

a film by
émile v. schlesser

• VIS a VIS •

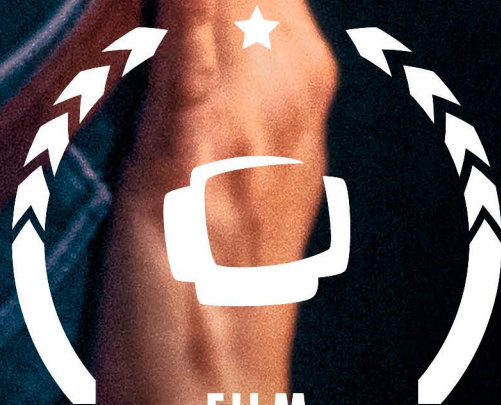
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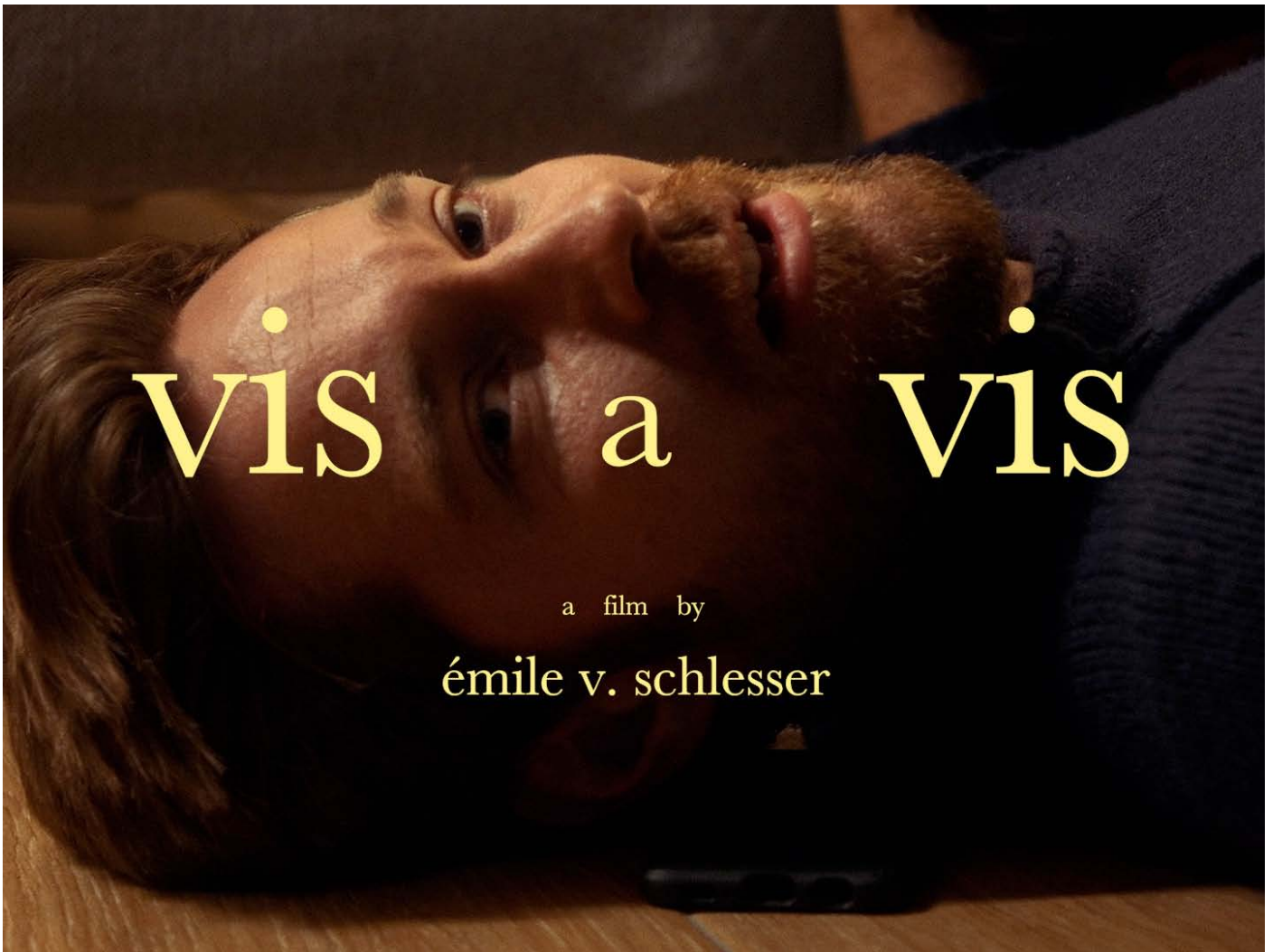
Omeleto

BOO
OOO
OOM

TV



FILM
SHORTAGE



“Vis-a-Vis” is a dramedy about responsibility, the pandemic and how it affects our relationships.

Logline

While throwing a booze fueled party during the pandemic, a young man is haunted by the suspicion that something horrible happened to the lady across the street – and he might be responsible for it.

Synopsis

After being isolated for months, five friends decide they can’t take any more solitude and start meeting regularly. Behind closed shutters they secretly drink, dance and laugh their sorrows away – until one of them realizes that the lights in the old lady’s apartment across the street have not been switched off for days. Ignoring the suspicion that something might have happened to her, they keep partying – not realizing that police are already on their way, both for them and the old lady.

Teasers

[Teaser 1](#)

[Teaser 2](#)

[Teaser 3](#)

Download a selection of
stills & posters [HERE](#)

Technical Specs

Date of completion: **May 2021**

Genre: **Drama, Comedy**

Running Time: **16', Color**

Aspect Ratio: **1:1.33 (4:3)**

Screening Format: **2K DCP, .mov, mp4 (HD)**

Sound: **5.1 DCP, or Stereo**

Shot on **Blackmagic PCC 6K** with vintage **Contax Zeiss** lenses, **24p**

Original Format: **4K**

Dialogue Language: **Luxembourgish**

Subtitles: **English, German, French**

Student Film: **NO**

First Film: **NO**

Vis-a-Vis was shot in March 2021 in Luxembourg and was completed in May 2021. The film is part of the collective short film project *Filmreakter Quickies*, initiated by filmmakers Govinda van Maele & Adolf el Assal for Filmreakter asbl.

[go to quickies.lu](http://go.to/quickies.lu)





Director's statement

After being isolated for months due to the Coronavirus lockdown, my girlfriend and me decided we couldn't take any more solitude. So for her birthday, despite current COVID restrictions, we secretly invited a couple of friends (equally lonely and desperate for human interaction) and drank and danced and laughed all night.

When I stepped onto the balcony for some fresh air, I could see lights burning in the neighbor's window, where an elderly woman lives by herself. It occurred to me that these lights had not been switched off for at least one week. I couldn't fight this uncanny feeling that something horrible might have happened to her. Despite being pretty drunk and in a partying mood, I suddenly felt guilty for what we were doing that night.

This strange emotional place serves as inspiration for this film which hopefully will resonate with many people who might have had similar experiences, feelings and thoughts – in a time where nobody knows what's going on and no questions are answered.

This is a story about responsibility and how this pandemic affects our relationships.

Credits

Writer / Director / Editor / Producer / Image Post-production
Émile V. Schless

Executive Producers
Govinda van Maele & Adolf el Assal (Filmreakter asbl)

Director of Photography
Sven Ulmerich

Sound recordist
Ken Rischard & Jacques Fischbach

Sound Post-production
Mike Butcher at Roll Studio

supported by
Film Fund Luxembourg

Music by
Bloodhype, Mamas Gun, Mad Fox

Cast

Tommy Schless, Sophie Mousel, Timo Wagner, Julie Kieffer, Konstantin Rommelfangen, Monique Reuter, Shayan Mehrafza, Daniel Moutinho



Émile V. Schlessler - *writer/director*

Émile studied art and film at the historic *Kunstakademie Düsseldorf* in Germany, graduating as master student in 2018. His body of work stretches from narrative film to immersive installations, sculptures, video and painting. He is based in Düsseldorf and Luxembourg.

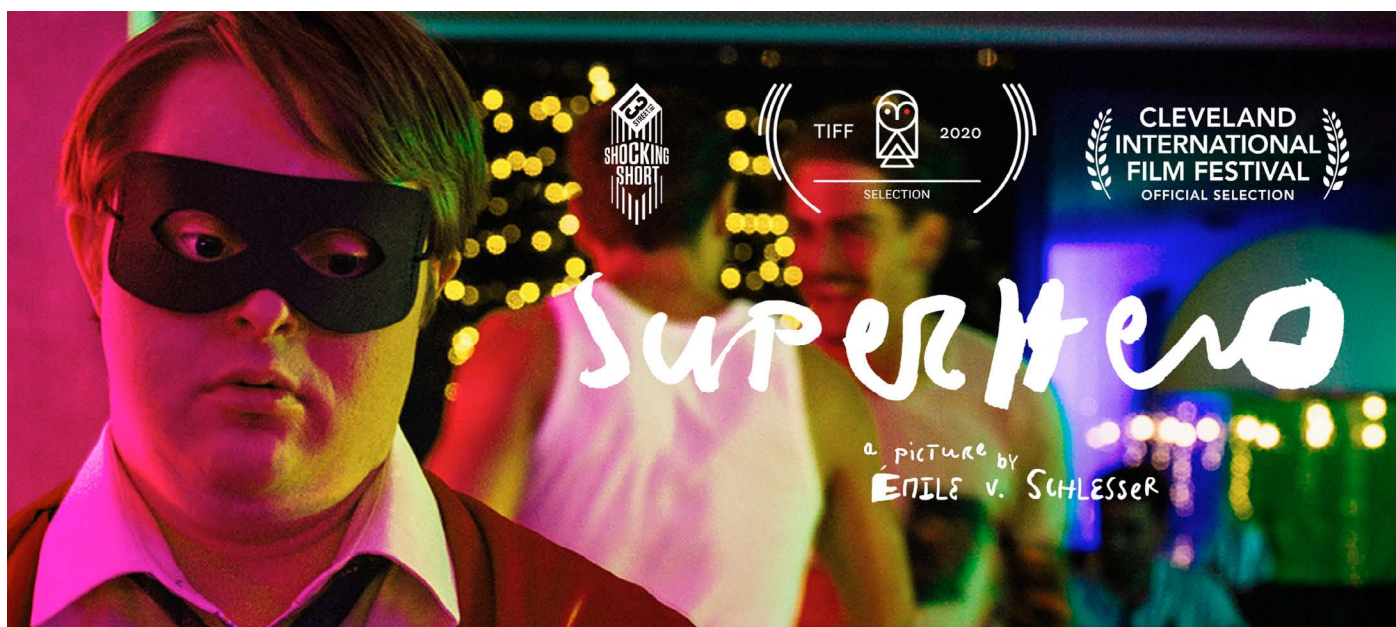
His latest short film *Superhero* (2020) gathered a lot of attention, screened at over 20 of some of the most renowned festivals worldwide (including OSCAR® qualifying *Tirana Int. Film Festival* and *Cleveland Int. Film Festival*). *Superhero* won the prestigious *13th Street Shocking Short* award in Germany, given by NBC Universal.

Superhero is will be available online at Omeleto, Director's Notes, Filmshortage and more. (mid June 2021)



Find out more about **Émile**

[Émile's Website](#)



Find out more about *Superhero*

[Superhero's Website](#)

Cast

Tommy Schlessler

Tommy on [IMDB](#)
Tommy's [agency](#)



Sophie Mousel

Sophie on [IMDB](#)
Sophie's [agency](#)

Timo Wagner

Timo on [IMDB](#)
Timo's [agency](#)



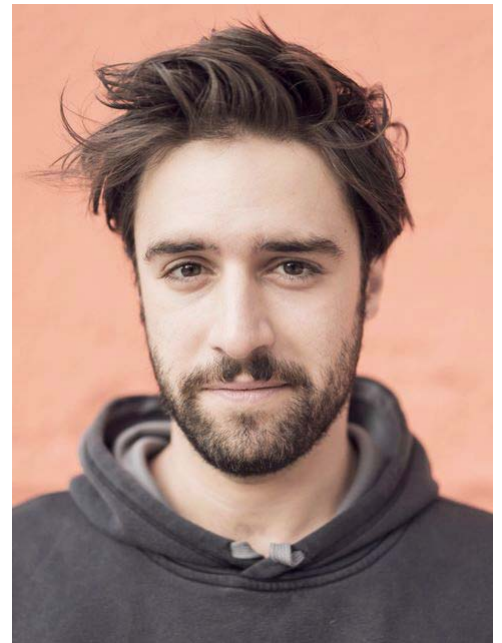


Julie Kieffer

Julie on [IMDB](#)
Julie's [agency](#)

Konstantin Rommelfangen

Konstantin on [IMDB](#)
Konstantin's [agency](#)



Monique Reuter

Monique on [IMDB](#)

Music



“Wolves” by Bloodhype

bloodhype.com

Watch video on [Youtube](#)



“The Spooks” by Mamas Gun

mamasgun.co.uk

Watch video on [Youtube](#)



“Who Pulls the Strings” by Mad Fox

[Mad Fox on Facebook](#)

Watch video on [Youtube](#)

tommy schlessner

sophie mousel

vis a vis

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émile v. schlessner

“VIS-A-VIS” – Contact & Social Media

emilevschlessner.com/vis-a-vis

[“Vis-a-Vis” on IMDB](#)

facebook.com/visavisfilm

instagram.com/visavis_film

[“Vis-a-Vis” on Filmfreeway](#)

Émile V. Schlessner

emilevschlessner.com

instagram.com/emilevschlessner

vimeo.com/emileschlessner

[Émile V. Schlessner on IMDB](#)

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Phone: +352 661 11 78 75

More Info & Production Notes

Tell us a little more about the movie?

The film is based on an actual experience my friends and myself had last November, during the peak of COVID's second wave. After being isolated for months due to the lockdown, my girlfriend and me decided we couldn't take any more solitude. So for her birthday, despite current restrictions, we secretly invited a couple of friends (equally lonely and desperate for human interaction) and drank and danced and laughed all night. When I stepped onto the balcony for some fresh air, I could see lights burning in the neighbor's window, where an elderly woman lives by herself. It occurred to me that these lights had not been switched off for at least one week. I couldn't fight this uncanny feeling that something horrible might have happened to her. Despite being pretty drunk and in a partying mood, I suddenly felt guilty for what we were doing that night. This strange emotional place serves as inspiration for this film which hopefully will resonate with many people who might have had similar experiences, feelings and thoughts – in a time where nobody knows what's going on and no questions are answered.

It's a tricky balancing act to tell a story about a historic time as it is happening, as we can't foretell how the film, its message, the character's reactions to the pandemic, and everything around it, will be perceived by future audiences. So the best you can do is to basically create a snapshot of the moment and reflect the zeitgeist as candidly as possible. This is how it felt at the time, and it's a story that happened to many people everywhere. I specifically intended to remain as ambiguous and open-ended as possible, since this is the general feeling that's been resonating since the outbreak: no one really knows what's going on, there are no unanimous answers to our questions, no absolute truths, just a myriad of constantly changing opinions.

We shot this project with a minimum of resources, a tiny budget, a couple of friends in front and behind the camera, and my own camera (a Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K with vintage Zeiss glass). We shot it at my girlfriend's apartment where the actual events took place just a few months before. The eeriest thing about the shoot was when during our last day, just before we wrapped photography, the elderly lady across the street reappeared in her apartment after having been gone for five months since the night that inspired the whole story! I still get goosebumps when I think about it.

The film is part of a larger project ("*Filmreakter Quickes*") launched by accomplished filmmakers Govinda van Maele and Adolf el Assal, who united a group of Luxembourgian filmmakers to jointly reignite our lust for movie making and storytelling after having not been able to work for a long time due to the pandemic. "*Vis-a-Vis*" is the first film of this series.

Émile V. Schlessler

Posters

tommy schlessner

sophie moussel

vis a vis

a film by

émile v. schlessner

timo wagner

konstantin rommelfangen

julie kieffer

FILMREAKTER QUICKIES



FILM FUND
LUXEMBOURG

tommy schlesser

sophie mousel

vis a vis

a film by

émile v. schlesser

timo wagner

konstantin rommelfangen

julie kieffer

FILMREAKTER **QUICKIES**



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FILMREAKTER QUICKIES



FILM FUND
LUXEMBOURG

Stills

