



# BACKSTAGE

A FILM BY ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER

PRESS KIT

GENRE: **DRAMA**

TECH. SPECS: **COLOR, DIGITAL 6K, 1:1.66**

SPOKEN LANGUAGES: **GERMAN, LUXEMBOURGISH**

DURATION: **27 MIN**

COUNTRY: **LUXEMBOURG**

YEAR: **2026**

PRODUCTION: **35M FILMS, FILMREAKTER**

**IMDb**



**“BACKSTAGE” IS A COMPELLING SHORT FILM ABOUT POWER ABUSE SET IN THE WORLD OF THEATER IN TODAY’S LUXEMBOURG. A PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF HOW AUTHORITY IN THE ARTS CAN BE MISUSED, AND HOW ONE YOUNG PERSON FINDS THE STRENGTH TO RESIST.**



### **LOGLINE (EN)**

A theater production becomes a dangerous dance of power and attraction when a young actor discovers that the demanding director who holds his career in her hands may also be the one who will tear him apart – both on and off the stage.

### **LOGLINE (DE)**

Ein junger Theater-Schauspieler verfängt sich in einer toxischen Beziehung mit seiner einflussreichen Regisseurin. Was als harmloser Flirt beginnt, entwickelt sich zunehmend zu einem perfiden Spiel aus Verführung, Macht und Manipulation.

### **LOGLINE (FR)**

Un jeune acteur de théâtre se retrouve pris dans une liaison toxique avec sa metteuse en scène influente. Ce qui commence comme aventure innocente se transforme en jeu perfide de séduction, de pouvoir et de manipulation.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (EN)

Power abuse is a situation that many of us have sadly experienced — the feeling of being trapped, manipulated, or even sexually harassed, while being unable to fight back or free oneself. This is a reality that resonates with many, particularly within industries like entertainment, where hierarchical structures and closed environments can easily foster manipulation and exploitation.

„Backstage“ aims to address this pressing issue by exploring the unspoken dynamics of mentorship, ambition, and coercion, shedding light on the subtle, often invisible mechanisms of power abuse and the victims' difficulty of „simply saying no“.

## REGIE KOMMENTAR (DE)

Machtmissbrauch ist eine Erfahrung, die viele von uns leider aus erster Hand kennen – das Gefühl manipuliert oder gar sexuell belästigt zu werden, ohne in der Lage zu sein, sich zu wehren oder sich zu befreien. Diese bittere Realität betrifft viele, insbesondere in Bereichen wie der Unterhaltungsindustrie, wo hierarchische Strukturen und abgeschottete Umfelder Manipulation und Ausbeutung begünstigen.

**TRAILER:** [vimeo.com/1129567214](https://vimeo.com/1129567214)

**FILM WEBSITE:** [35mfilms.com/backstage](https://35mfilms.com/backstage)



# DIRECTOR & PRODUCER



**ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER** | DIRECTOR, WRITER, EDITOR, PRODUCER

(ENGLISH)

Émile V. Schlesser is an award-winning writer, director and visual artist from Luxembourg. He graduated as master student at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany. His diverse body of work stretches from narrative films to installations and immersive shows. In 2020, his short film „[Superhero](#)“ won the prestigious **Shocking Short Award**, given by NBC Universal. In 2022, he co-founded the production company **35M Films**. With his partner Fabien Colas he is also the host of a podcast about filmmaking, *35M Elevator Pitch*. Émile is an alumni of the ZFF Academy at the Zurich Film Festival 2023.

(DEUTSCH)

Émile V. Schlesser ist ein Drehbuchautor, Regisseur und bildender Künstler aus Luxemburg. Als Meisterschüler absolvierte er sein Kunststudium (unter Marcel Odenbach und Markus Lüpertz) an der historischen Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Sein Schaffen umfasst sowohl narrative Filme als auch Installationen und immersive Shows. 2020 wurde sein Kurzfilm „[Superhero](#)“ mit dem renommierten, von NBC Universal verliehenen **Shocking Short Award** ausgezeichnet. 2022 gründete er gemeinsam mit Fabien Colas die Produktionsfirma **35M Films**. Zusammen betreiben sie den FilmemacherInnen-Podcast, *35M Elevator Pitch*.

**IMDb**

[\*\*EMILEVVSCHLESSER.COM\*\*](https://emilevschlessers.com)



**FABIEN COLAS** | PRODUCER

Fabien lives in Los Angeles and travels back to Luxembourg on a regular basis. He runs [Virgin Soil Pictures](#) in LA and has produced music videos for artists such as Beyoncé, Miley Cyrus, The Weeknd, or ASAP Rocky as well as commercials for brands such as Balenciaga, Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent or Tagheuer. For narrative work, he was production manager on a feature film entitled '3022' in 2019, and has produced a variety of short films that have gone on to screen at festivals such as Tribeca Film Festival. In Luxembourg, Fabien runs the production company **35M Films** with his partner Émile V. Schlesser, currently working on their debut feature film.

**IMDb**

[\*\*FABIENCOLAS.COM\*\*](https://fabiencolas.com)

Company website: [\*\*35M-FILMS.COM\*\*](https://35m-films.com)

# MAIN CAST



**JONATHAN JOËL ALBRECHT**  
„LUKAS“



**SASCHA LEY**  
„COSIMA LAMBRECHT“



**TOMMY SCHLESSER**  
„PHILIPPE DELACROIX“



**JIL DEVRESSE**  
„VERO“



# MAIN CREW

Directed by: **Émile V. Schlesser**  
Written by: **Jonas Brand, Émile V. Schlesser**  
Produced by: **Fabien Colas, Émile V. Schlesser**  
Co-Producer: **Govinda van Maele (Filmreakter)**

DP: **Thorsten Robert Harms**  
Editor: **Émile V. Schlesser**  
Production designer: **Christina Schaffer**  
Costume designer: **Virginia Ferreira**  
Hair & Makeup: **Valentina Becker**  
Composer: **Rickie Lee Kroell**  
Sound recordist: **Carlo Thoss**  
Sound Designer: **Paola Macias**  
Sound Mixer: **Ken Nnganyadi**  
Colorist: **Aljoscha Hoffmann**





## LINKS

**FILM WEBSITE:** [35mfilms.com/backstage](http://35mfilms.com/backstage)

**FILM IMDB:** [imdb.com/title/tt38864771](http://imdb.com/title/tt38864771)

**FILMFREEWAY:** [filmfreeway.com/projects/3982240](http://filmfreeway.com/projects/3982240)

**PRODUCTION COMPANY:** [35mfilms.com](http://35mfilms.com)

**TRAILER:** [vimeo.com/1129567214](http://vimeo.com/1129567214)

**INSTAGRAM:** [instagram.com/backstage.shortfilm](http://instagram.com/backstage.shortfilm)

@backstage.shortfilm

**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/backstage.shortfilm](http://facebook.com/backstage.shortfilm)

@backstage.shortfilm

**DOWNLOAD VISUALS** (stills, poster, behind the scenes):

<https://we.tl/t-qpUeFyl5v1>

## CONTACT

**ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER** (director, producer): [emile.schlessers@gmail.com](mailto:emile.schlessers@gmail.com)

**FABIEN COLAS** (producer): [fabien@kiterockpictures.com](mailto:fabien@kiterockpictures.com)

**PRODUCTION COMPANY (35M Films):** [hello@35m-films.com](mailto:hello@35m-films.com)

SASCHA LEY

JONATHAN JOËL ALBRECHT

# BACKSTAGE

A FILM BY ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER

35M FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER "BACKSTAGE" JONATHAN JOEL ALBRECHT SASCHA LEY TOMMY SCHLESSER JIL DEVRESSE  
COSTUME DESIGNER VIRGINIA FERRIERA MAKEUP ARTIST VALENTINA BECKER MUSIC BY RICKIE LEE KROELL EDITED BY ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER PRODUCTION DESIGNER CHRISTINA SCHAEFER DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY THORSTEN ROBERT HARMS  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER JONAS BRAND PRODUCED BY FABIEN COLAS ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER CO-PRODUCED BY GOVINDA VAN MAELE DIRECTED BY ÉMILE V. SCHLESSER

35M FILMREAKTER  
FILMMAKERS NETWORK COLOGNE