

PUNCHLINE CINÉMA, NEW SHOES & KOZAK FILMS
PRÉSENTENT

WATER COOLER WAR
A SHORT FILM BY LISA SALLUSTIO

ASSOIFFÉ

UN FILM DE
LISA SALLUSTIO



PRESS KIT

DOSSIER DE PRESSE 2023



PLOT

A MAN DRESSED IN BLUE IS WAITING IN A POORLY VENTILATED ROOM. HE IS REALLY THIRSTY. ALL OF A SUDDEN, A MAN DRESSED IN RED ENTERS THE ROOM WITH A WATER TANK. HE DEFINITELY WON'T SHARE IT WITH ANYONE.



The background of the entire image is a dense, repeating pattern of dark grey chair silhouettes. The chairs are of a simple, modern design with a square seat and a backrest. They are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, as if they are scattered across a surface.

VIEW LINK [\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

WATER COOLER WAR | 11 MINUTES



KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

WRITER/DIRECTOR : LISA SALLUSTIO

PRODUCTION COMPANIES : LUCAS TOTHE, SYLVAIN LAGRILLÈRE (PUNCHLINE CINEMA, FRANCE) TRISTAN VASLOT, AVRAN THÉPAULT, WALID BEKHTI (NEW SHOES PRODUCTIONS, FRANCE), PIERRE FOULON (KOZAK FILMS, BELGIQUE)

CAST : VEJDE GRIND (BLUE), AURÉLIEN DUBREUIL-LACHAUD (RED)

CINEMATOGRAPHY : HOVIG HAGOPIAN

SCREENWRITING : LARA EL NEMER

PRODUCTION DESIGNERS : MILOSZ MARTYNIAK, CLARISSE D'HOFFSCHMIDT, LÉA PELLETIER

COSTUME DESIGNERS : HUGO FAVIER, EMILIE BEAUMONT

SOUND DESIGNER : PIERRE-NICOLAS BLANDIN

FILM EDITOR: CHARLY CANCEL

SOUND EDITOR : NOËMY ORAISON

SOUND MIXER : SYLVAIN ADAS

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK : NOÉ BAILLEUX

VISUAL EFFECTS : CGEV

FILM'S FUNDINGS : CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE, CANAL+ WAR ON SCREEN, SECTEUR CINÉMA DE LA PROVINCE DU HAINAUT, BNP PARIBAS FORTIS FILM FINANCE, TAX SHELTER.BE, PROARTI, SABAM FOR CULTURE

LENGTH : 11 MINUTES

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE : NO DIALOGUES

SHOOTING FORMAT : DIGITAL 2K VISA CNC : 153.046



THE FILM MAKER

LISA SALLUSTIO IS A YOUNG BELGIAN FILM DIRECTOR BORN IN THE WALLOON PROVINCE OF HAINAUT, CALLED "BORINAGE".

GRADUATED IN POLITICAL SCIENCES AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS (ULB) AND IN DRAMATIC MISE-EN-SCÈNE AT THE INSAS FILM SCHOOL IN BRUSSELS, SHE THEN JOINED THE FÉMIS, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL IMAGE AND SOUND IN PARIS.

IN 2020, SHE GRADUATES WITH HER MOVIE "LES PUNAISES", AN ALLEGORICAL TALE ABOUT THE EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR. CANAL + BOUGHT THE MOVIE WHICH TOURED MANY FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD. THE FILM WON FOURTH PLACE IN THE CILECT PRIZE IN 2021.

WATER COOLER WAR IS HER FIRST PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM. AGAIN, THE MOVIE IS A TALE, BUT THIS TIME IT HOLDS AN ECOLOGICAL MEANING: WATER IS COMMON GOOD AND SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES EMERGE FROM ITS PRIVATIZATION.

FILMOGRAPHY

LITTORALY (La Fémis, 2018)

THE PUSHPINS (La Fémis, Canal+, 2020)

THE CAT NEXT DOOR (La Fémis, Arte, 2020)

OVER HILLS AND VILLAGES (Dérives asbl, 2020)

WATER COOLER WAR (Punchline Cinema, New shoes productions, Kozakfilms, Canal+, 2023)

DIRECTOR'S INTERVIEW

HOW DID YOU GET THE IDEA OF WATER COOLER WAR ?

THE WAR ON SCREEN FESTIVAL OF CHÂLONS-EN-CHAMPAGNE WAS ORGANIZING A CONTEST. WE HAD TO WRITE A MOVIE ABOUT WAR. I THEREFORE REFLECTED UPON THE CONFLICT TOPIC AND THOUGHT ABOUT A WAY TO SYMBOLICALLY REPRESENT IT. INDEED, HOW DO WE TELL A STORY ABOUT WAR IF WE DIDN'T EXPERIENCE IT? WHAT STORY CAN COME FROM THAT?

WATER COOLER WAR EMBODIES THE VARIOUS MECHANISMS AT STAKE IN A SITUATION OF DOMINATION, WHICH CAN LEAD TO A VIOLENT WAR. THAT WAR IS HAPPENING BETWEEN TWO CHARACTERS: THE ONE WHO OWNS, THE OTHER WHO DOESN'T. THE AIM OF IT WAS TO REACT TO THE CURRENT EVENTS. THE SUBJECT OF THE DISPUTE HAD TO BE SOMETHING HUMANITY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT, SOMETHING IN THE CENTER OF THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES : WATER. INDEED, WATER IS NOT A « COMMON GOOD » ANYMORE, IT BECAME A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNED BY GLOBAL COMPANIES WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS TO RECOUP THEIR HUGE INVESTMENTS.

WHAT WAS THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE MOVIE ?

WATER COOLER WAR IS ONE OF A KIND BECAUSE IT IS BUILT ON CARTOON CHARACTERISTICS, ESPECIALLY ON TEX AVERY'S CARTOONISH WORLD, BUT IT'S A LIVE ACTION. THE CHARACTERS DON'T SPEAK WITH WORDS BUT EXPRESS THEMSELVES USING ONOMATOPOEIA OR GESTURES. THANKS TO THE ACROBATICS AND VARIOUS SPECIAL EFFECTS, THE MOVIE BREAKS THE CLASSIC CINEMA STANDARDS AND THEREFORE BECOMES A GROUNDBREAKING AND ENJOYABLE WORK, BETWEEN THEATER AND CARTOON.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE COMEDY GENRE ?

TO ME, THE TONE IT USES IS WISE ENOUGH TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND A VIOLENT SOCIAL MECHANISM WHILE KEEPING A CRITICAL POINT OF VIEW TO ALLOW THE AUDIENCE TO THINK. IT'S A SHORT FORMAT, 11 MINUTES, WHICH IS ENOUGH TO CREATE A KIND OF INCREASING TENSION THANKS TO THE MINIMALISTIC BEGINNING OF THE MOVIE CONTRASTING WITH THE REALLY INTENSE ENDING. THE POINT IS TO SHOW THAT THE WAR IS SO DISPROPORTIONATE THAT THE WARRIORS, BLINDED BY THEIR MADNESS, HAVE COME TO FORGET WHAT THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR (THE WATER TANK).



ABOUT PUNCHLINE CINEMA

LUCAS TOTHE

CREATED IN 2011 BY TWO OLD FRIENDS, LUCAS TOTHE AND SYLVAIN LAGRILLÈRE, THE PRODUCTION COMPANY PUNCHLINE CINEMA HAS AROUND THIRTY SHORT FILMS UNDER ITS BELT. LUCAS AND SYLVAIN TRAVELED ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND PARTICIPATED IN THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS FESTIVALS, SUCH AS CANNES, SUNDANCE, TORONTO, CLERMONT-FERRAND, LOCARNO...

THEY ARE BUILDING CO-PRODUCTIONS ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND EVEN PRODUCED THE MOVIE MATRIOCHKAS, DIRECTED BY BÉ-RANGÈRE MC NEESE. IN 2020, THE MOVIE WAS GRANTED THE MAGRITTE AWARD FOR THE BEST SHORT FICTION FILM.

IN 2023, THE MOVIE HAUT LES CŒURS, DIRECTED BY ADRIAN MOYSE DULLIN AND PRODUCED BY PUNCHLINE CINEMA, IS ONE OF THE 15 MOVIES PRESELECTED TO COMPETE FOR THE BEST SHORT FICTION FILM OSCAR. THE SAME MOVIE WAS NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR IN THAT SAME CATEGORY.

THEY HAVE RECENTLY PRODUCED THEIR FIRST FEATURE FILM, PRESENTED AT THE FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU FILM IN LOCARNO: NOUS SOMMES JEUNES ET NOS JOURS SONT LONGS BY COSME CASTRO AND LÉA FOREST. NOW, PUNCHLINE CINEMA KEEPS ON PRODUCING SHORT FILMS AND EVEN PRODUCES DOCUMENTARIES AND DEVELOPS VARIOUS FEATURE FILMS.

ABOUT NEW SHOES

TRISTAN VASLOT

NEW SHOES IS A PRODUCTION COMPANY CREATED IN 2019 BY THREE YOUNG PRODUCERS. AMONG THEM, TRISTAN VASLOT, GRADUATED FROM THE FÉMIS FILM SCHOOL AND WINNER OF THE WAR ON SCREEN AWARD WITH WATER COOLER WAR. SINCE THEN, THEY PRODUCED 6 SHORT FILMS, DOCUMENTARIES AND FICTIONS AND ARE MAKING TWO NEW SHORT FILMS.

ABOUT KOZAK FILMS

PAULINE BEAUTHIER, PIERRE FOULON, JEAN-PIERRE GARRABOS

CREATED IN 2019, KOZAK FILMS IS A PRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION COMPANY BASED IN BRUSSELS. THEIR PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE BELGIAN CINEMA AND THEY ARE CURRENTLY PRODUCING VARIOUS FICTION FEATURE FILMS AND SHORT FILMS AND SERIES. SEVERAL FILM PRODUCTIONS ARE PLANNED DURING 2023 AND 2024. AMONG THEM, A FEATURE FILM, THEIR FIRST ONE, CO-PRODUCED WITH VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. **KOZAK FILMS ALSO STARTED INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION, OFFERING A WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICES.**



PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION IN FRANCE

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