

**This is
your captain
speaking**

a film by

Nienke Deutz

& Digna van der Put





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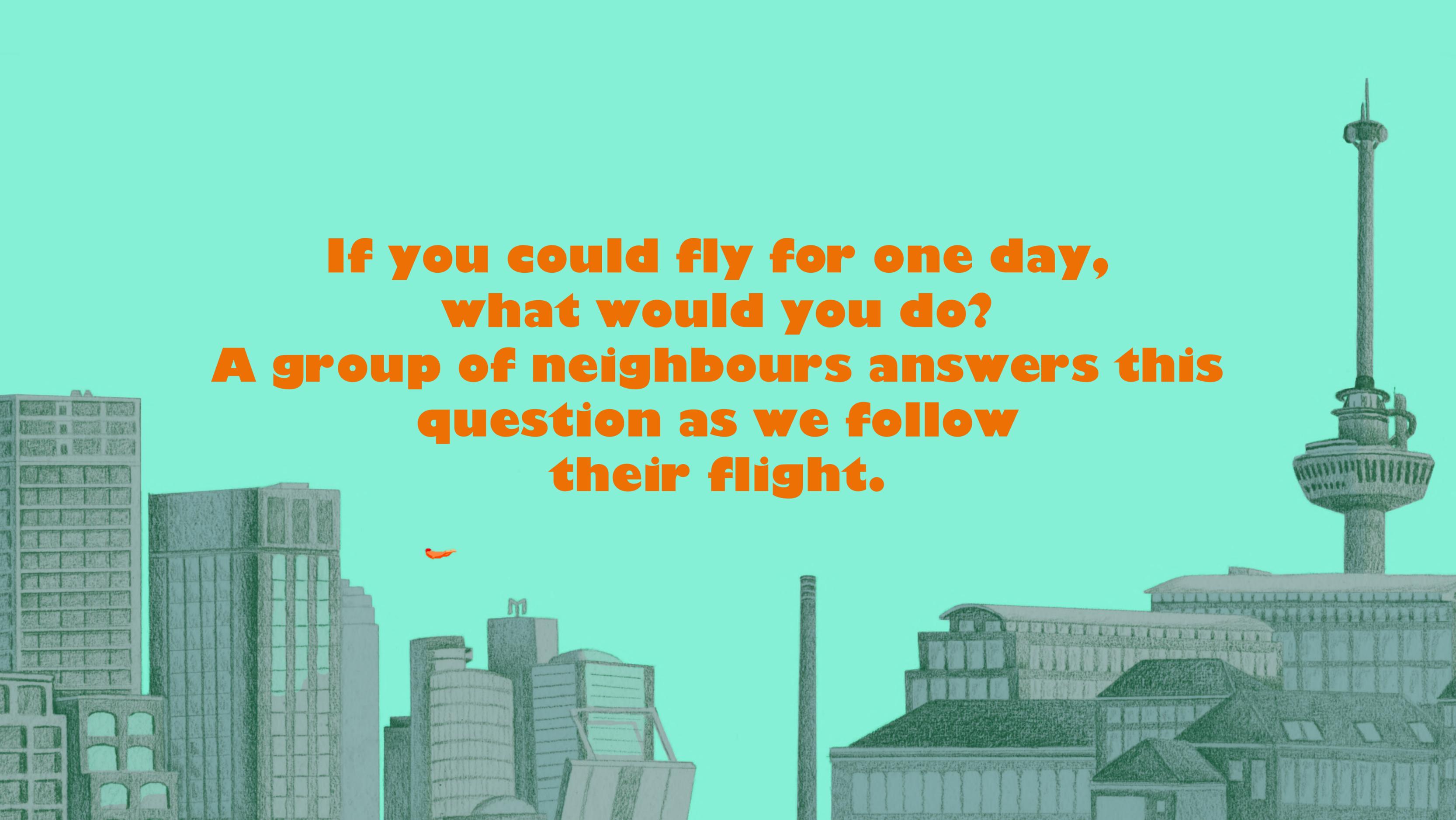
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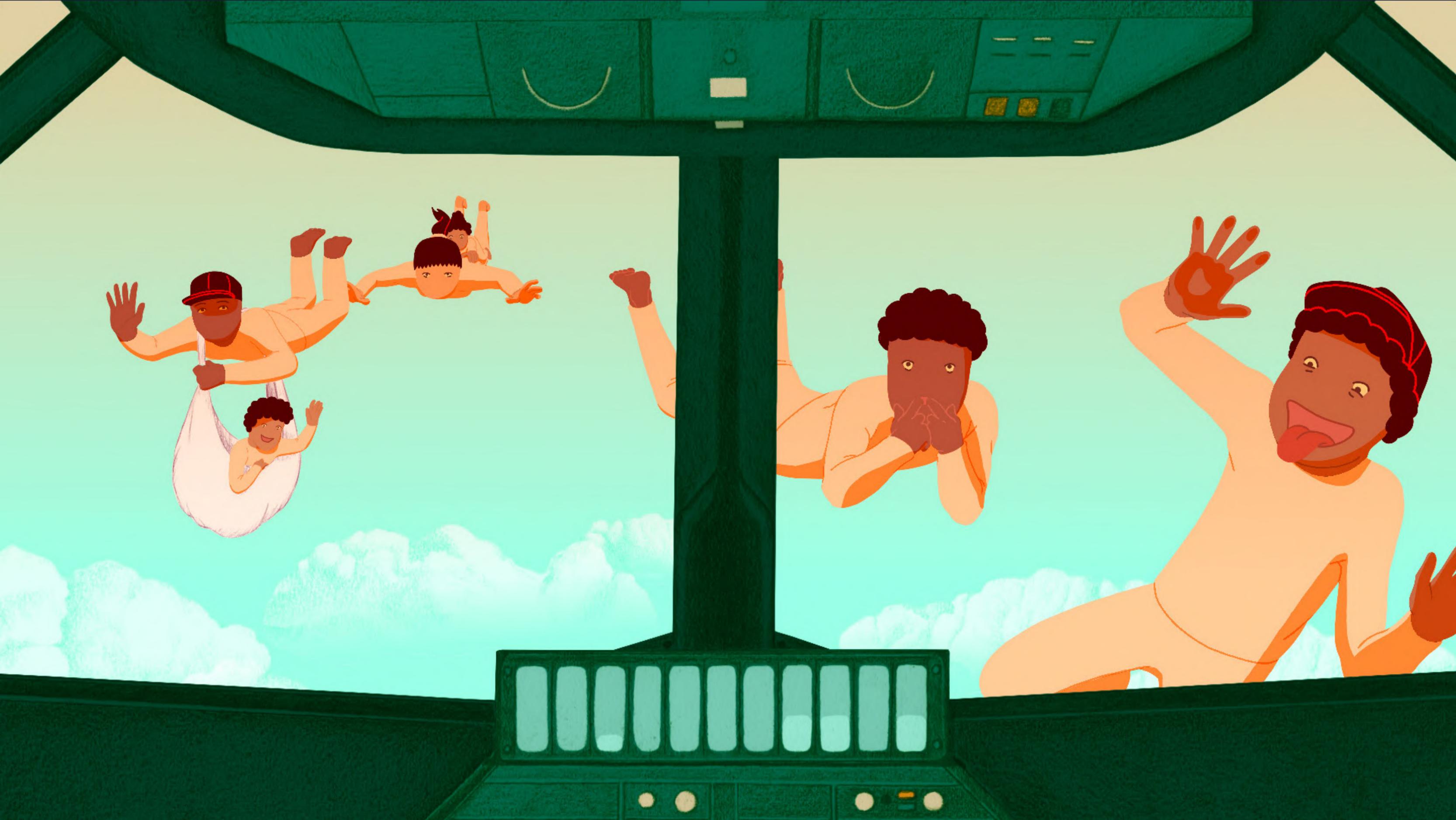
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**If you could fly for one day,
what would you do?
A group of neighbours answers this
question as we follow
their flight.**



factsheet

title: *This Is Your Captain Speaking*

genre: animated documentary

year of release: 2026

country of origin: The Netherlands, Belgium

running time: 14'15''

language: Dutch

subtitles: English, French

techniques: 2D digital, 2D analogue

sound mix: 5.1, Stereo

resolution: 4K 3840x2160, 2K 1920x1080

speed: 24 FPS



film



[link](#)
password: *captain*

synopsis

On an early autumn morning in Rotterdam, the streets are silent and empty. In a dimly lit attic room, a woman called Maria climbs into her windowsill and gazes out over the city. Around her, neighbors begin doing the same: some step into their own windowsills, others balance on the edges of their balconies.

Maria takes a deep breath, murmurs to herself, *“Maria, you’re going to your mother”* and lets go. She drops toward the ground, fast, until, at the last possible moment, she pulls up. All across the block, neighbours do the same. Today, they have the power to fly.

They sweep through the city, testing the limits of their new abilities. How fast can they go? How high? How low? Once the thrill settles the flying people leave the city, each headed toward a personal dream destination.

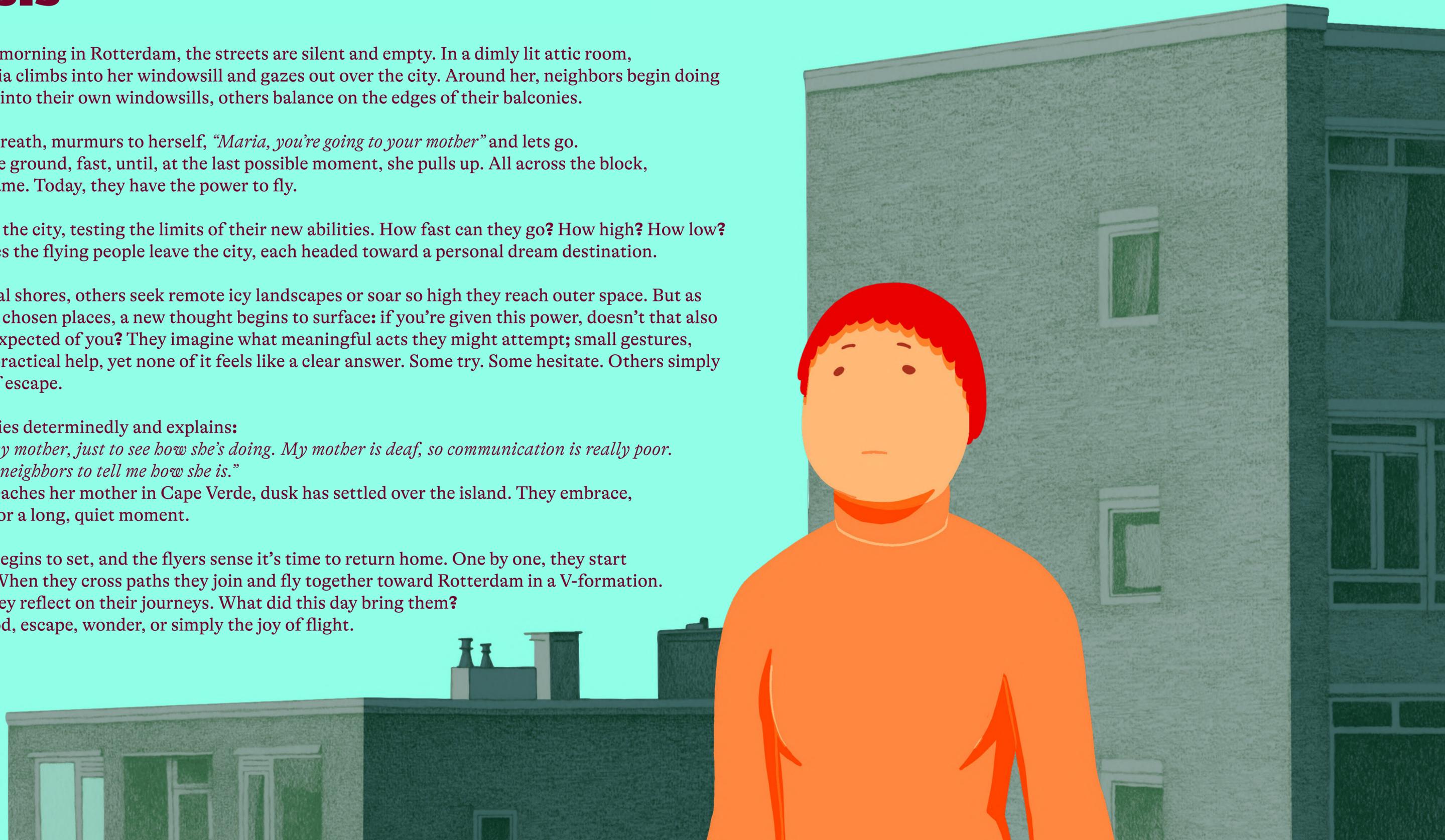
Some land on tropical shores, others seek remote icy landscapes or soar so high they reach outer space. But as they settle into their chosen places, a new thought begins to surface: if you’re given this power, doesn’t that also mean something is expected of you? They imagine what meaningful acts they might attempt; small gestures, symbolic missions, practical help, yet none of it feels like a clear answer. Some try. Some hesitate. Others simply revel in the luxury of escape.

Meanwhile, Maria flies determinedly and explains:

“I would fly to my mother, just to see how she’s doing. My mother is deaf, so communication is really poor. I depend on her neighbors to tell me how she is.”

By the time Maria reaches her mother in Cape Verde, dusk has settled over the island. They embrace, holding each other for a long, quiet moment.

Elsewhere, the sun begins to set, and the flyers sense it’s time to return home. One by one, they start their journey back. When they cross paths they join and fly together toward Rotterdam in a V-formation. Back in their city, they reflect on their journeys. What did this day bring them? The ability to do good, escape, wonder, or simply the joy of flight.





teaser



[link](#)

artistic statement

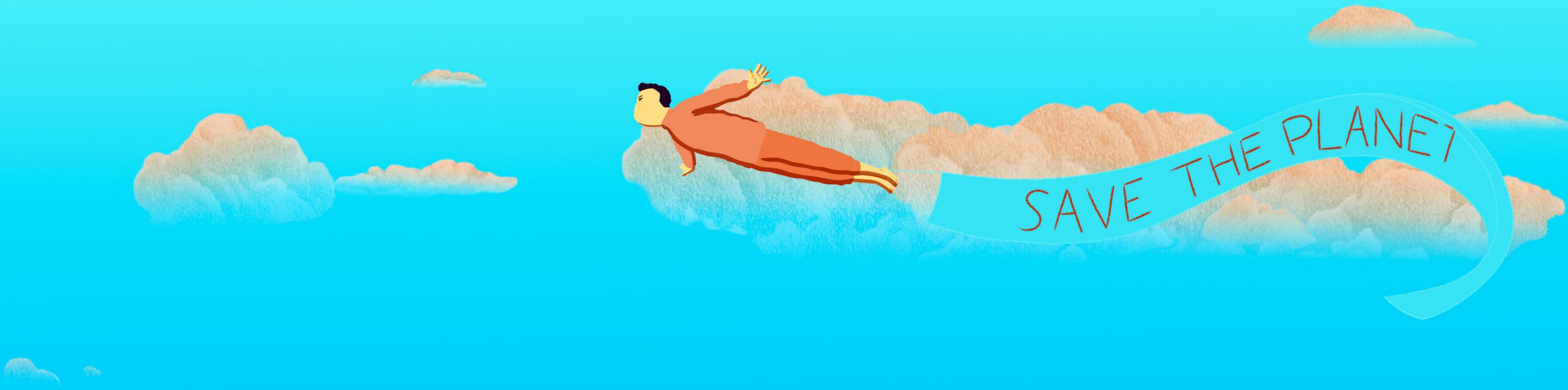
What would you do if you could fly? In her neighbourhood Rotterdam Delfshaven, Nienke invited her neighbors, of all ages and backgrounds, to elaborate on this question. Their answers became the foundation for *This Is Your Captain Speaking*.

As the interviews unfolded, a pattern emerged. People first imagined testing the limits of their new ability; how high, how fast, how far. Then they pictured exploring their surroundings or visiting places and people they miss. When asked whether they'd use this power to help others, the tone often shifted: the fantasy suddenly carried responsibility.

The film plays with the visual language of superhero cinema and blends this with the intimate fantasies of the interviewees. The result is a kind of anti-superhero film: instead of grand missions or epic battles, we see how everyday people imagine navigating life with a superpower.

The answers reveal how people see themselves, their environment, and their place in the world. Some imagine heroic acts, others small gestures, and some keep the gift to themselves.

The film weaves different perspectives into a mosaic of personal fantasies, offering a glimpse into the inner worlds and hopes of a diverse community.



credits

directed by
Nienke Deutz
Digna Van Der Put

with the voices of
Maria De Lourdes Lima
Jenilee Miller
Helen Lynguris
Marc Van Der Heijde
Roos Greve
Ulla-Britt Vogt
Izabela Samuel
Roy Samuel

produced by
Koert Davidse
Marc Thelosen
Brecht Van Elslande
Bert Lesaffer

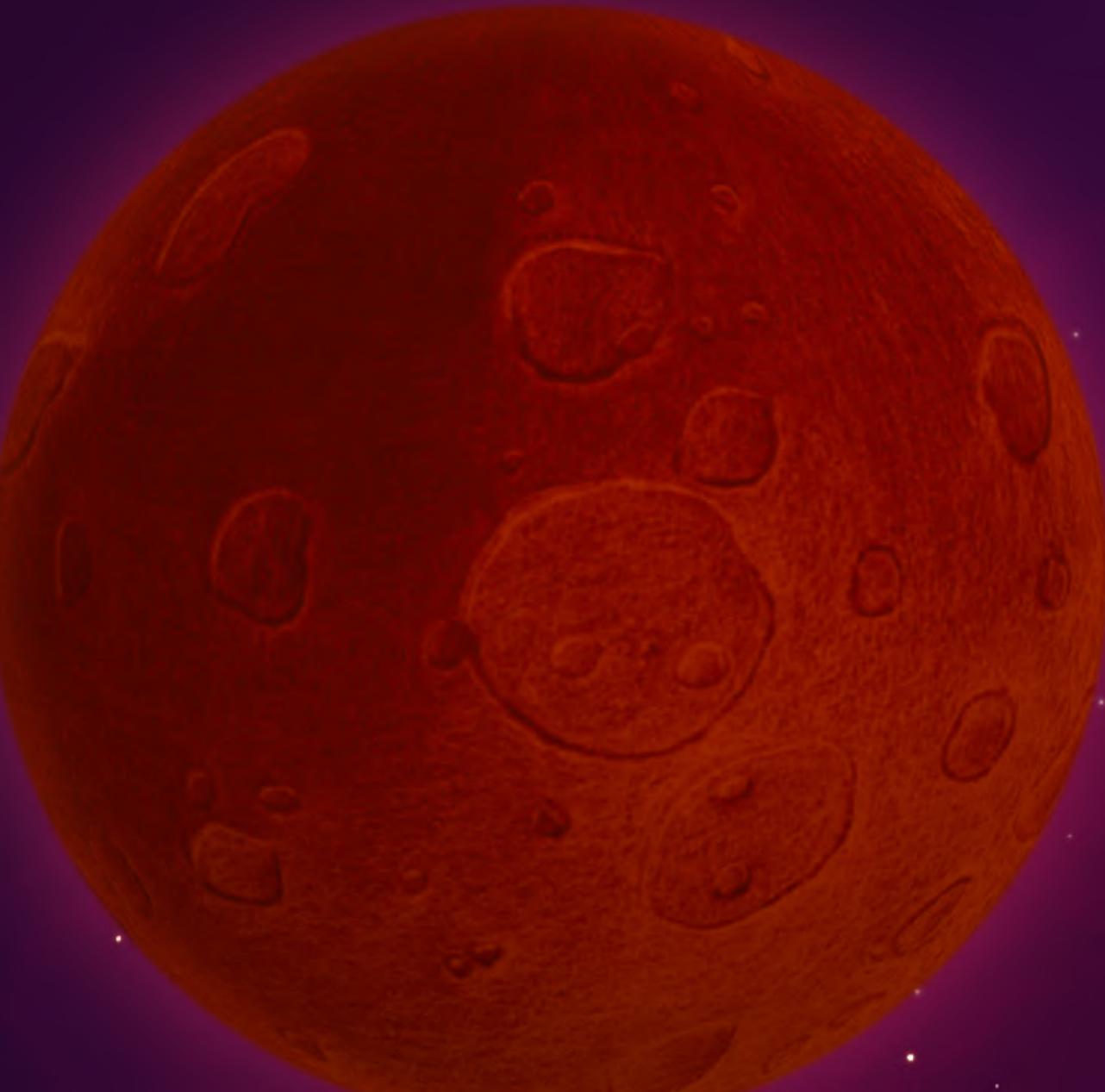
animation by
Digna Van Der Put
Nienke Deutz
Wiep Teeuwisse
Marten Visser
Marsha Onderstijn
Erik Verkerk
Jane Mangubat
Eno Swinnen
Jasmine Elsen

backgrounds by
Nienke Deutz
Wiep Teeuwisse

music by
Mark Schilders

sound design by
Greg Scheirlinckx

financed by
Nederlands Film Fonds
Vlaams Audiovisueel fonds
Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve
Industrie
Gemeente Rotterdam
Stichting Droom & Daad



stills



[link](#)

collaboration

Collaborating for more than nine years, *This Is Your Captain Speaking* is the first time Nienke Deutz and Digna van der Put have joined forces as co-directors. Their partnership began on Nienke's earlier short films, where Digna served as lead animator, and it quickly became clear that they shared a strong creative sensibility.

As they started developing *This Is Your Captain Speaking*, that creative bond grew stronger. The director-animator divide naturally evolved into a full collaborative co-directing approach. *This Is Your Captain Speaking* is the result of their deepened partnership.



Nienke Deutz



Nienke Deutz (1986) is a director and animator based in Rotterdam (NL). 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.

Her films *Bloeistraat 11* (2018) and *The Miracle* (2023) received global recognition, winning numerous awards, including the Cristal for best short film at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival and the Grand Prix at Animafest Zagreb.

In 2023, Deutz, in collaboration with filmmakers Alice Saey and Wiep Teeuwisse, established Tinsel Studio — a collective dedicated to directing and producing independent animation films.



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.



The Miracle
short film, 15', 2023 — stop motion — prod. Lunanime / Kepler/ Nienke Deutz
vimeo.com/807506304 (password: IloveIrma)

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?

Digna van der Put



Digna van der Put (1980) is a director, animation supervisor, and animator based in Rotterdam (NL) where she runs her own animation studio together with Ka-Ching Cartoons.

Digna specializes in 2D frame-by-frame animation and loves to explore how movement can enhance the expressiveness of a character. She is often involved in the early stages of production, helping to define the animation style and shape character designs.

After her debut film *Parade*, which was the Dutch entry for the Oscars, she primarily worked as an animation supervisor on a wide range of shorts, feature films, and series. Her main interest lies in films with a strong artistic vision, whether for adults or children.

Drawn increasingly to directing, Digna co-directed the short film *This Is Your Captain Speaking* together with Nienke Deutz, and she is currently co-directing the feature film *Dikkie Dik maakt het goed* in collaboration with Ka-Ching Cartoons.

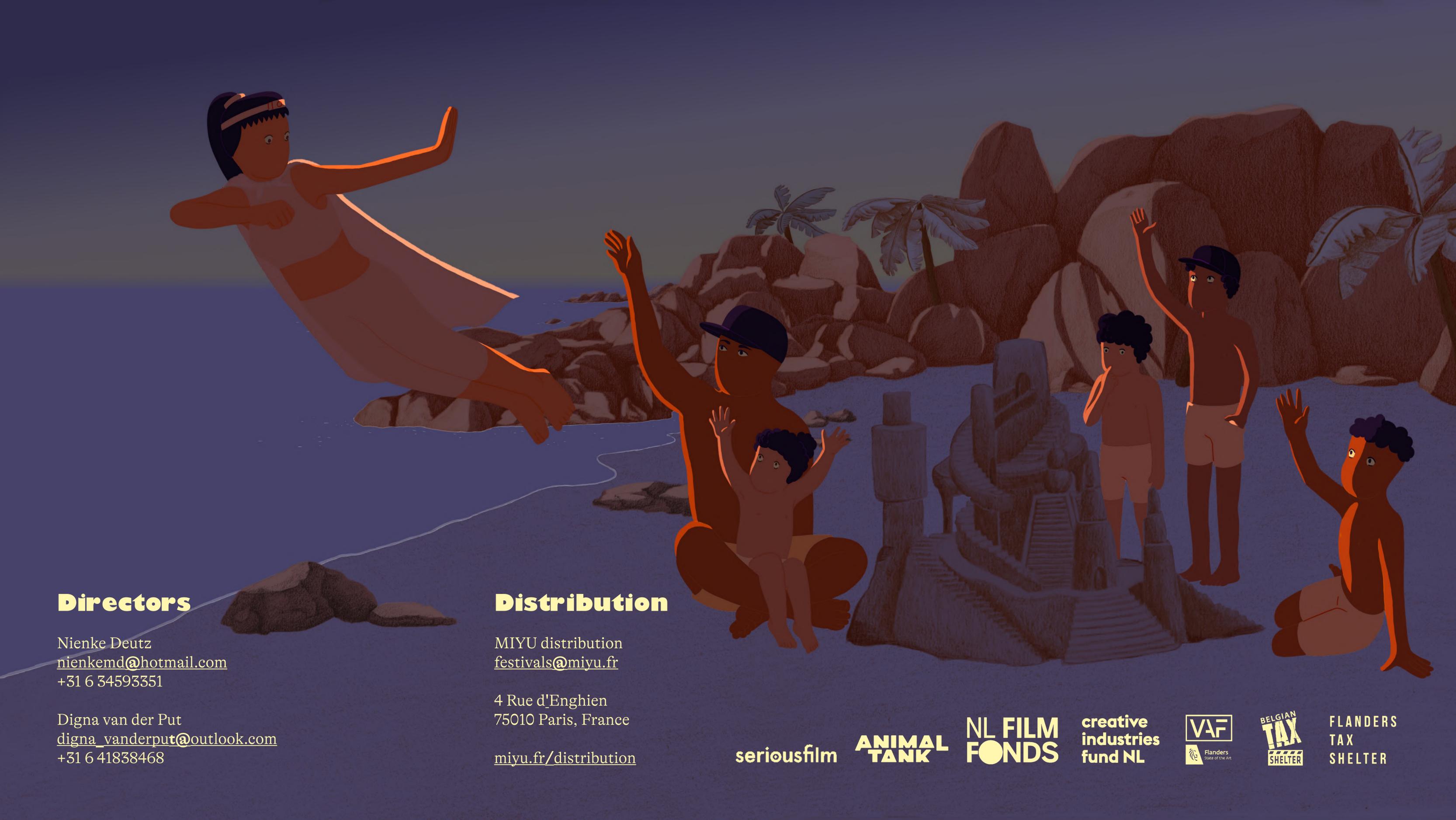


Parade
short film, 4', 2015 — prod. NIAF
vimeo.com/146373756

*Six fanfare flute players explore the landscape of the uniform.
A journey that does not go unscathed.*



Dikkiedik maakt het goed
feature film, 60', 2026 — prod. Phanta Film, BosBros en Phanta Animation
directed by Digna van der Put, Ka-Ching Cartoons



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