

A close-up photograph of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes, nose, and mouth. She has blue eyes and is wearing red lipstick. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows. The entire image is framed by a thick yellow border.

24 lies / second

PARAQET / PRESENTS

Smiley

NJË FILM I SHKURTËR NGA / A SHORT FILM BY

GENTIAN GJIKOPULLI

"It is madness,
says reason
It is what it is,
says love"

It is unhappiness, says caution
It is nothing but pain, says fear
It has no future, says insight
It is what it is, says love

It is ridiculous, says pride
It is foolish, says caution
It is impossible, says experience
It is what it is, says love.

Erich Fried - What it is (Es ist was es ist)

24 lies/second

PROD.

SMILEY

ROLL

1

SCENE

1

TAKE

1

DIRECTOR: GENTIAN GJIKOPULLI

CAMERA: KE JT VOJKA

DATE: 28.06.25

Day Night Int Ext Mos

Filter

Sync

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LOGLINE

A camera rolls. A smile is forced. And across the set, two souls carry the weight of a love that bloomed — only to be buried. *Smiley* is a gentle lament for timing, propriety, and all the things that cannot be said.

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A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair, eyes closed, wearing a blue lace-trimmed top. Two hands, belonging to a man, are visible, one on each shoulder, holding her. The background is a bright green screen. The image is framed by a thick yellow border.

SYNOPSIS

On the surface, it's just another commercial shoot. Bright lights, bubbly branding, and a crew chasing the perfect take. But for Era, a 23-year-old actress, this set is anything but ordinary. Across the room stands the director — a man twice her age, married, and quietly entangled in a history they've both chosen not to act upon. What follows is not a scandal, but a meditation on restraint. Through small gestures, near-glances, and a powerful emotional confession shared with the makeup artist, Smiley reveals a mutual love story that never asked to be lived out — only recognized. The tension isn't in what happened, but in what could have. And in the end, under the spotlight, a performance becomes an act of inner resolve.

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A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark grey tank top with lace trim. She is looking upwards and to the right with a serious expression. The background is a solid dark green. The entire image is framed by a thick yellow border.

24 lies / second

A close-up, color photograph of two women. The woman on the right, with long brown hair, is crying and has her hand to her face. The woman on the left, with curly hair, is looking at her with a concerned expression. They appear to be in an intimate, emotional moment. The background is a solid green.

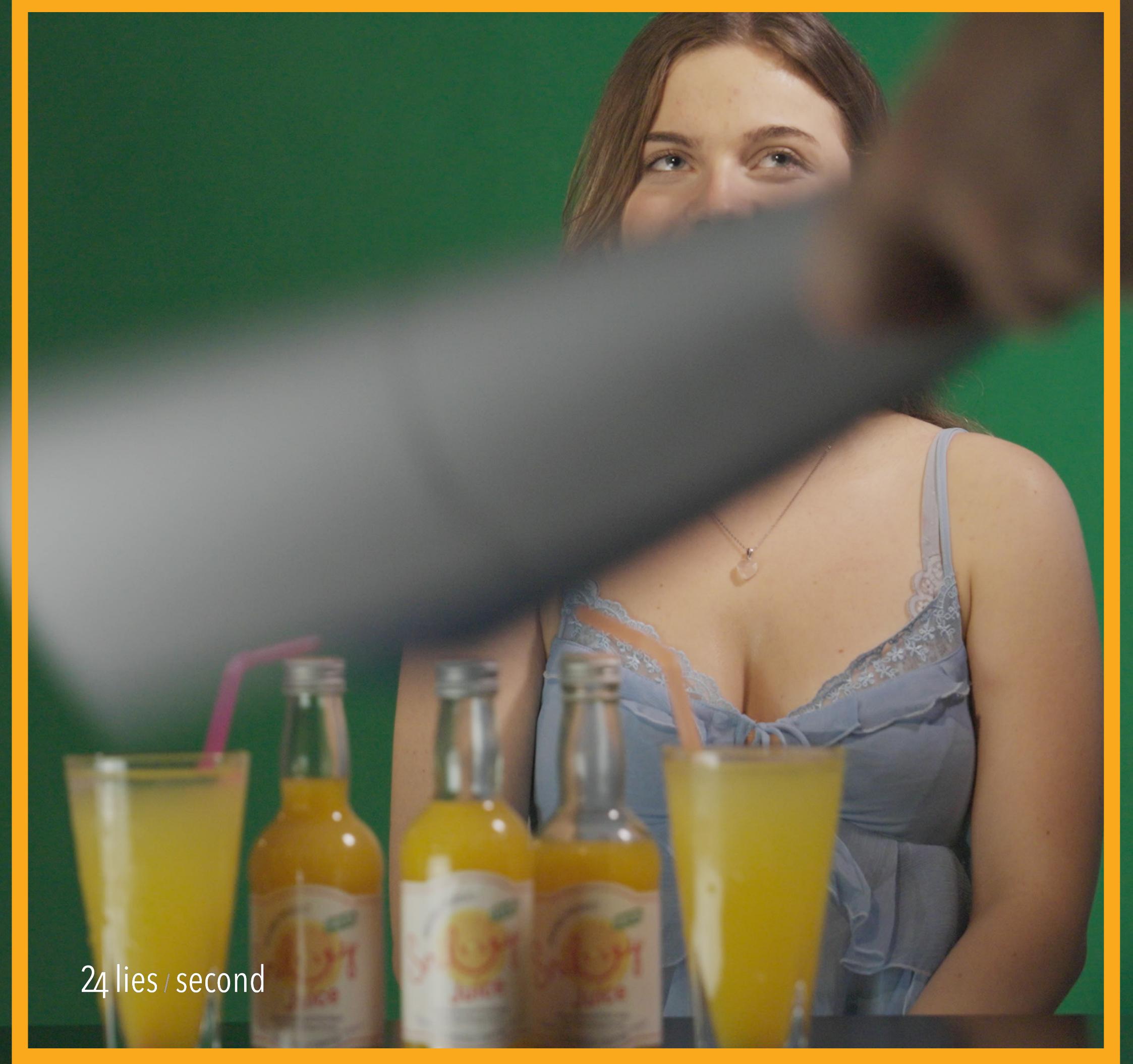
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Smiley is a story about restraint — not repression. It's about the kind of connection that doesn't ask to be acted on, yet lives silently in two people's hearts. The film doesn't offer big gestures or melodrama; instead, it leans into the emotional tension that builds when two souls recognize something tender and genuine — but ultimately unreachable.

I was interested in the space between words. In the looks, the hesitations, the silence after someone says "I'm fine." Through the lens of a commercial shoot, where joy is scripted and performative, I wanted to explore the inner conflict of a girl whose most difficult performance is the one she has to give in real life. This is not a story of scandal or betrayal, but of emotional maturity. It's about choosing dignity over desire — and carrying that choice with grace. Smiley is my quiet tribute to all the things we feel but never say.

Gentian Gjikopulli
Writer & Director

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DIRECTOR'S BIO

Gentian Gjikopulli is a filmmaker and visual artist based in Tirana, Albania. With a background in fine arts and a passion for cinema, his work explores emotional subtlety, identity, and the unspoken inner lives of his characters. Whether through short films or visual storytelling, Gentian blends poetic realism with minimalist aesthetics. He is drawn to stories that unfold quietly — where silence speaks, and what's left unsaid becomes the core of the narrative.

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CAST

Era
Viviana TABAKU

Elda
Suela BAKO

The Director (o.s.)
Gentian Gjikopulli

CREW

Director of Photography
Kejt VOJKA

Sound
Alper ZILGIR

Assistant Director
Kiara TASE

Make-up Artist
Gentiana META

Costumes and Set Dressing
Kiara TASE

Producer
Gentian GJIKOPULLI

Writer / Director
Gentian GJIKOPULLI

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Camera Assistant
Sejdi ALIKAJ

Sound Editing
Kliton NUZI
Gentian GJIKOPULLI

Backstage and Poster Photography
Sejdi ALIKAJ
Gentiana META

Production Assistant
Mishel VEIS

Line Producer
Emona NDOKAJ

Filmed at
Genta& Monah Studios

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Production



A close-up photograph of a woman's face. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. Her hair is dark brown and appears to be adorned with several large, vibrant purple flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The entire image is framed by a thick yellow border.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Title:
Smiley

Genre:
Short Film / Drama

Language:
Albanian

Subtitles:
English

Runtime:
14 minutes

Completion Year:
2025

Country of Production:
Albania

Produced by:
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Format:
4K Digital

Aspect Ratio:
16:9

Sound:
Stereo

Color:
Color

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