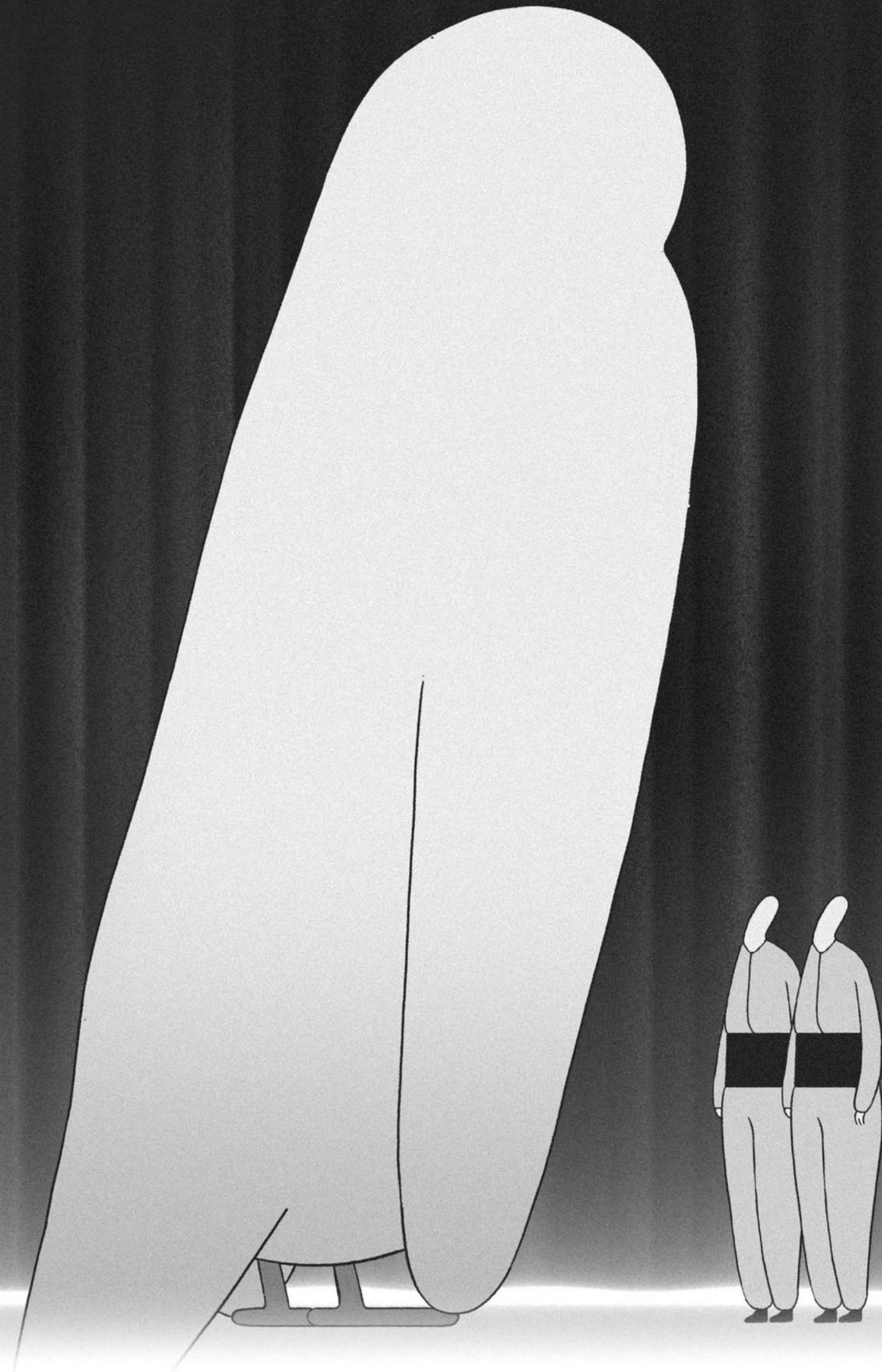


# HOTEL OBLIQUE

*A SHORT FILM BY MERLIN FLÜGEL*



76. Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin

**Berlinale** Generation

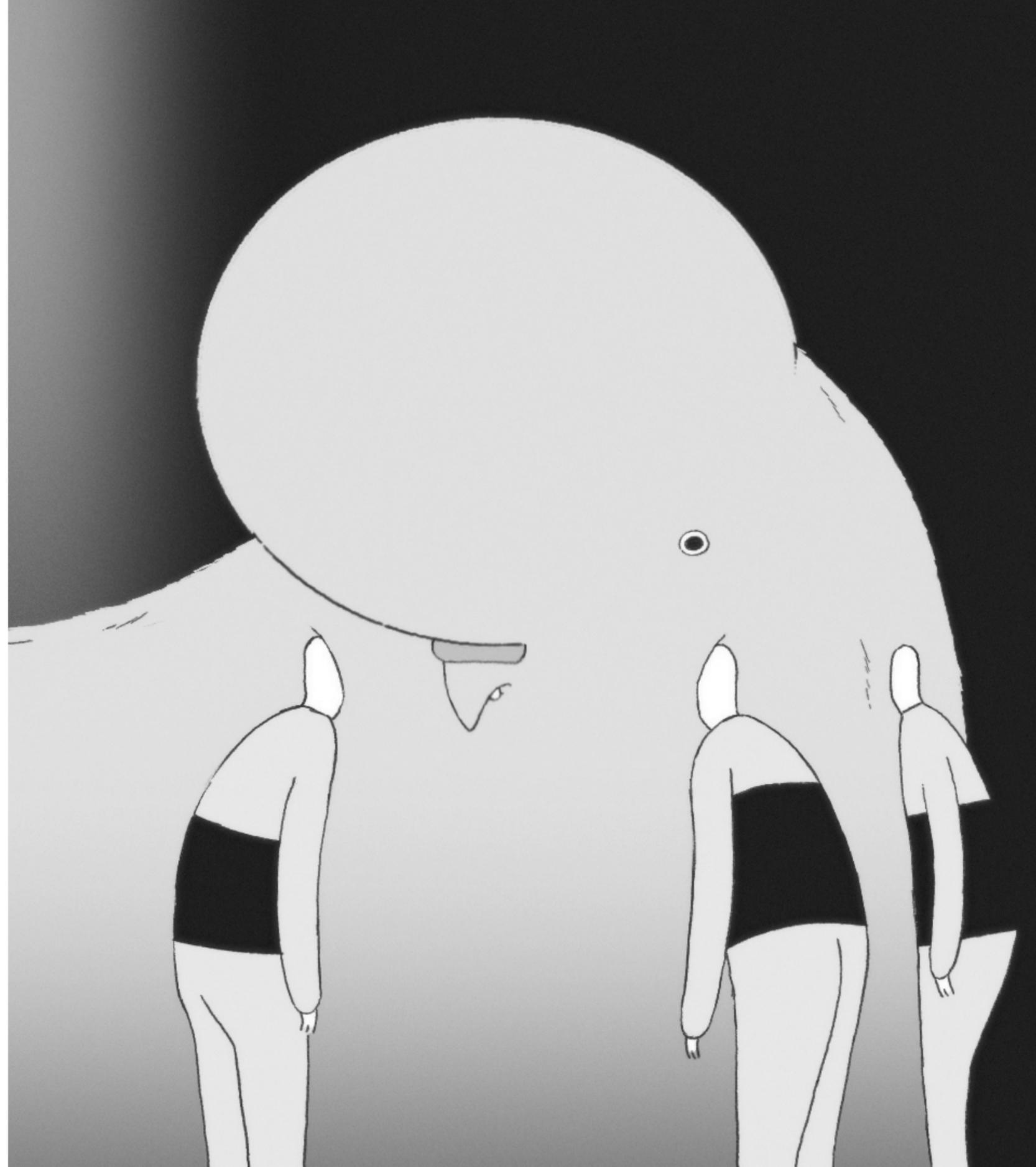
ENG

### **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.



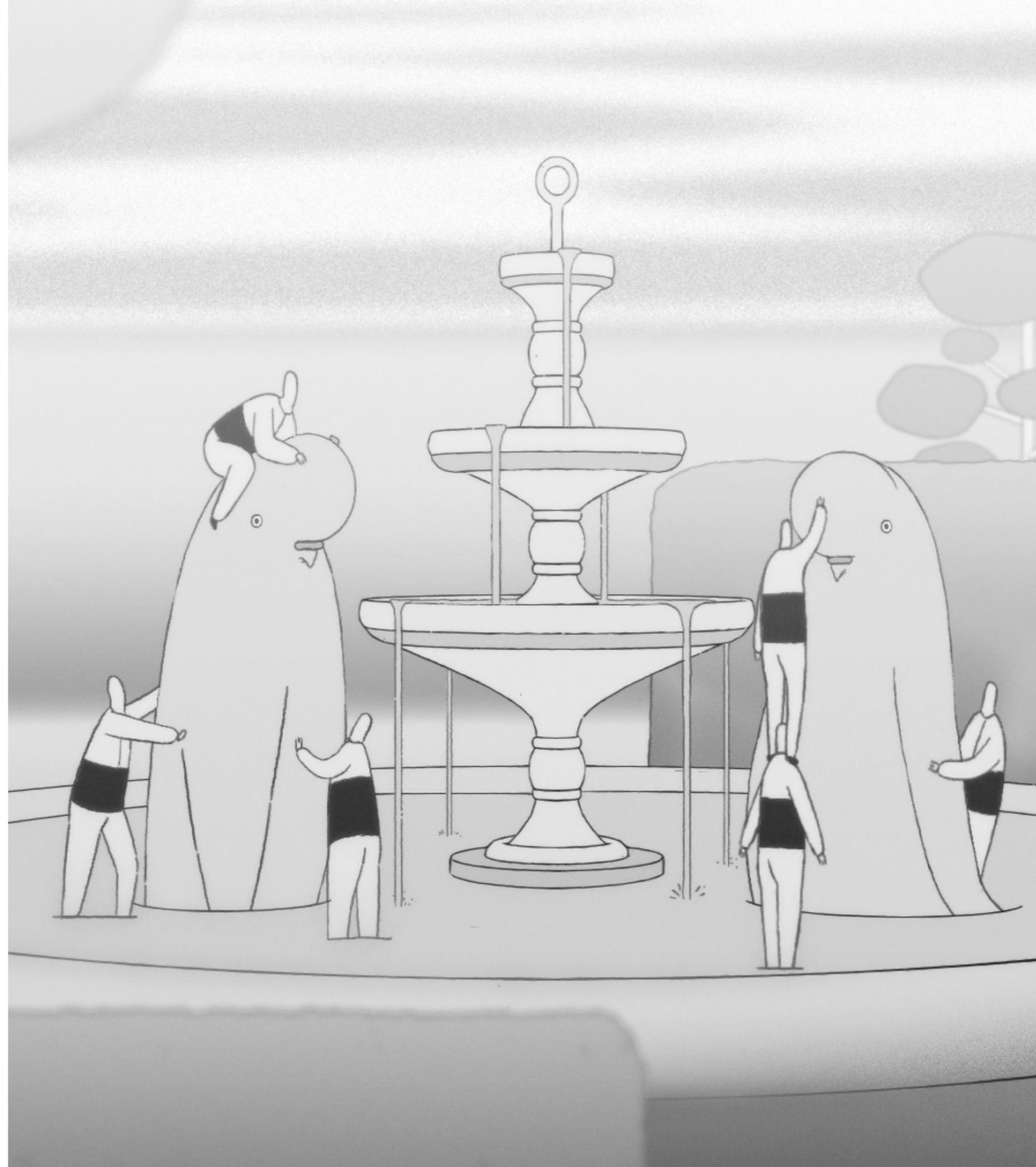
DE

### **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

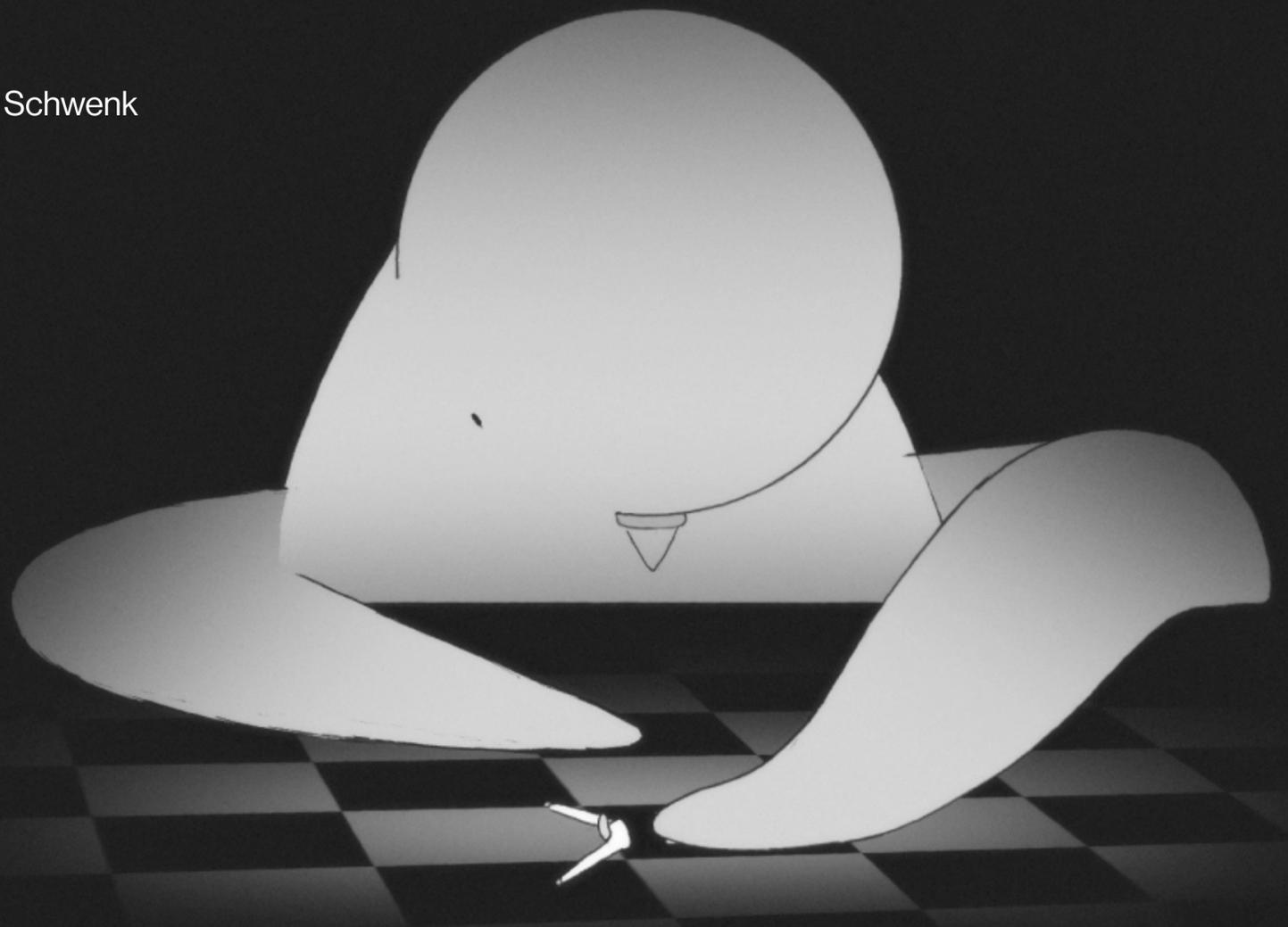
Creative Advisor – Jonatan Schwenk

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

### **distributor**

Luce Grosjean  
MIYU Distribution  
[www.miyu.fr/distribution](http://www.miyu.fr/distribution)  
[luce.grosjean@miyu.fr](mailto:luce.grosjean@miyu.fr)

### **director & producer**

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