

AUTOMAT

A SHORT FILM

GENRE: SCI-FI, COMEDY-DRAMA

DURATION: 10 MINUTES

LANGUAGE: GERMAN

SUBTITLES: ENGLISH

LOCATION: BERLIN, GERMANY

FORMAT: 4K / COLOR (25P IN 1.9:1)

WRITER & DIRECTOR: LEANDER BEHAL

PRODUCERS: NICOLA HERRMANN,

LEANDER BEHAL







LOGLINE

A man discovers a machine that promises happiness but harbors a dark secret.

SYNOPSIS

After Jonathan discovers that his wife is having an affair with another man, his whole world is turned upside-down. The perfectly ordinary existence he worked so hard to maintain, has given way to instability and depression. After a lonely evening of drinking, he is about to unlock his car and drive off, when a cluster of lights catches his eye. There, in the middle of an otherwise empty parking lot, is a mysterious booth. Above the door, a sign proclaims the word „happiness.“ It turns out to be a vending machine that promises bliss to its user. For only 20 Euros. Jonathan decides to give it a shot. But behind the promise of happiness lies a radical solution.





„**JONATHAN** has lost everything in one day. The person closest to him has committed an act of betrayal that has caused him to question his entire existence. But the real question is: **Was he ever happy to begin with? And what is happiness anyhow?** He could try to find the answer for himself. Or he could put it in the hands of a mysterious machine.“

Leander Behal

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Most people are unhappy, aren't they? At least to some degree. **JONATHAN** is a person who has done everything he can to follow the rules that society lays out for us. Work a steady job, find a compatible mate, save up for a house with a garden and plan to have a family of your own. He has been living under the assumption, that this universal guide to an ordinary life is the surefire path to fulfillment. Never stopping to think whether he is actually happy doing what he does. But as he uncovers his wife's infidelity, the illusion of stability is shattered. And he can no longer cling to normality. As he discovers the **AUTOMAT**, he has a decision to make. Should he ignore this apparition and continue on his ordinary path? Or should he take a risk and invite something extraordinary into his life? So far, his existence has been a very passive one. Now he has a choice of staying passive, or taking action.

Jonathan has an urge that most of us have; to let our circumstances define us. To let society dictate how we ought to live. Because few things are more intimidating, than the search for meaning. And even if you do set out to find it, you may not be successful. But still, we must try. If we don't, how will we ever find happiness?

Leander Behal



DARIO NEUMANN

JONATHAN

Dario Neumann completed his acting studies at the *Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Baden-Württemberg* in 2017. In the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons, he was an ensemble member at the *Junge Staatstheater Karlsruhe*. He continues to work in both theater and film, and has recently relocated to Berlin. For „*Automat*“, Dario was tasked with creating a character who evokes both pity and sympathy without saying a single line. It was a challenge he overcame with surprising ease. The result is a silent yet powerful performance.

ANNA-CAROLINA STUCKART

AUTOMAT & WOMAN

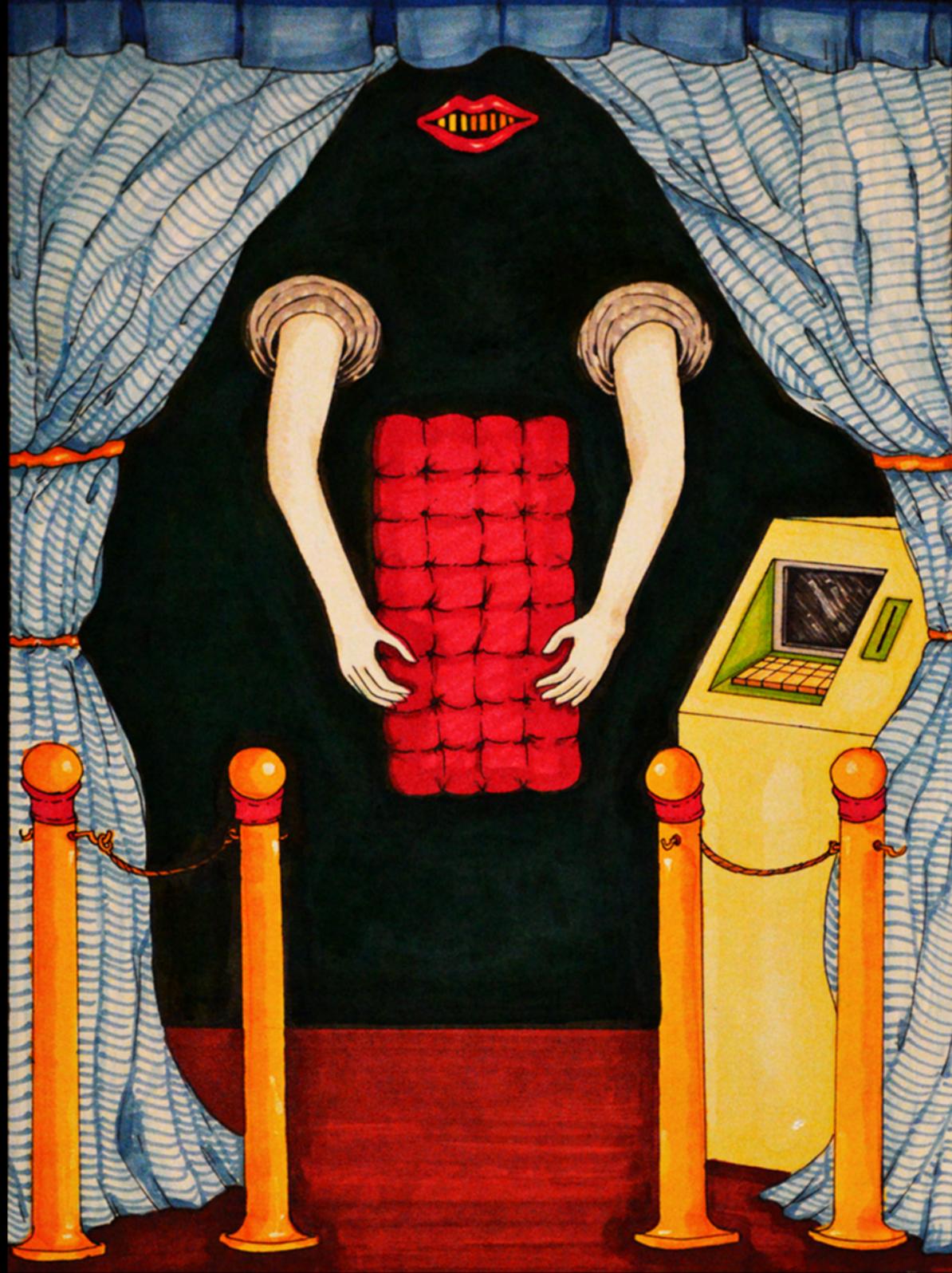
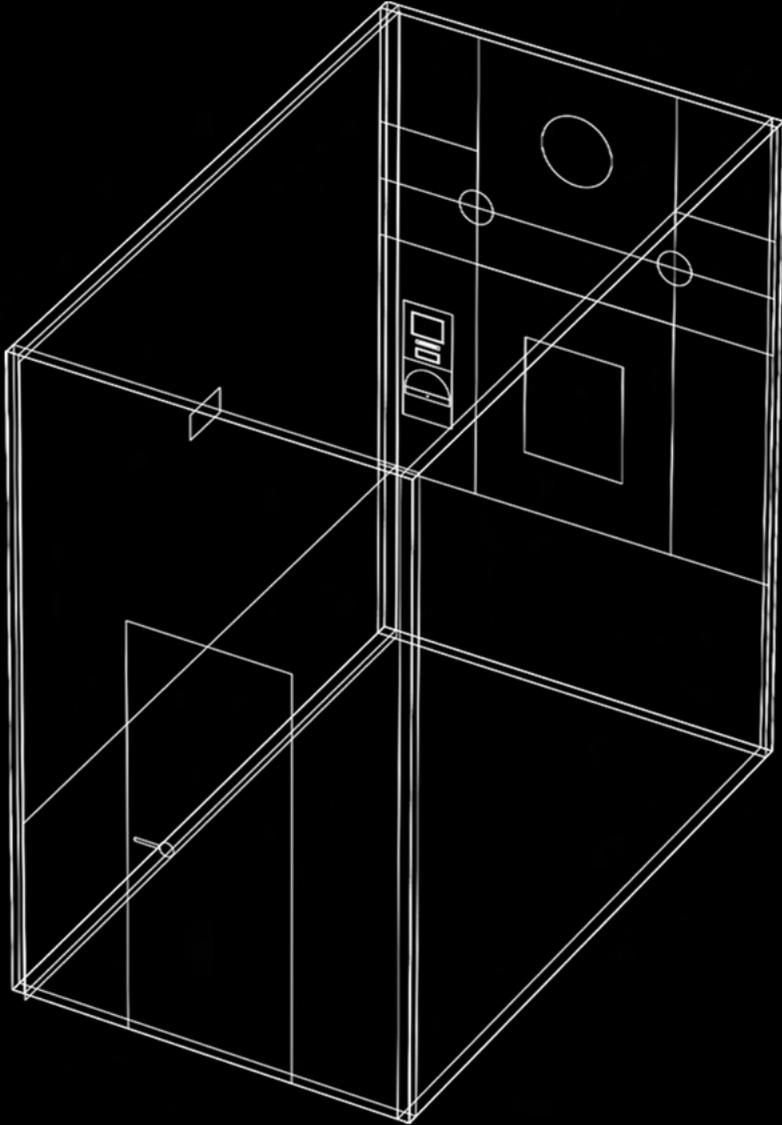
Anna-Carolina Stuckart graduated in acting from the *Schauspielschule Der Kreis Berlin* in 2018. In 2020, she starred in the independent film "*Atomen*" directed by Kate Cragg, with cinematography by Daniel Landin ("*Under the Skin*"). She is currently based in Berlin. In "*Automat*" she had two roles: The mechanical arms in the machine, and the woman in Jonathan's fantasy. For both roles she developed elaborate choreographies and thus breathed life into an otherwise lifeless machine.





SET DESIGN

The set design for „Automat“ was a mammoth task to begin with. It all started with concept art (right) created by director Leander Behal, which was then reinterpreted by set designer Vincent Carter. Vincent created meticulous sketches and construction plans for the exterior and interior of the Automat (see example below), which were then implemented throughout the course of two weeks.



TEAM



WRITER & DIRECTOR

Leander Behal was born in 1998 in Berlin, Germany. After graduating high school, he studied Film Studies at the *Free University Berlin* for five years and directed short films and documentaries in his spare time. Since 2021, he is studying Directing Fiction at the *Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg*. His films are characterized by a very specific narrative style, taking its cues from surrealism, absurdism and magical realism.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Lucas Heinze is a director of photography and steadicam operator from Berlin, Germany. After getting a bachelor's degree in sound design, he started studying cinematography at the *Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF*. He is active in narrative film, as well as the documentary, commercial and music video sector.



PRODUCER

Nicola Herrmann is a freelance producer in Berlin. She is currently studying for a Master's degree in Film Studies at *Freie Universität Berlin*. In addition, she is active in the feminist film collective *Generation Tochter* as an executive producer. „Automat“ was her second collaboration with Leander Behal.



SET DESIGN

Vincent Carter, born in Copenhagen, Denmark, is a visual artist based in Berlin. With a keen sense for spatial aesthetics, Vincent's creative output centers around otherworldly room collages whose dimensions defy the laws of physics. It is this artistic quality which prompted the director to offer the position of production designer to Vincent. This was their second collaboration as well as Vincent's second foray into production design.

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CONTACT

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CAST & CREW:

WRITER & DIRECTOR: LEANDER BEHAL

PRODUCERS: NICOLA HERRMANN, LEANDER BEHAL

EDITOR: LEANDER BEHAL

CAST: DARIO NEUMANN, ANNA-CAROLINA STUCKART

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: LUCAS HEINZE

1st ASSISTANT CAMERA: HANA REINTGES

STEADICAM: LUCAS HEINZE

GAFFER: LINUS BERBERICH

SET DESIGN: VINCENT CARTER

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER: JAKOB BÄRENKLAU

SCENIC PAINTERS: LUNITA DORN, ZOE VON PAWELSZ

SOUND: ANNA MAGDALINO

MUSIC: CHRISTOS DROUZAS

COLOR GRADING: LUCAS HEINZE