



TOLBIAC

Logline



Haunted by a recurring nightmare of blood and fire, the young King Clovis discovers its meaning in the heart of a crucial battle, where an unexpected spiritual choice could either sacrifice his people and bring down his kingdom or become the seed of a new civilization.

TOLBIAC, A KING'S NIGHTMARE



486 AD.

Fresh from defeating the last Roman legions, Clovis, a brutal young warlord, seizes control of Northern Gaul — but victory gives him no legitimacy. Worse: a recurring nightmare gnaws at his mind, as if a force was expecting him to change.

Rejected by the Gallo-Roman elite, torn between his pagan warriors and a people who fear him, Clovis is pushed by Queen Clotilde and Bishop Remi toward a faith he refuses to understand.

When a deadly invasion rises on the horizon, Clovis must choose: cling to the violent gods that shaped him, or embrace a new faith capable of uniting a fractured land. A character-driven epic about the birth of a civilization — and the pagan king who found salvation where he least expected it.

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Synopsis

486 A.D.

Gaul is collapsing under barbarian invasions. At the Battle of Soissons, Clovis, the young king of the Franks, crushes the last Gallo-Roman general and seizes control of the territory. But this victory brings him no legitimacy. And a recurring nightmare haunts him: he sees himself alone, in the mud, under a rain of blood.

The Gallo-Roman elites reject him, the people fear him, and some Frankish chiefs behave like tyrants. One of them, Chaldaric, sets fire to a church with the village children inside. To prevent chaos, Remi, bishop of Reims, sends a young Gallo-Roman, Aurelian, to convince Clovis to rely on the Church to stabilize his rule. The king accepts this advisor, but remains torn between his pagan culture and a spiritual power he does not understand.

Through his encounters — Remi, Genevieve, and above all Clotilde, the Burgundian princess he falls in love with — Clovis discovers another vision of power: an authority capable of uniting a fractured land.

Meanwhile, a threat grows in the east. The Alemanni cross the Rhine, ravage Frankish villages, and threaten to destroy the kingdom. Winter is harsh, defenses collapse, and Clovis must rally the tribes to survive.

As the decisive battle approaches, Clovis seeks meaning in his nightmares. He hears Remi read from the Apocalypse: *“hail and fire mixed with blood...”* The echo of his vision shakes him.

On the battlefield, thrown down and isolated, Clovis drops to one knee, looks at a break in the clouds, and makes a spiritual choice that changes everything. At the same moment, Clotilde prays in the darkness, Genevieve rings the church bells, and Remi kneels before the altar. The battle turns: the Franks repel the Alemanni. Clovis embraces the cross, kneels, and his cousin Sigebert pledges allegiance.

Christmas 498.

Clovis is baptized in Reims before an immense crowd. The consecrated oil passes from hand to hand, a dove lands on a window ledge, and Remi speaks the historic words.

The king is acclaimed.

A new civilization is born.

TOLBIAC

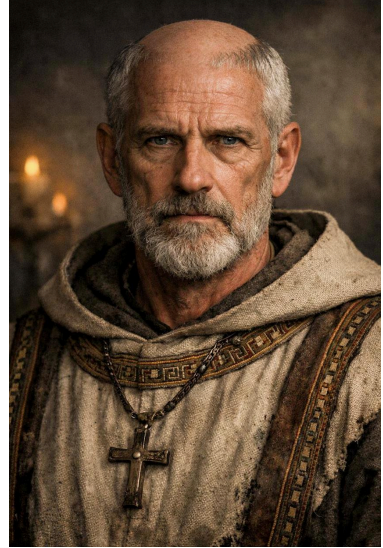
CHARACTERS



Clovis — A warlord called to become a king.



Clotilde — A queen whose faith opens a destiny.



Remi — A bishop who sees farther than men



Aurelian — A young Gallo-Roman torn between two worlds.



Syagrius — Last Roman general in Gaul, Clovis' first challenge.



Gilbuld — The king of the Alamans who threatens peace.

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Thèmes

- . **End of a world** — The fall of Rome reveals a chasm where everything can collapse.
- . **Birth of a vocation** — Clovis discovers he is called to build a kingdom.
- . **Inner war** — The fiercest battle is the one fought inside the king's heart.
- . **Unity of a people** — A fractured land searches for a center.
- . **Spiritual transmission** — Clovis awakens to the sacred dimension of his role.

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Market & Audience

Narrative Positioning

TOLBIAC stands within the tradition of **European historical epics** driven by character, destiny, and the birth of a civilization.

The film blends **action**, **inner conflict**, and **civilizational stakes**, offering an immersive portrayal of a world on the brink of transformation.

Its emotional core lies in **leadership under uncertainty**, a theme that resonates strongly today.

Audience Segmentation

TOLBIAC speaks to a broad international audience drawn to:

- **historical storytelling**,
- **complex leaders facing moral dilemmas**,
- **epic narratives with psychological and spiritual depth**,
- **character-driven films with strong visual identity**.

Clovis's arc — a leader torn between brutality, faith, and responsibility — connects across cultures and generations.

Values-Driven Crossover Appeal

Beyond historical audiences, the film reaches a **values-driven and spiritually sensitive segment** — including viewers within the faith-based community — through its moral and transformative arc.

Epic narratives carried by universal values — *Spartacus*, *Lord Jim*, *Ben-Hur*, *Kingdom of Heaven* — have long resonated with viewers seeking **meaning**, **sacrifice**, and **inner transformation**.

TOLBIAC stands in this lineage:

Clovis's conversion is portrayed as a **Paul-of-Tarsus-like “Damascus moment”**, giving the film a **moral and spiritual dimension** that broadens its appeal beyond traditional historical epics.

This crossover — **epic + values + spiritual resonance** — is rare and commercially powerful.

International Appeal

Themes such as the fall of an empire, the rise of a new order, the unification of a fractured people and the moral transformation of a leader are universal.

They echo strongly today, in a world seeking meaning, identity, foundational and renewal stories.

Cinematic References (Artistic Tone Only)

The film aligns artistically with:

- **King Arthur** (pagan transition, proto-Christian atmosphere),
- **Centurion / Black Death** (European mid-tier historical realism),
- **Kingdom of Heaven** (politics, spirituality, moral tension),
- **Spartacus** (sacrifice, destiny, inner transformation).

The project fits a controlled mid-tier European production scale, which aligns well with **value-driven audiences seeking meaningful, character-centered storytelling rather than spectacle.**

A Rare Subject

The conversion of Clovis and the birth of Christian Europe have never been depicted in a major cinematic work.

This rarity gives the film a unique place in the landscape of historical storytelling.

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Budget & Production

Production Scope (Mid-Tier European Epic)

TOLBIAC is conceived as a **European historical epic** designed for a **mid-tier production scale (10–15M €)**.

The film blends character-driven drama with selective large-scope moments, focusing on **psychological intensity**, **political tension**, and **civilizational stakes** rather than continuous spectacle.

Target Budget Range (10–15M €)

The project is structured for a realistic European co-production model, leveraging:

- practical historical locations,
- efficient battle staging,
- limited VFX,
- controlled reconstruction,
- strong character-centric storytelling.

This approach ensures a **high cinematic impact** within a **cost-efficient production strategy**.

European Production Advantages

The story naturally aligns with European production environments, offering access to:

- authentic historical sites (France, Belgium, Spain),
- regional and national incentives (30–40% automatic recoup potential),
- established co-production frameworks,
- experienced crews in period filmmaking.

These elements provide a **solid financial foundation** before distribution revenues.

Production-Friendly Narrative Design

The script is built around:

- strong emotional stakes,
- clear dramatic arcs,
- scenes designed for efficient staging,
- limited reliance on large-scale VFX,
- a balance between intimate moments and epic tension.

This ensures that *TOLBIAC* remains **artistically ambitious** while **fully producible within a mid-tier European budget**.

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WHY NOW, WHY THIS FILM

A mythic human epic — blending intense action with emotional depth, in a story accessible to a broad audience.

A universal arc — A leader torn between brutality and destiny resonates with global audiences seeking powerful, character-driven epics.

A defining moment — The Battle of Tolbiac is a turning point in European history, yet never brought to the screen.

A cinematic opportunity — The appetite for historical action films remains strong, and Tolbiac offers a fresh, mythic story with international reach.

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INTENT NOTE

Why We Tell This Story

We are drawn to stories that reveal the moment a world changes — not through armies or empires, but through the inner shift of a single human being.

TOLBIAC is one of those moments.

For us, this film is not only a historical epic.

It is the portrait of a man who stands at the edge of chaos and discovers that the world he believed to be ruled by force, fear, and fate can suddenly open to meaning.

This transformation — fragile, intimate, invisible — is what moves us. We believe cinema can illuminate these turning points.

Moments where a leader, a father, a warrior, a human being confronts something greater than himself.

Moments where destiny stops being a burden and becomes a direction.

Clovis's story is one of those rare crossroads where an inner revelation reshapes an entire civilization.

A Vision of Civilization in Transition

We share a fascination for the birth of Western Civilization — not as a sequence of battles or treaties, but as a fragile moment where identities collide, beliefs shift, and a new moral horizon emerges.

The fall of Rome, the rise of Christianity, the fragmentation of tribes and cultures: these are not **only** historical facts. They are the backdrop of a deeper question:

What world do we choose to build when the old one collapses?

Clovis's journey embodies this question. He is a man torn between violence and meaning, between heritage and renewal, between the world he knows and the world he senses.

Through him, we explore the idea that civilizations are not born from victories, but from inner transformations.

A Film About A Light So Powerful It First Blinds Us

We believe that some stories can open a heart.

Not by preaching, not by explaining, but by showing the moment where a man realizes that the world is not divided into “good” and “bad”, but illuminated by a love he had refused to see.

This is the arc that inspires us.

Clovis’s “Damascus moment” is not only a religious message. It is a human one.

It is the instant where brutality gives way to purpose, where chaos reveals meaning, where destiny becomes choice.

We want the audience to feel that shift — to sense that even in the darkest times, a single inner movement can change the course of a life... and perhaps the course of a civilization.

Our Artistic Intention

We approach *TOLBIAC* as a film of contrasts:

- intimacy within epic scale,
- silence within battle,
- doubt within power,
- fragility within legend,
- humanity within history.

We want to film the 5th century not as a distant past, but as a mirror.

A moment where everything is uncertain, fractured, unstable — a moment that speaks directly to our own time.

Our intention is not to recreate history. It is to reveal the human part inside it.

What We Hope to Share

We hope *TOLBIAC* will resonate with viewers who seek meaning in a world of noise.

With those who feel the fractures of our time. With those who sense that transformation begins long before it becomes visible.

We hope the film will touch someone who receives signs but does not yet admit them.

Someone who stands at their own crossroads. Someone who needs to see that even in chaos, a path can open.

This is why we tell this story. This is why *TOLBIAC* exists.

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CONTACT

Freddy Venant is a French screenwriter and actor with more than four decades of experience in cinema.

He directed his first Super 8 film at the age of fourteen and later earned a Bachelor's degree in Film Studies.

Since 1985, he has appeared in numerous productions (IMDB), developing a deep understanding of performance, narrative structure, and historical storytelling.

As a writer, Freddy focuses on character-driven epics rooted in European history, blending psychological depth, moral conflict, and civilizational themes.

He is the creator and co-writer of *Tolbiac*, a 5th-century historical drama exploring leadership, identity, and spiritual transformation.

Freddy VENANT - Screenwriter & Creator

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Charly Venant is a French writer and creative collaborator with early professional experience in cinema, having acted in a television film at the age of eight.

He holds a Master's degree in Psychology, a background that informs his approach to character development, emotional coherence, and narrative motivation.

Outside his academic and creative work, Charly has competed at national level in Sport Shooting, bringing discipline, precision, and focus to his storytelling process.

As co-creator and co-screenwriter of *Tolbiac*, he contributes to the project's narrative structure, psychological depth, and thematic clarity.

Charly VENANT - Co-Screenwriter & Co-Creator

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Available for further discussion and development.

Thank you for considering TOLBIAC, The King's Nightmare.