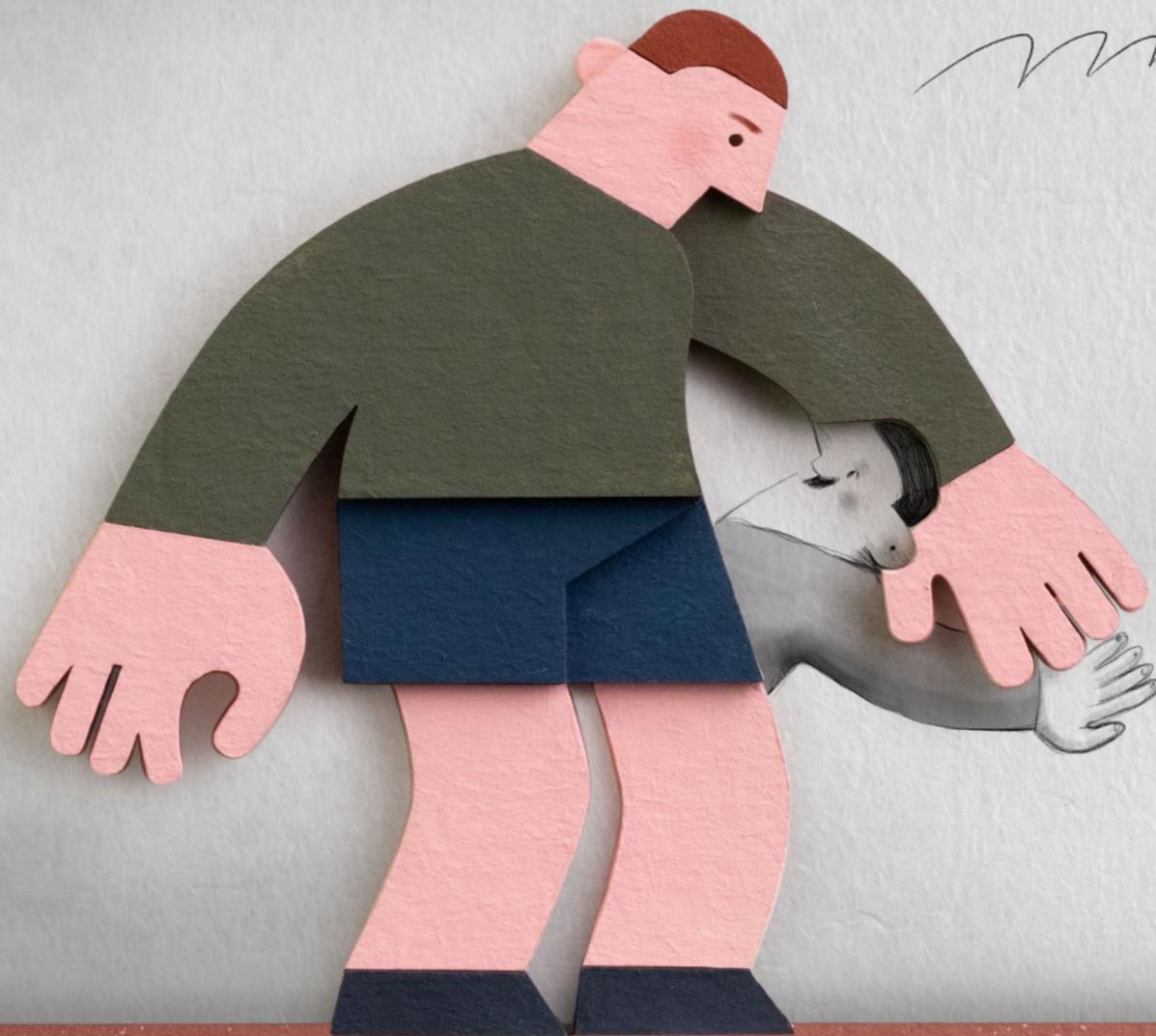




# SLOW LIGHT

*A film by Kijek/Adamski*



## SYNOPSIS

*A boy who was born blind, suddenly at the age of seven sees a light. A medical examination reveals that his eyes are so dense that it takes seven years for the light to reach the retina and hence for the image to reach his consciousness.*

*The consequence of the eye defect translates into the mental immaturity of the man, lack of understanding of the present and belated reflections on long-gone facts. The man is never mature enough for his age and constantly lingers on the past.*

*Film made in original technique representing the tactile reality of the present and 2D animation showing the past.*



## **DIRECTORS' NOTE**

*Our starting point for writing the "Slow Light" script was the common belief that "it used to be better". We often follow our thoughts to the past in moments of weakness, because we always understand the past better than the present and the meaning of life seeps into our consciousness very slowly.*

*Nostalgia and lack of understanding of the current reality results in bad life choices. It may lead to a tragedy on a purely personal level, but it might be even worse when the longing for the past relates to a bygone era. We have witnessed the transformation in Poland in the 90's and the people who couldn't cope with the post-communist reality that followed. This inspired us to write this story about a man incapable of living in the present and not comprehending his own actions in real time.*

*As much as we wanted to reflect on the burden of the regime change, we chose to make the story more relatable by emphasizing the emotional immaturity of our protagonist as this is universally human disposition after all.*

*Katarzyna Kijek and Przemysław Adamski*

## **FAQ**

### **What does „slow light” mean?**

*It is a scientific term coined to describe any optical pulse slowed by the matter through which it travels. Danish physicist Lene Vestergaard Hau succeeded in slowing a beam of light to about 17 meters per second. This experiment was a foundation for the concept of our script, but obviously we pushed the possibility toward pure fiction to gain more symbolic effect.*

### **Why the light travels through the eyes for seven years?**

*Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf education, observed that children experience major developmental milestones every seven years, and that this pattern continues throughout human life, even into adulthood. A large number of psychologists echo that claim and brings more proofs.*

*The duration of the travel is also reflected in the common belief that all cells in the human body are completely replaced every seven years. Furthermore, seven is a number with well-established symbolic meaning in many cultures. In various mythologies it is a link between time and space and a prominent symbol inscribed in the texts of all major religions giving the number a special status and making it a potential key to understanding the world.*

### **Why the ending is so pessimistic?**

*The finale is a consequence of life-long ill-advised decisions and it simply couldn't have different outcome as some choices are irreversible. Especially since the cancel culture became more prominent and you can't get away with your missteps any more. The protagonist picked badly even when his motives were pure, like in the case of pursuing his own artistic development without regard for the actual message he was delivering. Investing one's talent to empower any kind of regime can't be justified and in the end this is what killed him.*

### **What do you mean by „technique-driven narration”?**

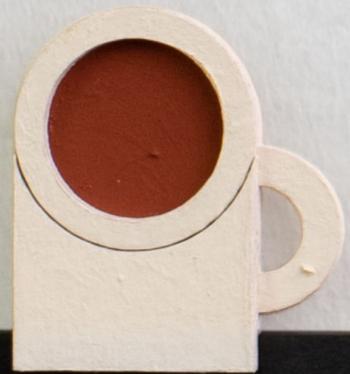
*Of course the technique is only one of the factors constituting the story, but it is crucial in terms of arrangement of the narrative. Maintaining two timelines demanded clear formal division and we picked traditional 2D animation for the past storyline and developed a tactile technique to show the present-time events. The latter was inspired by the models helping visually impaired people experience the paintings in the museums. The relief reflects a tangible reality in the film. This is obviously a metaphor, but a very strong one. A grasp is often an illusion of knowledge, like in the old tale of blind men and the elephant. So there is a symbolic meaning in the technique itself.*

## DIRECTORS' BIO

*Kijek/Adamski is Katarzyna Kijek and Przemysław Adamski, a versatile directing duo based in Warsaw, Poland, best known for their technique-driven approach to narration.*

*Their short films and music videos employing both live action and a wide range of animation techniques won them Annecy Cristal in MV category and Best Music Video award in Zagreb among other recognitions.*

*Their short films and commissioned works were screened at over 400 festivals worldwide.*



## CREDITS

*written, directed, designed by* **Kijek/Adamski**  
*produced by* **Animoon**  
*co-produced by* **COLA Animation, Kijek/Adamski, Mazovia  
Warsaw Film Fund, Polish-Japanese  
Academy of Information Technology**

*Stop motion animation* **Kijek/Adamski**  
*2d animation* **COLA Animation**  
*original music* **Piotr Kaliński**  
*sound* **Carlos Abreu, Miguel Gonçalves**  
*voice* **Philip Lenkowsky**

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

*title* **Slow Light**  
*country of origin* **Poland, Portugal**  
*year of production* **2022**  
*running time* **11 min.**  
*language* **English**  
*available formats* **.h264, .mov, DCP**  
*frame rate* **25 fps**  
*aspect ratio* **16:9**  
*sound* **stereo**



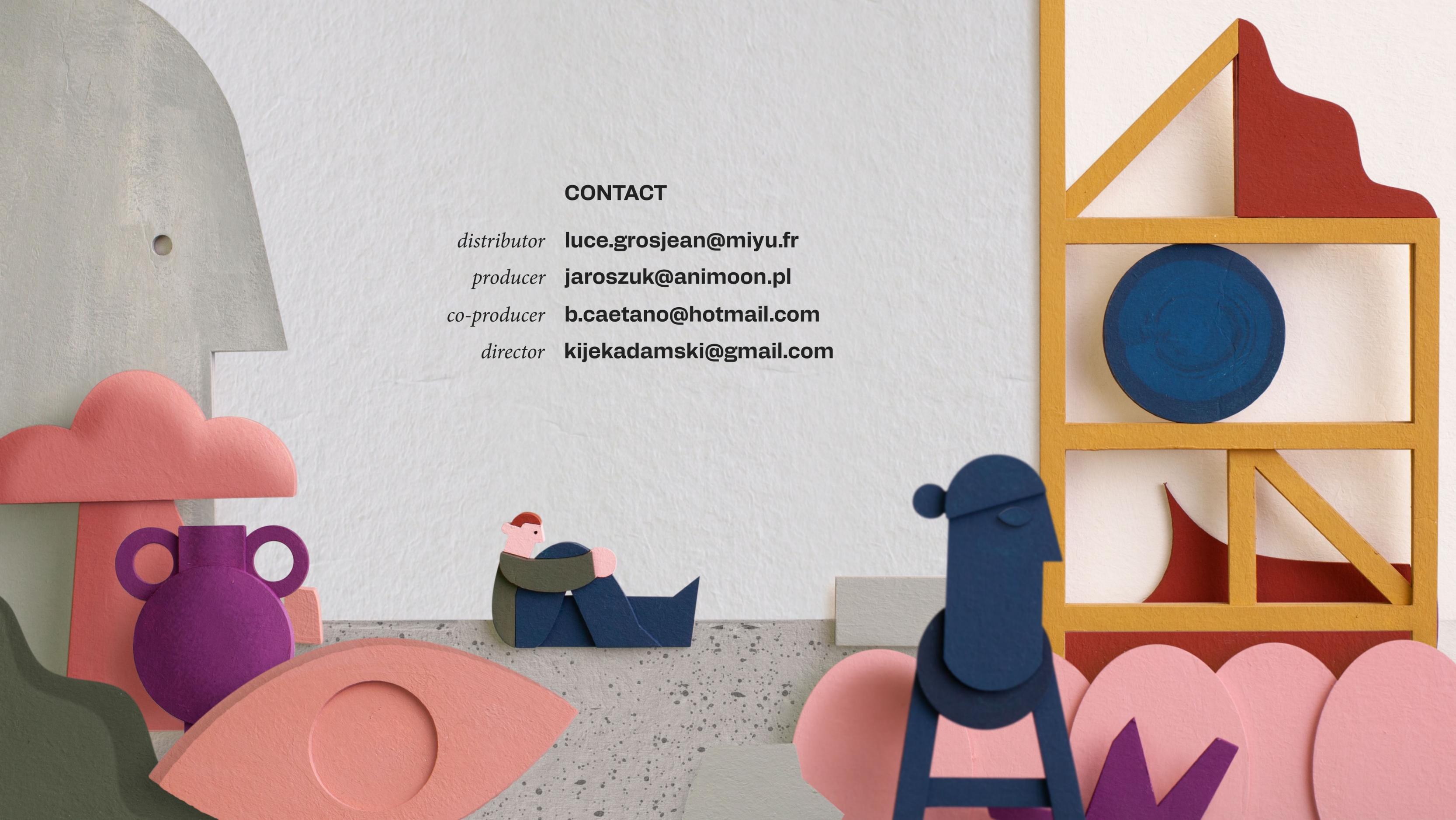
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