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PITCH DECK

"A CEO in Heaven"

Cinematic adaptation of the eponymous work by Paul Misraki

Produced for France by Hubert de Torcy: <https://www.sajedistribution.com/>

And for the USA by Michelle Alexandria: <https://lightyearpictures.com/>

Duration : 1H40

Tagline: When Heaven summons a CEO, his entire life is put on trial.



Logline

In 1965, a powerful French industrialist briefly dies in a car accident and finds himself judged at the gates of Paradise. Revived, he decides to radically transform his business according to the teachings of the Gospel, sparking chaos, rejection... and ultimately, renewal. *A CEO in Paradise* is a modern fable about faith, power, and redemption

PITCH

After a car accident leaves him in a coma, the CEO of a thriving company finds himself at the gates of Paradise. He undergoes what is now known as a Near Death Experience (NDE). Upon waking, everyone around him is puzzled. Has he gone mad? What is he seeking in the Gospels? Why does he suddenly start applying them literally? Radically transformed, Raoul de Garanville faces confusion and resistance from his family and business partners.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In 1965 France, Raoul de Garanville is the formidable CEO of Sainte Lucie Mills, a prosperous textile company nestled beneath his ancestral château. Approaching fifty and proud of his success, Raoul's world shatters when a car accident leaves him clinically dead. But instead of descending into nothingness, he wakes up at the gates of Paradise, summoned to a surreal trial presided over by the Angel at the Threshold.

There, his life is judged. Though a devout Catholic and generous patron of his parish, Raoul is confronted with the stark contrast between outward piety and true spiritual practice. Just as his fate hangs in the balance, he is revived by doctors—forever changed.

Back among the living, Raoul becomes obsessed with the Gospels, deciding to apply them literally in all aspects of his life. He raises wages, lowers prices, grants unlimited vacation, and even considers revealing trade secrets in the

name of brotherhood. His wife Solange, his pragmatic partner Jean-Paul, and even his employees think he has lost his mind. A psychiatrist dismisses their concerns: “Religious faith is not a mental illness.”

As chaos ensues, the company nears bankruptcy and the family legacy is threatened. A second encounter with the Angel pushes Raoul to question his motivations: Was his transformation truly rooted in love? He retreats to the mountains, where an elderly priest helps him rediscover humility, compassion, and discernment.

Raoul returns changed—not as a zealot, but as a man of conscience. He rebuilds his company based on principles of respect and integrity. Initially met with skepticism, his bold new vision ultimately succeeds, and Raoul becomes an unexpected symbol of ethical leadership. *A CEO in Paradise* is a moving story of faith, self-discovery, and redemption, reminding us that even the most powerful can change when faced with eternal truths.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

What immediately drew us to Paul Misraki’s novel was the way it addresses deep and serious questions (Can the Bible be applied literally? Is there life after death? On what basis will we be judged in the afterlife?) with humor and comedic ingenuity.

Contrary to what one might expect, this comedy is not irreverent toward Christian faith. On the contrary, it critiques not faith itself, but the kind of religious fundamentalism that

seeks to apply Scripture literally without discernment.

We were also intrigued by the theme of NDEs (Near Death Experiences)—a subject rarely explored in cinema, though it often leads survivors to radically change their lives. The contrast between Raoul's life before and after his accident is a major source of both drama and comedy.

For the screenplay, we've remained faithful to Misraki's brilliance in dialogue, while adapting it for a broad audience.

We've amplified the comedic aspect to create a true family comedy in the vein of Louis de Funès, *The Visitors*, or *OSS 117*. We believe that humor does not detract from the depth of the film's themes—in fact, it opens viewers up to contemplating them personally, lightly, and without moralizing.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

The Angel at the Threshold: A heavenly figure who greets Raoul after his accident and delivers a moral lesson on his religious hypocrisy. He reveals Raoul's failure to truly follow the Gospel, despite his self-image as a good Catholic.

Raoul de Garanville: A 49-year-old aristocrat, practicing Catholic, and CEO of a family-run business. Authoritative and self-assured, he undergoes a near-death experience that transforms him into a devout follower of the Gospels, radically changing how he runs his business and lives his life. However, his philanthropic ideals bring his company to the brink of bankruptcy, forcing him to reevaluate his

spiritual approach. He will eventually create a new form of management rooted in Christian values, which gains international acclaim.

Solange de Garanville: A traditional wife and mother of seven, alarmed by Raoul's drastic change. She worries that his strict application of the Gospels will endanger their family. She will ultimately be proud of his ability to reconcile business success and philanthropy.

Jean-Paul Duloup: Raoul's business partner, a pragmatic man who believes only in money. Disturbed by Raoul's mystical approach, he allies with Solange to bring him back to reason. He eventually embraces Raoul's renewed, successful vision.

The Priest of the Mountain : is a humble old man, deeply rooted in faith.

With kindness and wisdom, he offers Raoul a space for reflection without judgment, gently guiding him toward redemption. A discreet mentor, he embodies divine mercy and openness to grace.

Count Arthur de Garanville: Raoul's father, an honor-bound but irreligious aristocrat. He dies of a heart attack upon learning of the company's collapse.

Gérard de Faucy: An eccentric, dandy aristocrat who constantly asks Raoul for money for ill-fated ventures. He is

despised by Solange, who sees him as a conman.

Father Ribaud: The local priest who sees Raoul as a model of devotion, though he has doubts about Raoul's rigid interpretation of the Gospels. He offers guidance during Raoul's moments of doubt.

Victor Moreau: CEO of a major multinational, arrogant and scornful of Raoul's philanthropic approach, convinced it's unfit for the ruthless world of business.

WORLD OF THE FILM

A world that blends realism and spirituality, straddling social satire and metaphysical parable. The story is set in a stylized, almost timeless version of 1965 provincial France —black Citroëns, châteaux, textile mills—where old-world elegance contrasts with poetic incursions into the afterlife. The film shifts between two realms:

- **The material world:** industrial capitalism, bourgeois traditions, superficial religiosity.
- **The spiritual realm:** a symbolic, surreal afterlife where Raoul faces the truth of his actions in a heavenly setting tinged with both humor and solemnity.

Visually, the film mixes Chabrol-like realism for earthly scenes with a Bergman-Fellini dreamlike tone for celestial moments, tempered with Capra-esque charm. Also with the humor of « *Heaven can wait* » from Warren Beatty.

TONE

Tragicomic, spiritual, satirical, but deeply humanistic. A film that is both weighty and lighthearted:

- **Serious**, as it addresses death, judgment, faith, and the search for meaning in a hypocritical world.
- **Comedic**, through Raoul's extremes and the dismay of those around him; through its satire of business, consumerism, and performative religion.
- **Moving**, as Raoul sincerely seeks truth and redemption.
- **Poetic**, especially in his spiritual retreat and inner dialogues.

It's a film that could appeal to both arthouse audiences and fans of modern fables—at the intersection of moral tale and social critique.

THEMES EXPLORED

1. **Moral Judgment & Redemption:** Raoul confronts his moral failures and seeks alignment between his religious values and his daily actions.
2. **Vanity & Pride:** The film critiques Raoul's confusion of generosity with vanity, highlighting pride as a barrier to true faith.
3. **Blind Faith vs. Pragmatic Reality:** Raoul's rigid post-NDE spirituality clashes with the practical demands of running a business.

4. **Failure & Search for Meaning:** Raoul's existential crisis raises the question of whether true spiritual change is possible in an imperfect world.
5. **Wealth & Spirituality:** Raoul's attempt to merge Christian faith with material wealth examines the tension between purity and pressure in the modern economy.



CONCLUSION

The film examines the difficulty of balancing faith and pragmatism. After a spiritual downfall and personal rebirth, Raoul learns that redemption lies in balance and sincerity—not in literalism. The open ending suggests the possibility of forgiveness and renewal, offering a glimpse of a more harmonious future for Raoul.