

a Tinsel studio film
written and directed by Wiep Teeuwisse
set design Nienke Deutz
art direction Alice Saey



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A 2-minute stop-motion musical where discarded trash refuses to be labeled as garbage.



language: Dutch

genre: musical

technique: stop-motion animation

duration: 2'31''

audience: 6+

format: DCP and Quicktime ProRes

screen ratio: 2K 1998x1080,
4K 3996x2160

sound: SRD, 5.1, Stereo

financial partners:

Netherlands Film Fond,
Gemeente Rotterdam

date of completion: June 2024

international avant-premiere:

Anecy, June 2024

national premiere: Netherlands
Film Festival, Utrecht, Sept 2024

FILM



vimeo.com/tinselstudio/refusers



On a street corner in the city, a heap of dumped garbage surrounds two trash containers. An old mattress starts speaking sadly: *'They say I'm dirty...'*. Another piece of garbage chimes in. A painting feels like a failure, an old newspaper feels dated; the mood is defeated.

As the newspaper is picked up by the wind in the spotlight of the lamppost, it begins to dance. The rest of the garbage is impressed: *'You're beautiful!'* the painting exclaims. A broken mirror shows the painting that it is also beautiful.

Freed from how their human owners have labeled them, the Refusers can now see themselves in a positive light. The mattress proudly celebrates the fact that it houses a family of fleas, followed by plastic bottle expressing its desire to see the world. They begin encouraging each other, and when a group of garbage bags starts spitting out waste, the party begins. All the garbage sings and dances in synchrony, ending in a climactic expressive pose. All of a sudden, the dreaded sound of an approaching garbage truck interrupts their song.

As the garbage truck is done collecting and drives away, the containers seem abandoned. Have all the Refusers been brutally taken away? Along with some final musical notes, they suddenly emerge from their hiding spots and excitedly venture out into the world.

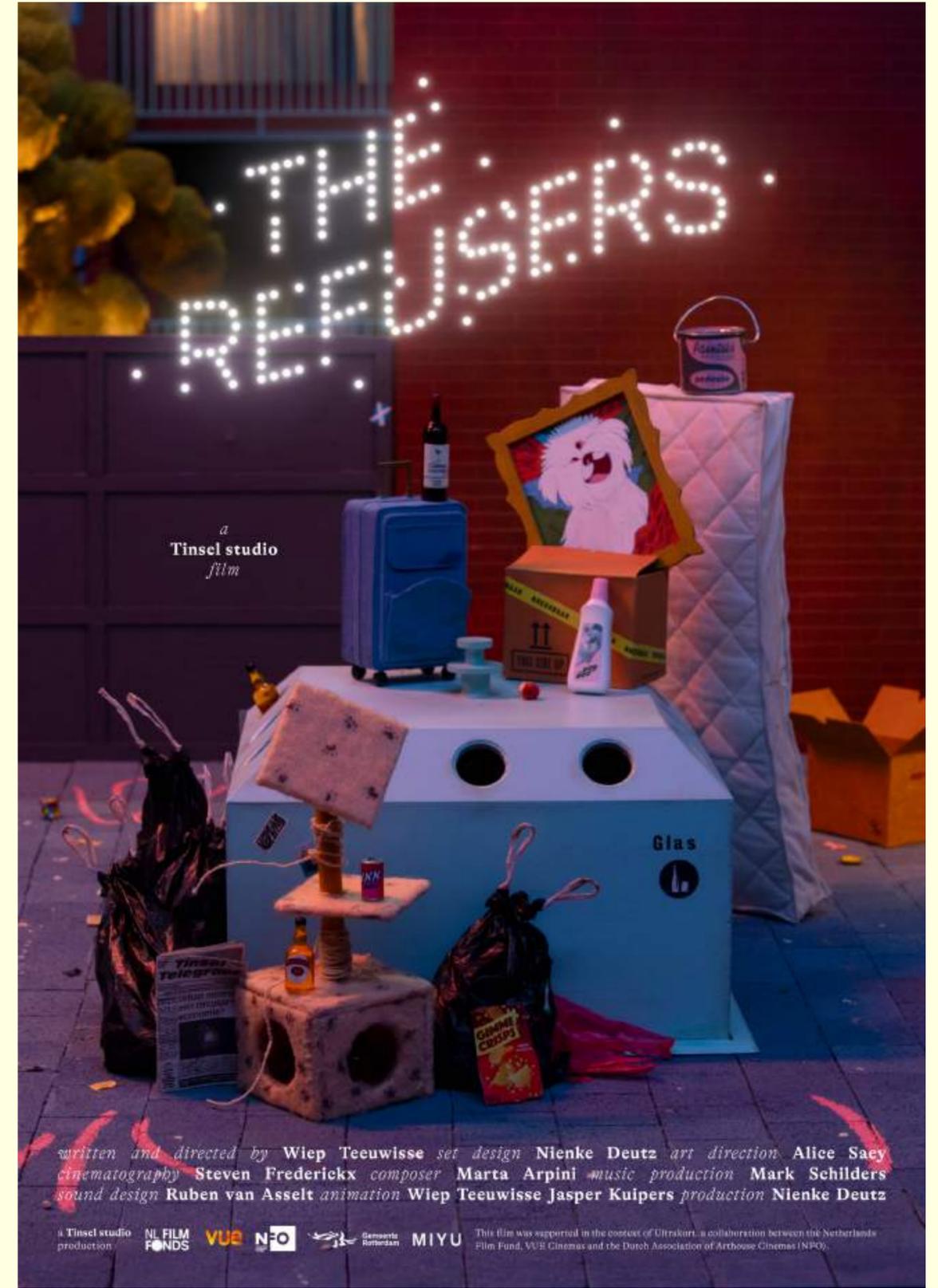
TEASER



vimeo.com/tinselstudio/refusers-teaser

STILLS & POSTER

[link stills](#)
[link poster](#)



The core content of the film stems from posthumanist philosophy, which questions our rigid distinction between subject and object and links it to ecology. Often, media dealing with ecological themes appeal to guilt and shame to provoke change. I find this approach is paralyzing and believe it is more effective to tap into feelings of love and interconnectedness to activate the viewer.

With *The Refusers* I aim to do just that. The film is primarily positive and humorous. By giving garbage a voice and allowing the viewer to empathize with them, I hope to raise awareness that once you dispose of waste, it doesn't disappear but continues to exist. I hope to instill in the audience's mind the realization that the existence of 'garbage' is not a given but merely a contemporary concept. One that can be altered.

Because the character of the garbage largely lies in their materiality and the way they move, I have chosen the medium of stop motion. Tangibility and real materials add tremendous charm to the characters. With self-derision and a simple, graphic visual language, *The Refusers* is a refreshing musical.



Wiep Teeuwisse

written and directed by **Wiep Teeuwisse**
set design **Nienke Deutz**
art direction **Alice Saey**
cinematography **Steven Frederickx**
production **Nienke Deutz**
animation **Wiep Teeuwisse**
Jasper Kuipers
composer **Marta Arpini**
lyrics **Sophie Reekers**
music production **Mark Schilders**
sound design **Ruben van Asselt**
distribution and sales **Luce Grosjean**
Miyu Distribution





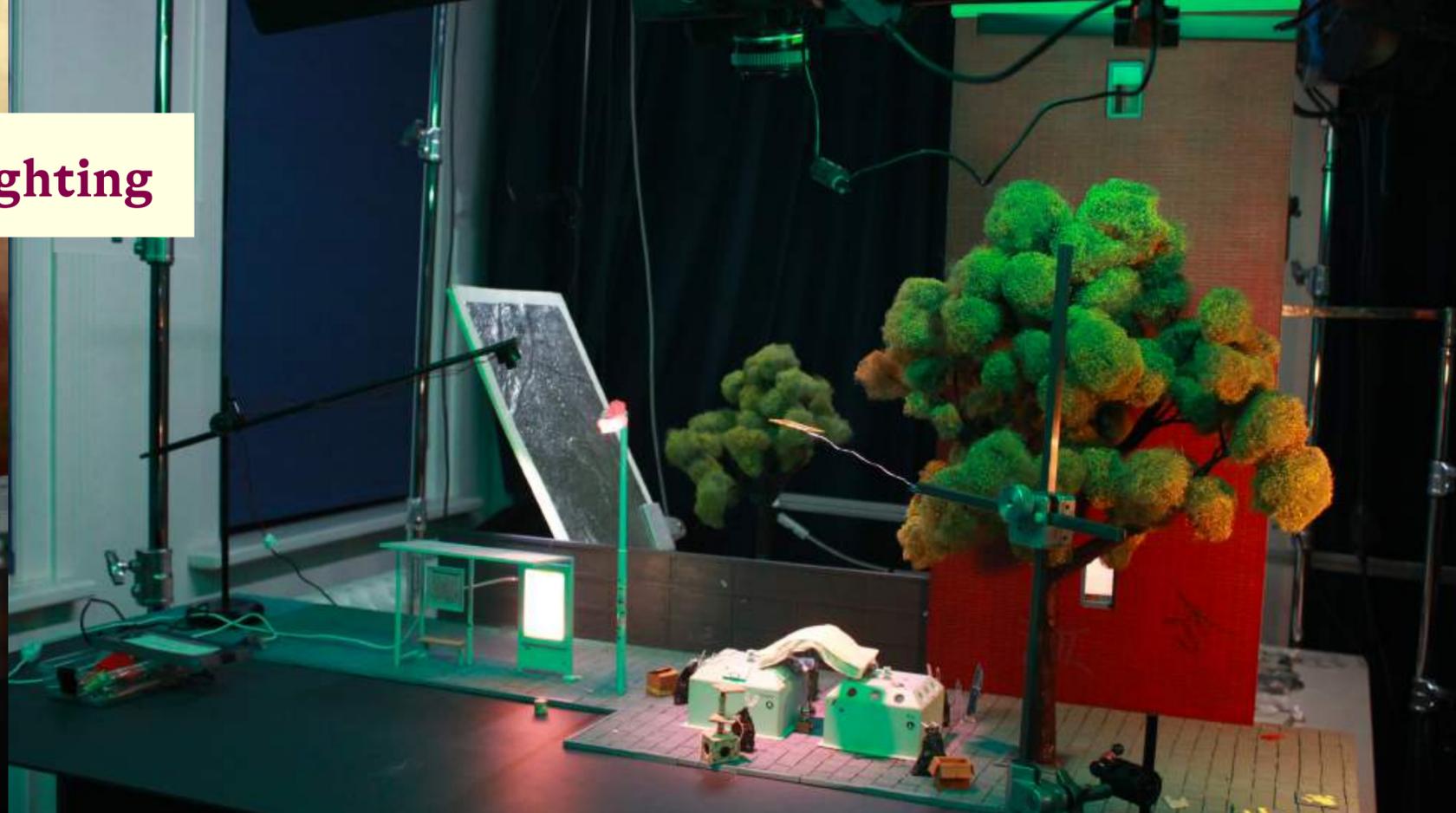


prop making





set lighting





Tinsel studio is the animation lovechild of directors Wiep Teeuwisse, Nienke Deutz & Alice Saey, based in Rotterdam (NL).

With more than 10 years of experience in directing animation, the three directors have benefited from global exposure and international co-productions with France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Their films have received international recognition and numerous awards at festivals such as Annecy International Animation Festival, Ottawa International Animation Festival, Animafest Zagreb, ITFS Stuttgart, Chicago International Film Festival, Go Short, Kaboom...

After 4 years of sharing a studio and working on each other's projects, they decided to take their professional partnership to the next level and start producing their own films. With a shared passion for contemporary filmmaking, artistry, and storytelling, they wish to grow as a collective from their individual experiences, spanning from 2D graphic to tactile stop-motion.

Strongly rooted both in the Netherlands and France, **Tinsel studio** is eager to develop on the local scene with an international outlook. *The Refusers* is their first production.

Wiep Teeuwisse
director & scripwriter



Wiep Teeuwisse (1993) is a director and animator based in Rotterdam. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Animation from HKU in 2015 and completed a Master's degree in Directing Animation in 2021 at the National Film and Television School in London.

Her graduation film *Depart at 22* won the Cristal for Best Graduation film at Annecy International Animation festival. Her debut film *Intermission Expedition* received global recognition and travelled around over 70 festivals.

In addition to directing autonomous work, she works as animator on various short films. Wiep works with drawn-on-paper animation, stop motion, and other analogue techniques. Currently, she is developing her next short film.

Nienke Deutz
producer & set designer



Nienke Deutz (1986) is a director and animator based in Rotterdam, Netherlands. After studying Visual Arts in Maastricht and obtaining a master's degree in animation at KASK in Ghent, she is now active in both the Dutch and Belgian animation scenes.

Her debut film, *Bloeistraat 11*, (2018) won more than 30 awards, including the Cristal for Best Short Film at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival. Her second short *The Miracle* (2023) collected over 10 awards including the Grand Prix at Animafest Zagreb in June 2024.

In her films, she explores the narrative and visual possibilities of animated film and strives to combine different animation techniques and storytelling methods. Her work often revolves around human experiences, with alienation and discomfort being recurring themes.

Alice Saey
art director

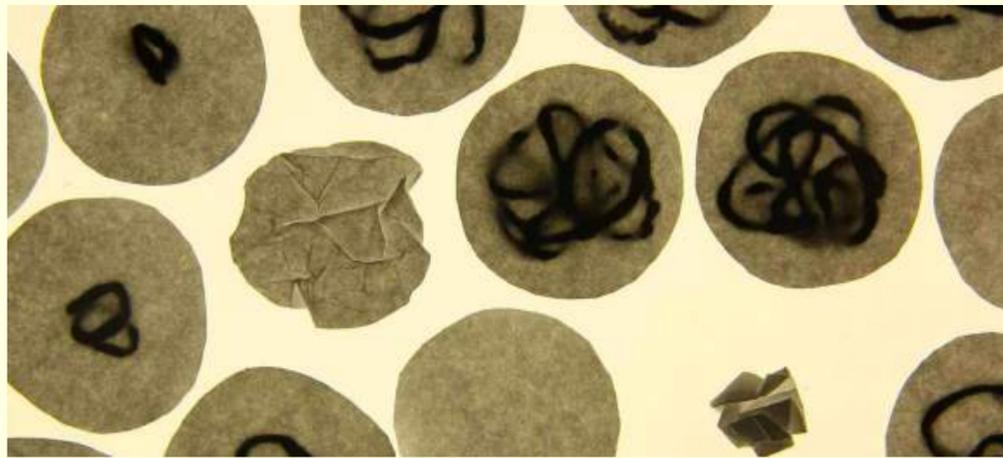


Alice Saey (1989) is a Franco-Scottish graphic artist and animation director. She draws with Indian ink, often in Paris, mostly in Rotterdam. Her work focusses on poetic and graphic forms of narration, in the fields of design and film.

Since she graduated from a graphic design Masters in HEAR (Strasbourg, FR), she animated naked ladies, dancing geese and singing volcanos in music videos *She's Young*, *Happy* and *Careful*, which brought her work to international recognition and collected over 20 awards.

She has collaborated with various clients including Arte, Centre Pompidou, Socialter. She will also be drawing murals for the new metro station La Courneuve — Six Routes, as a part of the Grand Paris Express. Her latest short *Flatastic* premiered in 2024 at the International Film Festival Rotterdam and has been since screened in over 20 festivals, including Animafest Zagreb, Curtas Vila do Conde and Odense Film festival.

Wiep Teeuwisse
director's filmography



Depart at 22

short film, 4', 2015 — drawing on paper, paper cut outs — prod. HKU
vimeo.com/132802860

On growing old and the fear of losing the beauty of youth.

Nienke Deutz
director's filmography



Bloeistraat 11

short film, 9', 2018 — stop motion — prod. Lunanime / Windmill
vimeo.com/429712085

Inseparable best friends spend their last summer holiday of childhood amusing themselves around the house. As summer progresses, their bodies start to morph and shift, and an awkwardness descends on their friendship. Puberty seems determined to interrupt their bond.

Alice Saey
director's filmography



Mark Lotterman — Happy

videoclip, 6', 2017 — drawing on paper — prod. Alice Saey
vimeo.com/213825705

People should be happy. Even this Egyptian goose, who tries to cast a spell on us with a seductive dance. Its gracious and clumsy movements captivate us. But it's not the only one to master the dance.



Intermission Expedition

short film, 9', 2019 — drawing on paper — prod. Valk Productions
vimeo.com/321708862 password: **WiepT**

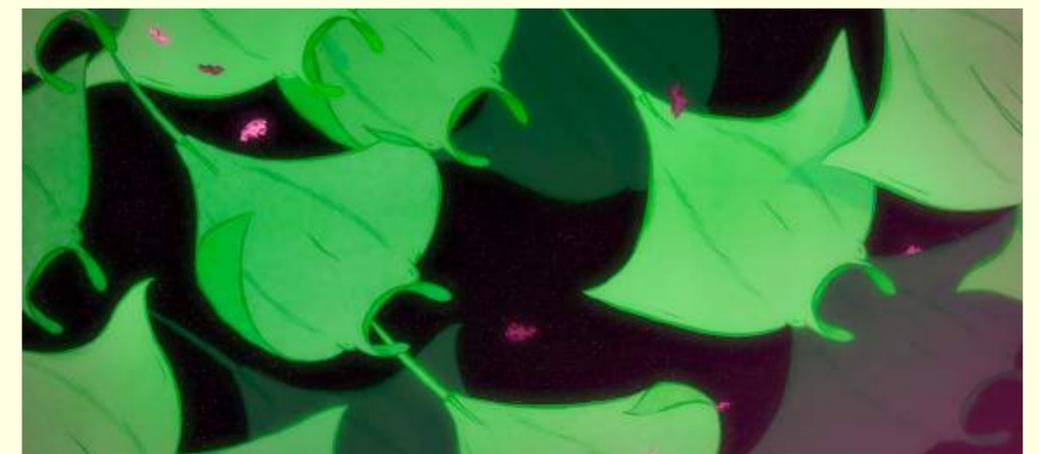
During a sunny holiday, a flock of tourists struggle to let go of their busy city lives, and the absence of daily tasks leaves them lost in an uncomfortable and frightening place. Once they learn to slow down, they may find some beauty in the here and now.



The Miracle

short film, 15', 2023 — stop motion — prod. Lunanime / Kepler/ Nienke Deutz
vimeo.com/771111965/0659ef2404

The Miracle, a place where the sun always shines, with endless opportunities to relax and food in abundance. But how do you relate to a place that constantly confronts you with the things you don't have?



Flatastic

short film, 17', 2024 — prod. Miyu / Kepler / Spotted Bird
vimeo.com/871768824 password: **Makeitflat**

Pushed to their limit, the Manta Rays rise up against Man to take control of the Earth; it is the dawning of a new Manta Ray Era and the "flattening" of Mankind.

THE REFUSERS

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Financial partners



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