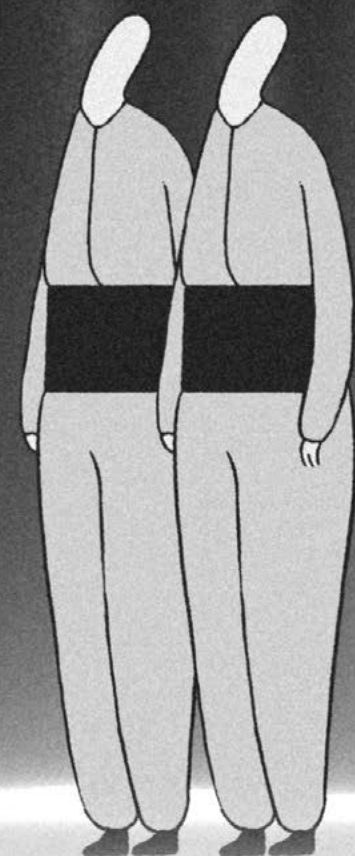


HOTEL OBLIQUE

A SHORT FILM BY MERLIN FLÜGEL



76. Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin

Berlinale Generation

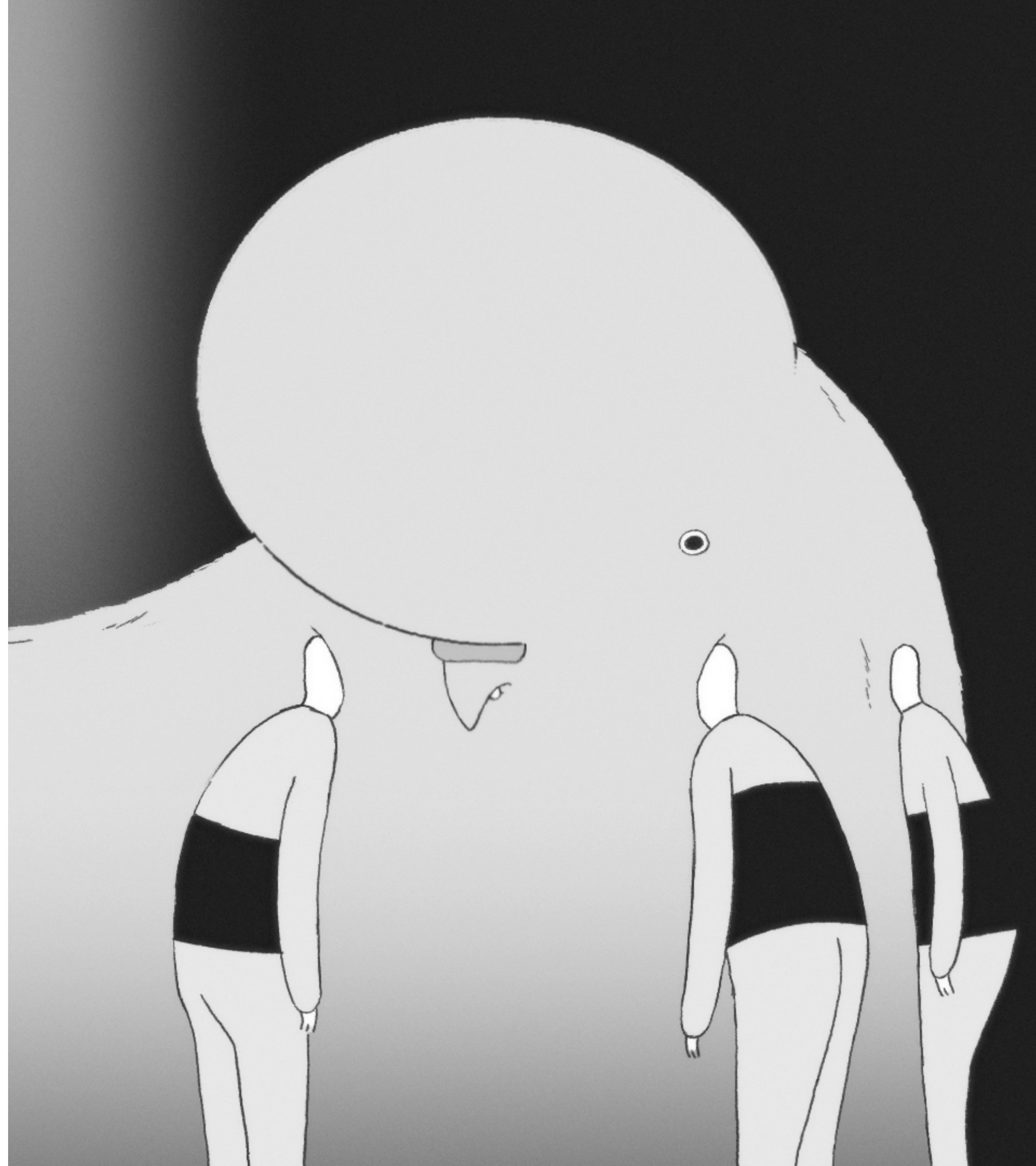
ENG

Synopsis short

A budgie finds itself in a luxurious wellness hotel that promises stressed birds peace and relaxation. But between the lulling sound of the fountains and soothing massages, it longs only to return to the safety of its cage.

Synopsis long

A budgie finds itself in a luxurious wellness hotel that promises stressed birds peace and relaxation. But between the lulling sound of the fountains and soothing massages, it longs to return to its cage. 'Hotel Oblique' deals with the tension between autonomy and belonging, between leaving familiar structures behind and searching for orientation in unfamiliar surroundings. It is about the need to set boundaries and listen to oneself, despite the expectations of others.



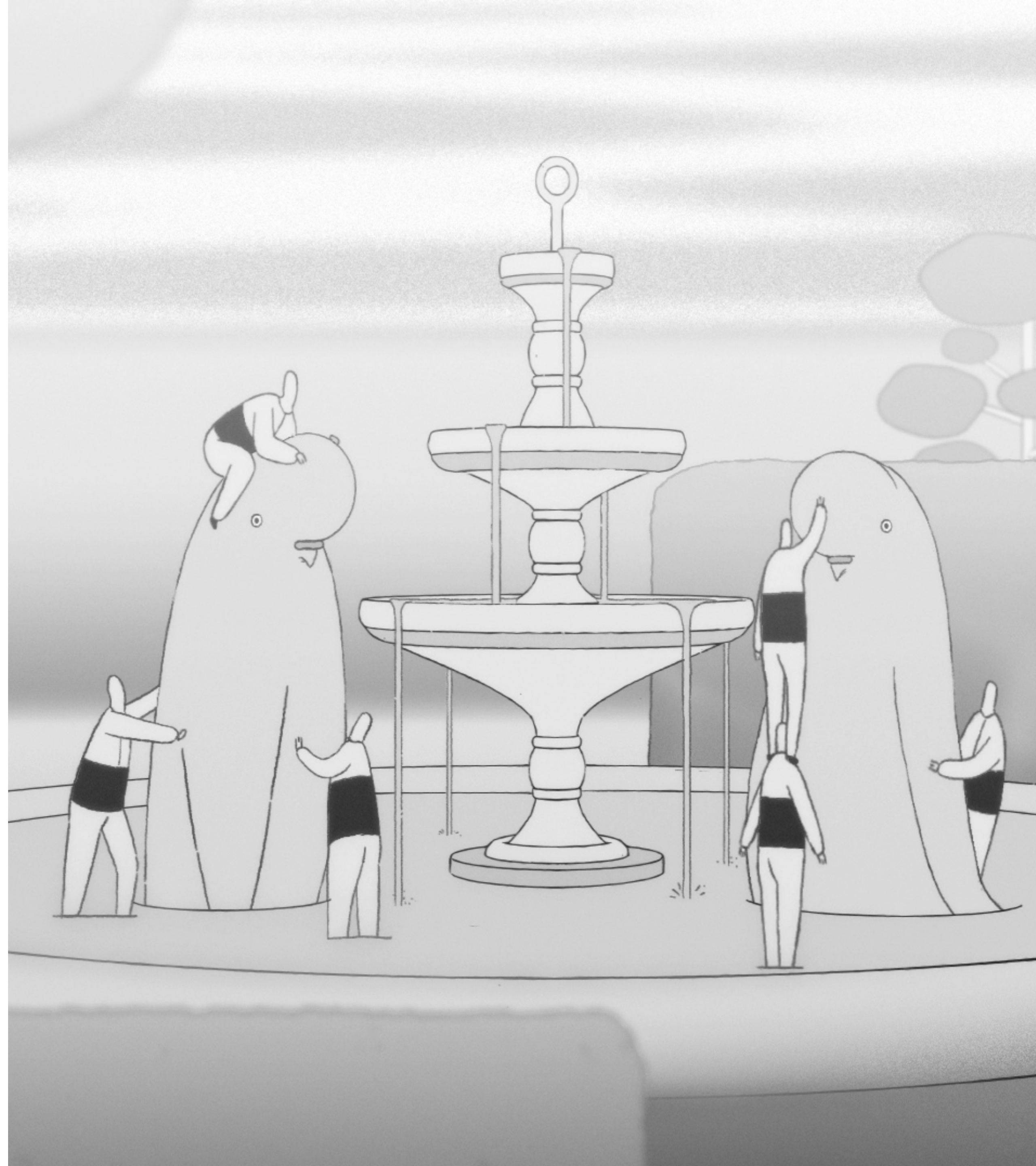
DE

Synopsis kurz

Ein Wellensittich findet sich in einem luxuriösen Wellness-Hotel wieder, das gestressten Vögeln Ruhe und Gelassenheit verspricht. Doch zwischen den plätschernden Brunnen und wohltuenden Massagen sehnt er sich nur zurück in die Sicherheit seines Käfigs.

Synopsis lang

Ein Wellensittich findet sich in einem luxuriösen Wellness-Hotel wieder, das gestressten Vögeln Ruhe und Gelassenheit verspricht. Doch zwischen den plätschernden Brunnen und wohltuenden Massagen sehnt er sich zurück in seinen Käfig. „Hotel Oblique“ behandelt das Spannungsfeld zwischen Autonomie und Zugehörigkeit, zwischen dem Verlassen gewohnter Strukturen und der Suche nach Orientierung in fremder Umgebung. Es geht um die Notwendigkeit Grenzen zu setzen und trotz der Erwartungen anderer auf sich selbst zu hören.



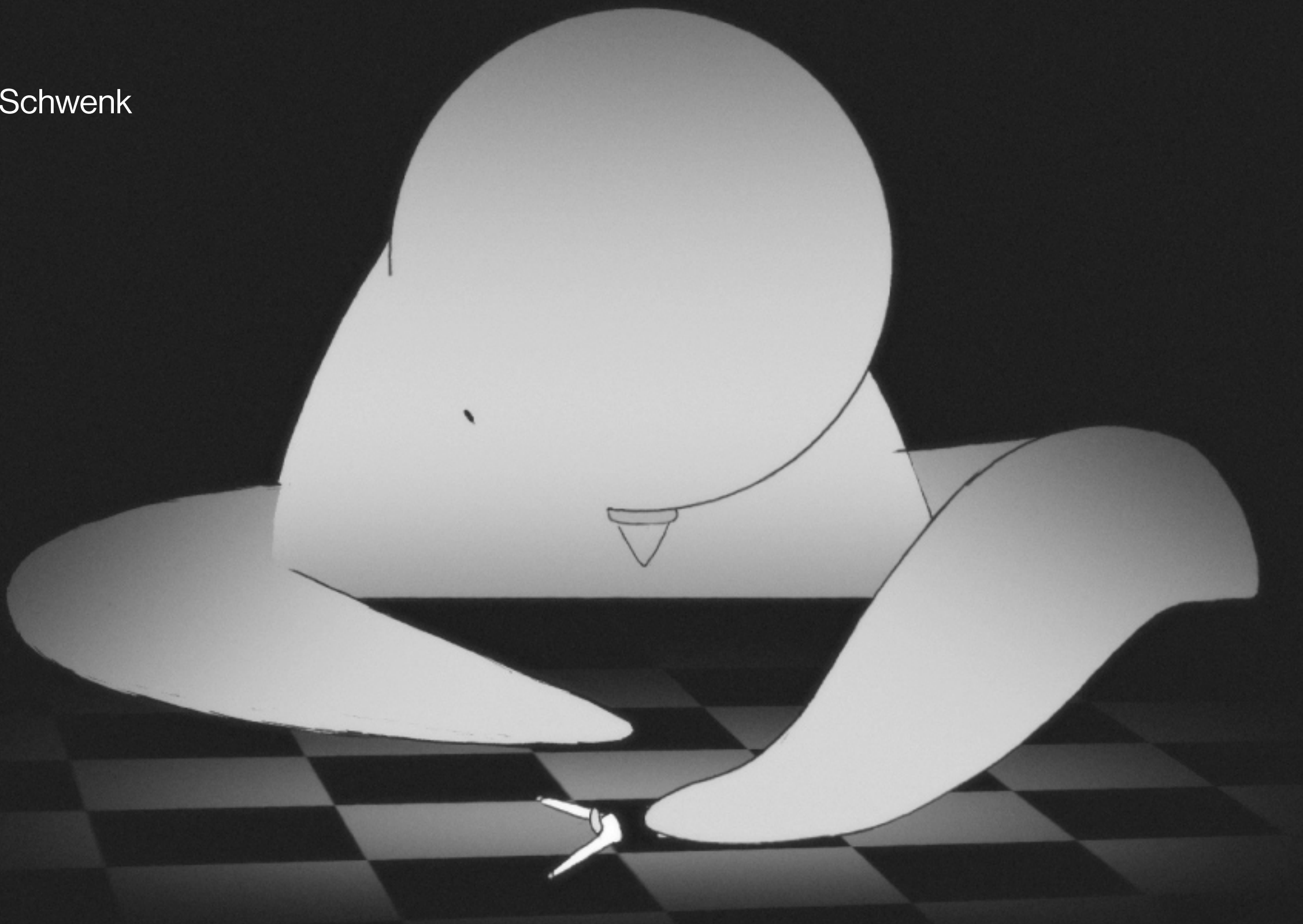
Film Credits

Idea, Animation and Directing – Merlin Flügel
Sound and Music – David Kamp
Production – Merlin Flügel
Distribution – MIYU Distribution

Post Production – Merlin Flügel, Marc Rühl, Jonatan Schwenk
Additional Animation – Marc Rühl, Chris Komaromi
Coloring – Chris Komaromi, Wagehe Raufi
Title Design – Marc Rühl
Creative Advisor – Jonatan Schwenk

Funded by – BKM & FFA

World Premiere
76. Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin
Berlinale Generation (17.02.26)



Technical Details

original title Hotel Oblique
english title Hotel Oblique
year of release 2026
genre fantastique
country of origin Germany
running time 7 min. 31 sec.
color black and white
language no dialogue
animation technique digital 2D
screening format DCP / HD file
speed 24 fps
aspect ration 16:9
sound Stereo, 5.1 mix
Distribution Miyu Distribution

Director's Biography

Merlin Flügel, born in 1987 in Germany, is an independent director and animator based in Berlin. His animated short films have gained international recognition at major film festivals like Berlinale, Go Short, Pictoplasa and Animateka. His graduation film Rules of Play won the “Best Experimental Animation” award at CutOut Fest in Mexico, as well as the Jury Award in Annecy (2019). He occasionally teaches and gives workshops, for example at Hochschule Düsseldorf (2023) and Nanjing University of the Arts (2019). Merlin Flügel directed several film festival trailers such as for Interfilm (2020) and ITFS (2023) and was a jury member at Dok Leipzig in 2024.

Director's Note

I try to create odd worlds that still feel familiar. In my films, I examine human behavior and communication in a playful way, drawn to a fantastical atmosphere of inviting darkness. Hotel Oblique explores how dependent we are from our environment and our habits — and how we navigate our social insecurities when confronted with the expectations of others.

Teaser

<https://vimeo.com/merlinfluegel/hoteloblique-teaser>

Filmography

- Hotel Oblique (2026)
- Rules of Play (2018)
- ECHO (2012)
- How To Disappear (2011)



Photo credit - Marina Hoppmann

CONTACT

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