

# the Smile

“Disturbingly funny”

Tom

“It’s beautiful!”

Dick

“It’s horrible!”

Harry

Eric van Schaik Productions

**PEDRI**  
ANIMATION

**beast**  
Animation



## Logline / short synopsis

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.



## 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, 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.

Knud was never convicted.

# Technical info

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Title             | The Smile                            |
| Genre             | Mockumentary, black comedy, satire   |
| Technique         | Stop-motion animation                |
| Production year   | 2022                                 |
| Country of origin | The Netherlands                      |
| Run time          | 16 minutes                           |
| Music             | Original music score                 |
| Target audience   | 9+                                   |
| Language          | English                              |
| Subtitles         | EN, NL, ES, BR/PT, FR                |
| Picture format    | Color                                |
| Aspect ratio      | 1.85 (2K DCI FLAT) (1998x1080)       |
| Frame rate        | 24fps                                |
| Exhibition format | DCP / .MOV (Quicktime), ProRes, H264 |
| Audio             | 7.1 surround, 5.1 surround, stereo   |



## Links

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

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

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

Download [The Smile poster](#)

Download [The Smile - High resolution images](#) (zip)

Download [The Smile - flyer](#) (pdf)

## 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 of 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 is often the case: the higher up, the greater the 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 lawsuits, 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 were to become a famous horror movie actor? Great topic for a stop-motion mockumentary, 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!'

## The creators

### 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)

## Erik van Schaaik productions

Dutch writer, director, and animator Erik van Schaaik, recognized for Vent and Under The Apple Tree, is currently working on two feature projects: stop-motion animated feature film Nosferatu Reanimated and live-action feature Ghost In The Machine (working title). His latest short film, The Smile, premiered recently. Anita van Dalen, Erik's regular collaborator (co-)produced many of Erik's films and is head of marketing.

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

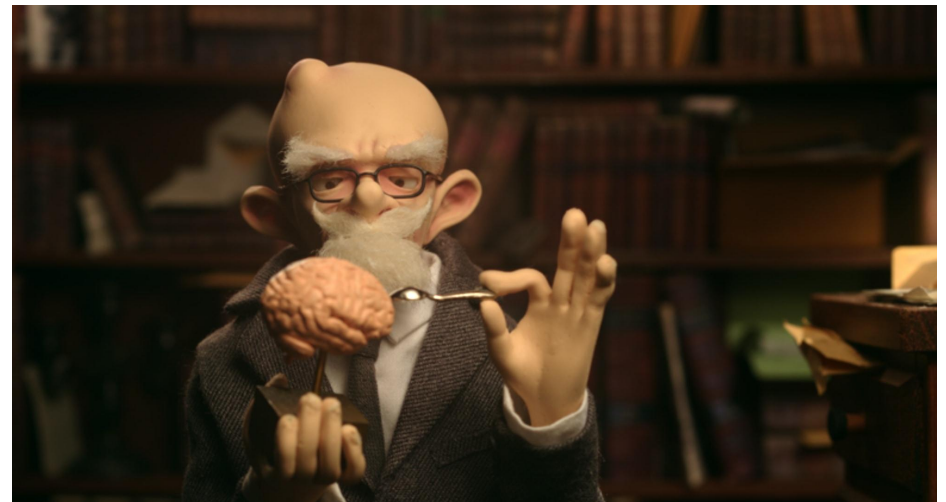
Netherlands Film Fund

Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF)

Tax Shelter of the Federal Government of Belgium

Investments by Lum Invest

In addition crowdfunders 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, Annemie 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

## Awards

Nominee Crystal Best Short - Annecy 2023

Best Animated Short - Atlantic International Film Festival  
2023 - Colombia

Best Animation - Southern Cone International Film Festival  
2023 - Chili

Special mention - London seasonal short film festival X4  
2023 - UK

Honorable Mention - Blackbird Film Festival 2023 - USA

Best International Animation Short Film - Fantaspoa 2023,  
Brazil

Audience award - International Animated Film Festival  
Animocje 2023, Poland

Best Film of the Festival and Audience Choice - Couch Film  
Festival 2023, Canada

Audience award for the best animation - Chester animation  
Festival 2023, United Kingdom

Best animation - Long Story Short International Film Festival  
2023, Romania

Best Film and Best Screenplay - SHORT to the Point 2023,  
Romania

Best Animation - ShortCutz Amsterdam Annual 2023, The  
Netherlands

Special mention - London seasonal short film festival X4  
2023, UK

Honourable Mention - Animation Dingle 2023, Ireland

Honorable Mention - Blackbird Film Festival 2023, USA

Special mention - Short Film Factory 2023, Romania

Special mention - Animation Marathon 2022, Greece

Nominee Best Documentary - Short Stop International Film Festival 2022 - Romania

Nominee Golden Bloody Unicorn - Short film festival Bludenz 2024

Nominee Best Original Screenplay and Best Title/Credit Sequence - Terror In The Bay Festival 2023 - Canada

Nominee Best Screenplay and winner of Best Animated Short - South African Horrorfest 2023 - South Africa

Pick of the year Award - Animators Guild India Fest - India

Best Editing, Best Actress, Best Animation, nominated for Best screenplay - Celludroid Sci-Fi Film Festival

## Press

<https://see-nl.com/artikel/20230608-annecy-2023-the-smile>

<https://screenanarchy.com/2022/02/crowdfund-this-the-smile-a-stop-motion-mockumentary.html>



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