

PRESS KIT

Behind the Door

A film by Justus van den Elsen

17'22 · 2025 · Netherlands · Fantasy, Magical realism, Family

When his estranged grandfather, a renowned painter, falls gravely ill, ten-year-old Joris meets him for the first time, opening the door to an unexpected family connection.

IndieX Film Festival 2026 — Special Jury Mention, Best Children's Short Film

SYNOPSIS

When his estranged grandfather, a renowned painter, falls gravely ill, ten-year-old Joris finally meets him for the first time. Touched by the boy's admiration, his grandfather reveals an extraordinary secret: he can step inside his own paintings.

Together, they journey through breathtaking painted worlds, uncovering long-buried family secrets along the way. But as their bond deepens, their opposing visions of art begin to clash, forcing Joris to choose between following his grandfather's strict rules and embracing his own creative freedom.

SPECIFICATIONS

Original title	Achter de Deur
Year	2025
Running time	17'22
Country	Netherlands
Language	Dutch
Genre	Fantasy, Magical realism, Family
Subtitles	English, Dutch, French
Production	Make Way Film & Fabel Film

DIRECTOR



Justus van den Elsen

Justus van den Elsen is a self-taught Dutch filmmaker and co-owner of Fabel Film, a production company based in Tilburg, the Netherlands. His distinctive cinematic style blends magical realism, bittersweet storytelling, practical effects, and visual effects to create imaginative and visually striking worlds.

His independent folk horror short DE GLOEIIGE (2019) premiered at Imagine Film Festival before screening at Grimmfest and several international festivals.

He has participated in prestigious talent development programs, including Dutch Film Talents to Cannes (2025), Netflix Writers Room (2022), Filmfonds Cypher (2022), and TalentHub NEXT (2020–2021).

CAST & CREW

Written by	Justus van den Elsen, Freek Janssen
Produced by	Monique van Kessel, Pim van Gorp
Grandfather	Derek de Lint
Joris	Walter Sheean
Mother	Sanne Vogel
Director of photography	Johannes van Beeck
Production designer	Evelien Stikkelman
Editor	Felicia de Blanken
Composer	Roy Bemelmans
Sound designer	Bashel de Vries
Colorist	Luuk de Kok

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

IndieX Film Festival 2026 — Special Jury Mention, Best Children’s Short Film

Screen It International Film Festival 2026 — Best cinematography

Sicily On Screen 2026 — Best International Film

Balkan CineFest 2026

Beijing International Children’s Film Festival 2026

Cannes Short Film Corner 2025 — New Dutch Talent

Curtas Festival do Imaxinario 2026 — Méliès d'Argent Competition

Imagine Fantastic Film Festival 2025 — Méliès d'Argent Competition

Lund Fantastic Film Festival 2026 — Méliès d'Argent Competition

Playgrounds International Film Festival 2026

Ravenna Nightmare Film Fest 2026 — Méliès d'Argent Competition

Taiwan International Children’s Film Festival 2026

Taunus International Film Festival 2026

Zuidelijk Film Festival 2026

STILLS









INTERNATIONAL SALES

Tre Colori Films
Campus Georges Méliès, 216 avenue Francis Tonner, 06150 Cannes, France
info@trecolorifilms.com
https://trecolorifilms.com/films/behind-the-door.html