

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)

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PROD.

SMILEY

ROLL

1

SCENE

1

TAKE

1

DIRECTOR: GENTIAN GJIKOPULLI

CAMERA: KEJT 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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## 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 woman with long brown hair is crying and wiping her face with a white tissue. She is wearing a light blue lace-trimmed top. To her left, the profile of another person with curly hair is visible. They are sitting at a table with several glasses of yellow liquid. The background is a solid green wall.

## 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 Gjikapulli  
Writer & Director

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### DIRECTOR'S BIO

Gentian Gjikapulli 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

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

a  
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Production

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## 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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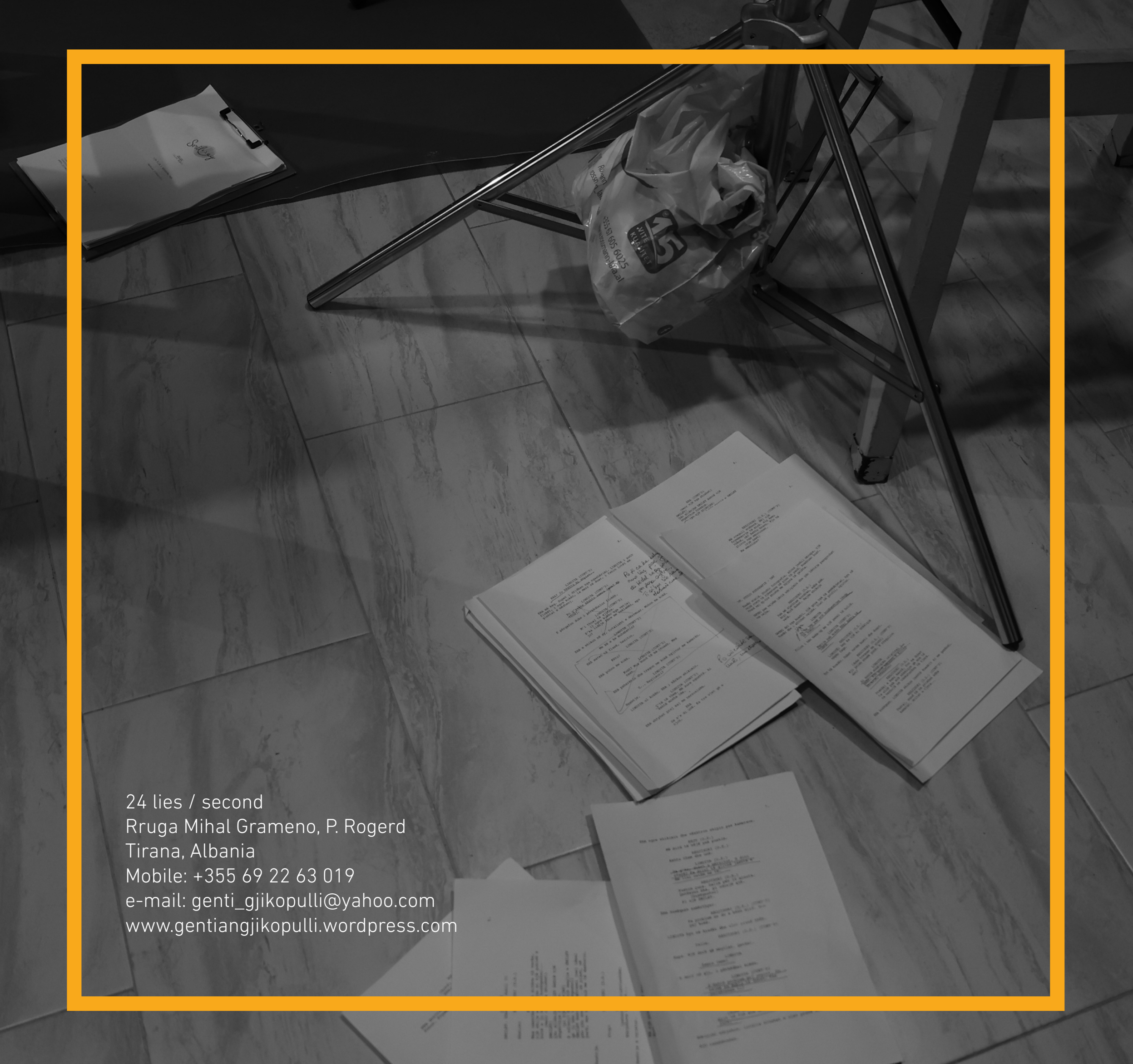
Format:  
4K Digital

Aspect Ratio:  
16:9

Sound:  
Stereo

Color:  
Color

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