

# Factsheet

## The Smile (a badtime story)

Written and directed by Erik van Schaaik

Short film • 16 min • Stop-motion animation, mockumentary, black comedy, satire • Age 9+

Year: 2022

Country: The Netherlands

The Smile is an animated mockumentary, unique, edgy, bizarre, about the movie world, #metoo and more.

### Logline

When a world-famous film star is accused of eating his female co-stars, his career goes down the drain. That wipes the smile off his face.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/717451950>

Official website: <https://www.smile-movie.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thesmilemovie>

### Technical Details

Language: English

Subtitles: EN, NL

Picture format: Color

Aspect ratio: 1.78 (16x9 VIDEO)

Exhibition format: DCP / .MOV (Quicktime), ProRes, H264

### Awards and nominations

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### Synopsis

When Knud comes to America, he is only a young crocodile. He starts out as a conversation piece at the parties of his owner, a rich film producer, but when Knud gets to play little rolls in B-movies he quickly becomes the king of horror film. With his irresistible crocodile-grin, Knud brings 'the smile back in horror'. His movies – in which he frequently plays sexy villains who devours scantily clad ladies – are worldwide hits, and female fans dream of being eaten by Smiley. *Knud-mania!*

Knud's luck changes when he is linked to the disappearances of several young actresses. One lawsuit after another; Knud's empire begins to crumble!

When a disembodied actress – just a talking head – accuses Knud of having eaten her body (albeit with willing consent), Knud's smile disappears for good.

Knud manages to land tiny roles in some quasi-artistic European film flops, and tries his luck painting and making a pop album, but eventually comes to a sad end – despised by critics and the public – as a pair of crocodile leather boots at the Sotherby's auction. The most loved and hated villain is no more.

Knud was never convicted.

## Director's biography

Dutch filmmaker Erik van Schaaik started filming at the age of twelve, creating super-8 short films that made it to international television. During his study graphic design, Erik started working for Dutch television, creating a series of animated films, live action drama and documentaries, in a variety of styles and techniques. For the big screen he created award winning animated short films [Vent](#), [The Phantom Of The Cinema](#) and the stop-motion horror comedy [Under The Apple Tree](#). Brand new short [The Smile](#), is a disturbingly funny animated mockumentary.

Website: [www.erikvanschaaik.com](http://www.erikvanschaaik.com)

## Directors statement

### Story

When a world-famous film star is accused of eating his female co-stars, his career goes down the drain. However, this actor happens to be a crocodile by the name of Smiley. Crocodiles are much loved characters in horror movies and the audience expects them to eat people. Smiley is the most popular movie-monster of them all, using his smile as a trademark; he is *The Smile In Horror*. Every actress dreams of getting eaten by The Smile.

But as often is the case: the higher up, the greater fall. Audiences are ruthless in making and breaking their idols. A first stone is easily cast, quickly followed by a hail of stones.

Smiley gets tangled up in law suits, and his glamorous imperium starts to crumble. It all becomes very awkward and bizarre, and it is hard to say who is to blame, and for what. Everybody seems corrupt and perverted, and everybody ends up getting the worst of the bargain. However, nobody gets convicted.

Do we – the audience – have a role in such scandals..? Are we perhaps part of the problem? The movie industry thrives on selling sex and violence to an eager audience. Isn't it obvious the line between movie-magic and reality becomes blurred eventually?

### Vision

Writer / director Erik van Schaaik started out with a little idea, which he thought was quite amusing: What if a crocodile was to become a famous horror movie actor? Great topic for a stop-motion mocumentary, and you don't get to see those every day. Then he learned about Vorarephilia – the desire to be eaten – an anomaly that actually exists. And he came across a pair of bright green crocodile leather boots...

Only after writing the first draft, Erik realised the correlation between The Smile and the recent Hollywood scandals, and the #metoo movement. That's when the whole project became a bit of a big deal. There were film funds who refused to finance The Smile out of fear of getting their fingers burnt. Too edgy! That really surprised Erik, for isn't satire often a great cure for problems in society?

But the Smile team persevered and scraped together a tiny budget. Erik started developing his own technique for creating face replacements for puppets, designing them in 3D and printing them in color. He had never done such a thing before, but he felt that dynamic facial expressions were crucial for the performances of the many talking heads in the movie.

The Smile was technically quite demanding. Erik: 'I am proud we pulled it off, and what is best: the result makes everybody Smile!'

## Pedri Animation

A studio specializing in Stop motion animation. Founder Paul Mathot, together with freelance specialists, work to create high quality productions and to educate new talent. For more than a decade Pedri Animation has been delivering high quality animation for commercials, children series, leaders, corporate productions and short films, broadcasted worldwide. Two well-known examples are the children series 'Miffy and Friends' and 'Animal Shelf.'

Website: [www.pedri-animation.com](http://www.pedri-animation.com)

## Beast Animation

Beast Animation is an animation / production company specialized in stop motion animation. They are responsible for the (co) productions of all types of animations, series and commercials, entirely or partially carried out in stop motion.

Website: [www.beastanimation.be](http://www.beastanimation.be)

## Funders

This movie is supported by:

Netherlands Film Fund

Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF)

Tax Shelter of the Federal Government of Belgium

Investments by Lum Invest

In addition crowdfunding from Voordekunst supported The Smile generously

## Cast & Credits

writer, director, editor - Erik van Schaaik

producer - Paul Mathot

executive producers - Anita van Dalen, Delphine Dumon, Kristof Lantin

production design - Erik van Schaaik

director of photography - Samuel Vansteenkiste

voices - Tim Gunther, Claire King, Erik van Schaaik

animators - Sergio Lara Jimenez, Timothée Crabbé, Erik van Schaaik

co-producers - Anita van Dalen, Annemi Degryse, Ben Tesseur, Steven De Beul

associate producers - Henry Wichert, Dorothé van Dalen, Harro Presser

puppet supervisor, armature designer, moulds and casts - Paul Mathot

armature builder - Annelous van der Wal

wardrobe and wigs - Anneloes van Holten, Annelous van der Wal

puppet painter - Eron Sheean

puppet builders - Anna Schroots, Raymon Witteberg, Eva Schets, Démi Mathot

sets and props builders - Gerben Agterberg, Démi Mathot, Stella Rammeloo, Eva Schets, Eron Sheean

puppet maintenance, set dresser, rigger - Janne Janssens

studio managers - Dorien Schetz, Dennis Keyner, Xandra Vellinga

pipeline technical director - Isabelle Boeve

production assistants - Emma Daelman, Thijme Grol

trainees - Armelle Fouat, Pit Lempens

compositing, grading, visual effects - Erik van Schaaik

compositing, grading, visual effects assistant - Samuel Vansteenkiste

cleaning - Hans Lettany, Anita van Dalen

music composed and performed by - Erik van Schaaik, Rinus Aarts

sound design, surround mix, surround mastering - Rinus Aarts, Speakerfood Music & Sound  
Foley sound - Erik van Schaaik, Rinus Aarts  
legal - Hannes Eechaute  
payroll administration - Nikki Pintens  
budget controller - Olivier de Meyer  
translation - Erik van Schaaik productions  
titles - Anita van Dalen  
The Smile production babies - Lauranne and Mink  
dcp mastering - Erik van Schaaik  
poster - Erik Vos / het Lab

## **Press**

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