signing the game with GRRRE Games and that is the opening to numerous universes, at first we would only play in postapo stories.

This game especially stands out from your published creations until now. Do you do roleplaying games and if yes, was this a way to bring your vision of roleplaying game?

**Jonathan** I have done very few RPG, through the couple of games I have done in many universes, the one that stroke me the most was Method of Doctor Cheste by Daniel Danjean.

The main issue to play RPG with my friends was that nobody was feeling skilled enough to be a Game Master. That is how the prototype of Fragments was born.



Campaign notepad

**Théo** I love roleplaying games and I have been playing some since Highschool. It has been 3 years now that I have found a group of players in Brussels and we play in a regularly fashion. I do not know if Fragments brings my vision of it, but it is clearly my love for roleplaying games mixed with my love for board games that gave birth to this game.

#### Why those themes?

**Jonathan** I am a big fan of post-apocalyptic, especially survival movies, but my guilty pleasure are the zombies movies. My favourite movie of all time? Shaun of the Dead.

I do not know very well the superhero universe, I read very few comics but I love the manga My hero Academia.

**Théo** On my side, I read a lot of comics and the superhero universe practically impose itself.

It was primordial for us to have well known themes so that the players would project very quickly in their story they are going to tell, but also universes wide enough so many different things would happen to them. At the end, it englobes many possibilities and we chose the two themes that thrilled us more at that time.

#### What are your next releases?

**Jonathan** There is The Sound Maker with Corentin Lebrat released by Blue Orange. Magic Hat released by Djeco, still with Corentin Lebrat.

**Théo** My end of year is under the sign of expansions with The holidays of Detective Charlie and The Loop The revenge of Fauxzilla. I shoud; have a few other games that follow but it is hard to be perfectly sure of the release schelue at the moment.





# Les

KamiMaï is a game that deserves you take a look at it. You will not have any game like this one in your game collection. The dexterity aspect of the game may be a barrier for some but with one or two games played, you will be much more at ease. It is the essence of the game. This management of balance, this stressing draw where everything can collapse but every success is an explosion of joy.



Les reviews

Rules item





"When you think you have seen all the game mechanics, every kind of games, you encounter one game that addresses you, that propose something new. Kamimaï is part of these atypical games that offer an innovative gaming experience."

### Undecent.fr







Es-tu Game

Game







Le Monde des jeux Game







"KamiMaï has this particularity to mix two game mechanics that we rarely see together as it is a cooperative game and a skill game at the same time."

Vianney, Terres de jeux Rennes

#### Station Millénium

**Critics** 





Le Défaussé

Podcast









Kaelawen et les Meeples

Live Twitch







## Download the previous issues of the MaGRRREzine on our <u>website!</u>

In the June issue, you will find, amongst other things, a presentation of the Deluxe Royal Treasure and the Family range but also a review of KamiMaï!





Choix des options





Choix des options









There it is!

The preorders of the Deluxe Royal Treasure
have just finished and the production has started.

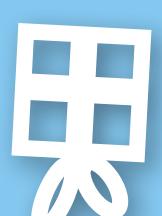
Delivery is expected for January 2022.

Thank you to all the Elvalands who answered the call so we could realise this crazy project that holds a special place in our heart.



Gifts to thank you all!







A new KamiMaï escaped from the Grimoire!
But beware; to defeat it, you will need to cast all the spells
together in the order of the arrows...





Find KamiMaï now in stores!



Last week, we had the great pleasure to go at Dunmondedejeux to present our next releases. Big thanks for the hospitality and the wonderful videos that were made! It was an excellent time!

Thank you to Christine Alcouffe, Ludovic Maublanc and Corentin Lebrat for your availability and good spirits.

Videos to be discovered quickly and more information in our MaGRRREzine soon.





Find it quickly in your favourite stores!

Full swing at Cluny's festival! Djmminguez and Dvaleriane\_ holley are signing Nidavellir and KamiWai. Thank you to Alexis for his good spirits and unwavering support!





A giant guardian?!!

Find us at Vichy festival with a gianty KamiMaï! You can now ask for KamiMaï in your favourite store (the standard version, not the giant one)!

A fabulous game from Masakazu Takizawa, illustrated by Valériane Holley.



This weekend, we had the huge pleasure to welcome Alex' and Zephiriel from the Défaussé. Galdly, Ochristinealcouffe and Oludomaublanc joined us to present their coming game: Tales of Wonder.

We took advantage of that moment to play Bongo Island that comes out soon, KamiMai that is already available and Fragments that arrives in October.

It was a wonderful weekend and we hope to everyone soon enough. We wish a very nice week!

#### Follow our adventures on networks!













## Find all of our games on our site!

Rules, game aids and variants available in French and English.

#### www.grrre-games.com



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En

