

LYNX Film presents

JAN WIECZORKOWSKI

JULIA VAN DE GRAAFF

KOEN RUITENBEEK



FUGUE

a LYNX FILM production a film by JOËL DUINKERKE

Story by JULIA VAN DE GRAAFF and JOËL DUINKERKE screenplay by JULIA VAN DE GRAAFF director of photography RIEKS SOEPENBERG casting by JOANNA BORER and MARTHA MOJET
production and costume design by FARHAD VILKIJ editor and colorist MAX VONK music by KARL HEORTWEARD sound design by HENK-JELLE DE GROOT visual effects by TOM GERAEDTS

line producer VEERLE DENNISSEN co-producer ALFRED VAN DER KUIS producer JULIA VAN DE GRAAFF
directed by JOËL DUINKERKE

FUGUE

A film by JOËL DUINKERKE

The Netherlands | 2025 | 29 min | Polish, English, Dutch | English subtitles

Producer



Contact

LYNX Film

Julia van de Graaff
Brouwersgracht 7B
1015 GA Amsterdam
M +31 622507914
E julia@tglynx.eu
W www.lynxfilm.eu
W juliavandegraaff.eu

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The V-Fund, Z.O.Z. Fund (Culture Fund), Amsterdam Fund for the Art, NORMA Fund, BNG Culture Fund, The Netherlands Film Fund, Vluchtelingenwerk Nederland and the municipality of Goes.

To ensure a better life for their young son, a woman flees war with her veteran husband. During their flight, their son witnesses an event that will change their lives forever...

The screenplay of **FUGUE** was written in close collaboration with director Joël Duinkerke by Julia van de Graaff. D.O.P. is Rieks Soepenbergh, production and costume design by Farhad Vilki, edited by Max Vonk, sound design by Henk-Jelle Groot, Music by Karl Heortweard.

The cast includes famous Polish actor Jan Wieczorkowski, Julia van de Graaff, Guido van Hulzen, Koen Ruitenbeek, Koen van der Molen and Mus Michiels.

Snippet / Trailer *FUGUE*



SYNOPSIS

To ensure their young son has a better life, Ola and her husband, Andrzej, a veteran, flee war. During their escape, Maciek witnesses an event that will change their lives forever. Years later, he still struggles with (war) trauma. When Maciek ends up in intensive care after an accident and memories of his childhood start to resurface ever more vividly, Ola finally must face her demons.



NOTE FROM THE SCREENWRITER

While the story of *FUGUE* is fictional, on another level it is deeply personal.

The Russian drone attacks on Poland on September 10th, 2025 not only rekindle my personal fears but also make me realize once again that I wrote and produced *FUGUE* with a very clear sense of urgency. My mother grew up under a Stalinist dictatorship while her father was in prison. Her mother (my grandmother) fled Russia as a child in 1921 after her father was executed by the Bolsheviks.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

FUGUE is about an Eastern European family, but although it refers to the war that is taking place right now on the Eastern border of Europe, it is not a one-to-one realistic or historically accurate film. War is a universal theme, and **FUGUE** tells the story of a family that has been dealing with its impact for almost a decade. The film could have also been set in any Eastern European Country. Or in the Americas. Or the Middle East.

FUGUE is not the story of a single war, but a powerful, timeless narrative about how trauma can shape generations.



In an interview with Nadin Mai, curator of the online film platform 'Tao Films', he said about the power of film:

For me, its highest possible aim is to make people pause for a while (hopefully a bit longer than only the duration of a film), and let them reflect on themselves and the world. In my ideology empathy and compassion are things that can make this world a better place, and I think that cinema can contribute to make people connect with each other and not least, with themselves.

A film doesn't need to be a bite-sized and comfortable experience. It is allowed to cause friction, like life itself sometimes does.



DIRECTOR



JOËL DUINKERKE (1984)

After completing a degree in social work, Joël Duinkerke started studying at Narafi Film School in Brussels: two different fields which Joël finds obvious to connect. Social work brought awareness of very different population groups and social and mental issues. These are subjects that inspire and encourage

him, when he is on a quest together with actors he works with, to connect to the human being behind a written character, creating three-dimensional and complex characters.

He is now working as a director of short films as well as producer of corporate films with his company 'Cinemonk'.

FILMOGRAPHY

SOBER [2020, DRAMA, 17']

- 2023 | Special mention 'Best Dutch Short' New Renaissance Film Festival Amsterdam
- 2021 | Winner Best Foreign Short. TOPAZ Film Festival Women in Film (a.k.a. Flicks by Chicks) Dallas, Texas
- 2021 | Official selection Raindance London (out of 12.000 submissions)
- 2021 | Nomination Best Dutch Short Film by the Sea, Vlissingen

SPIN OF YOUTH [2013, COMING OF AGE, 10']

- 2013 | 2nd Place Lions Club Film Award Vlissingen. Film by the Sea, NL. Competition 'Zondig in Zeeland'
- 2017 | Curated by Nadin Mai for online platform Tao-films

A DOG'S LIFE [2005, COMEDY, 3']

- 2005 | 2nd Place Film by the Sea, Vlissingen

KINDERSPEL [2001, DRAMA, 9']

- 2001 | Winner Golden Mussel Youth Competition Film by the Sea, Vlissingen

PRODUCER



LYNX Film was founded in 2019 by Julia van de Graaff. With a keen eye for socially relevant stories featuring strong female protagonists LYNX produces films that are both gripping and cinematically enticing.

To date, LYNX Film has successfully produced **SOBER**, another short film by Joël Duinkerke. Based on a monologue by Paul Pourveur, Julia van de Graaff wrote the screenplay, in which she starred as Adriana.

In 2021, **SOBER** was selected from 12,000 submissions for the Raindance Film Festival and was nominated for Best Short Film at Film by the Sea. The film won several awards, including Best Foreign Short at the Topaz Film Festival in Dallas, Texas.

UNDER WATER, a feature film by Edgar Kapp and Kuba Szutkowski, was nominated in 2022 in both the 1-2 Competition at the 38th Warsaw Film Festival and for Narrative Feature Jury Award (out of 5,400 submissions) at the 29th Austin Film Festival (the screenwriters' festival in the USA).

UNDER WATER was released in theaters in 2023 by distributor Amstelfilm.

In addition to producing, Julia van de Graaff co-wrote ***UNDER WATER*** and played the antagonist Nel, a 70-year-old fanatical doomsday prepper.



PRINCIPAL CAST



Julia van de Graaff as Ola

Shortly after graduating from the Maastricht Academy of Dramatic Arts, Julia studied at Kraków drama school with Krystian Lupa and Krzysztof Globisz. She started her career at the National Theatre and played a variety of roles with various theater companies, including Theaterhuis Alba, Mighty Society, Bonte Hond (Spoonface, Silver Cricket 2010), Golden Palace, and Zeelandia.

She landed a steady part in Steven de Jong's Frisian legal series Dankert & Dankert and guest parts in series such as Boks, Spanga's, Snuf de Hond, and Flikken Maastricht. She has appeared in several short films, including *Spin of Youth* by Joël Duinkerke, *Black* by Tom Geraedts, and *Lion. Panther. She-Wolf* by Véras Fawaz.

In 2016, she founded Tg. Lynx (the predecessor to LYNX Film). With *The Second World*, a crossover of theater, film and animation, she toured the Netherlands and Poland.



Jan Wieczorkowski as Andrzej

Jan Wieczorkowski (1972, Rabka-Zdrój) is a renowned Polish film and television actor. In 1997, he graduated from the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Warsaw. That same year, he received an award for the title role in Roland Topor's play *Joko's Jubilee* at the Festival of Theatre Schools in Łódź.

His artistic portfolio includes numerous unforgettable roles. His notable film credits include *U Pana Boga za piecem* (the role of Witek Naliwajko) and its sequel, *U Pana Boga za miedzą*. Television audiences know him best for his prominent roles in series such as *Fala zbrodni*, *Na dobre i na złe*, *M jak Miłość*, and especially *Czas honoru*. In recent years, Jan played the leading part of Stanisław in the TVP1 series *Stulecie Winnych* and the leading part of Tomasz in the TVN series *Bunt*.

His recent film projects include *Dywizjon 303*, *Lesson Plan* for Netflix, and *Wieczór kawalerski*, which premiered in theaters in 2024.



Koen Ruitenbeek as Maciek

Koen Ruitenbeek (born 2013 in Haarlem) is a young, talented actor with a deep passion for his craft. From a young age, he knew that acting was his biggest dream—a dream he pursues with conviction and dedication.

He made his acting debut in Jacqueline van Vugt's film *Como el Viento*. Shortly after, he appeared in the Videoland series *Incognito*. Koen also starred in the popular series *De F*ckulteit* and had a small part in the series *Day & Night*. In 2024, Koen appeared in Michael Middelkoop's *This Is Not a Christmas Film*, which won three Golden Calves. Last summer he filmed for the new Netflix series *The Dinner Club*, based on the book by Saskia Noort.

He found a special challenge in his part in ***FUGUE***, for which he acted for the first time without any lines. The emphasis was on expression in portraying a severely traumatized child.



Guido van Hulzen as Psychiatrist Dulac

Guido van Hulzen graduated from the acting department and the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Amsterdam in 1996. Soon after he landed a leading part as Ron Lohman in the soap *Goudkust*.

Between 2000 and 2006, he was involved in the casting of numerous television series, commercials, and feature films. In 2009, he co-produced the first Klingon Opera on Earth with Floris Schönhofeld.

In 2021, he was nominated for a Werf& Award for his podcast series *De Dienst*, and in 2022, he won the award for *De Dienst: Operation Positron*.

When Julia van de Graaff asked him to play parts in ***UNDER WATER*** and ***FUGUE***, he happily returned to his old craft.

FILM FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

- Film by the Sea 2025 - Nomination Best Dutch Short Zeeuws Licht Competition

From the Jury rapport:

*This means the jury considers **FUGUE** the best film. This film scores an average of 3.6 stars, meaning: Very good / Interesting concept and execution / Evocative. The dilemma of parents with a child traumatized by war violence and their guilt about it is vividly portrayed. The theme is very current. It is a moving and gripping film. Your stomach turns at times. The music in this film is good.*

- Kamera?Akcja!Festival Łódź, Poland 2025 - Out of Competition
- New Filmmakers Los Angeles - Official selection November 2026

FUGUE IN THE PRESS

Polish press on famous Polish actor Jan Wieczorkowski's participation in **FUGUE**.

[WP Film](#)
[Gazeta](#)
[Plejada](#)
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← WP film RECENZJE ZWIASTUNY MAGAZYN WP FILM WIDEO

A to niespodzianka. Sukces polskiego aktora za granicą

Jan Wieczorkowski zagrał w krótkometrażowym "Fugue", polsko-holenderskiej opowieści o rodzinie uchodźców, która podbiła holenderską publiczność i znalazła się wśród najwyżej ocenianych krótkich metraży roku.



Anna Szubińska Marta Kowalska

Jan Wieczorkowski, który lata temu zdobył serca widzów rolą w Klanie, dziś wraca na czołówki serwisów dzięki spektakularnemu sukcesowi za granicą. Aktor zagrał w krótkometrażowym filmie "Fugue", który został doceniony na prestiżowym festiwalu Film by the Sea w Holandii. To dla wielu ogromne zaskoczenie, bo w ostatnich latach gwiazdor był znacznie mniej obecny w polskim show-biznesie.



CREDITS

cast Julia van de Graaff, Jan Wieczorkowski, Koen Ruitenbeek, Koen van der Molen, Guido van Hulzen, Mus Michiels, Anne Schot, Niek Paalvast, Isai Duinkerke, Eva Zwart (V.O.) en Pranay Pawlicki (V.O.) | **director** Joël Duinkerke | **screenplay by** Julia van de Graaff | **story supervision by** Joël Duinkerke | **producer** Julia van de Graaff | **co-producer** Alfred van der Klis | **producer coach** Marc Thelosen | **line producer** Veerle Denissen | **1st AD** Arjen Slings | **2nd AD and script continuity** Caylee Nielsen and Kelly Klingenberg | **3rd AD and child acting coach** Maria Marbus | **cinematographer** Rieks Soepenbergh | **camera assistant and focuspuller** Joost Kuiper | **gaffer** Otto Ligt | **sound recordists** Johan Rompelberg and Jesse Meulenbeek | **production and costume design** Farhad Vilki | **set dressers** Kimiya Adelifar and Ghazal Amireskandari | **set assistant** Maria Bodrug | **wardrobe assistant** Samin Salek | **make-up, hair and special effects** Corine Hamel | **casting Warsaw** Joanna Borer | **casting Maciek (10 years old)** Martha Mojet Kindercasting | **casting Maciek (18 years old) and extra's** Eva van Welzenis | **Polish language coach** Justyna Bolsius Bereszka | **editor and colorist** Max Vonk | **original music** Karl Heortweard | **sound design** Henk-Jelle de Groot | **visual effects** Tom Geraedts | **location scouting** Joël Duinkerke and Edgar Kapp | **location manager** Lisanne Kühne | **production assistants** Mees Claessen, Nadine Haggag, Erik Soomers and Charlotte van den Broeke | **catering** SEC catering, Where is my Kitchen and Geervlietse Kern activiteiten | **title and poster design** Paulina Matusiak

