

# THE WEEPING WALK



**CZAR** FILM

# SYNOPSIS

“The Weeping Walk” follows a group of relatives and friends as they walk behind a hearse, accompanying the recently deceased Christine to her final resting place. This emotional funeral march, which lasts several days, gives the grieving family time to connect with one another and uncover long-buried family secrets. By the time Christine is laid to rest, the bonds between them are deeply shaken.

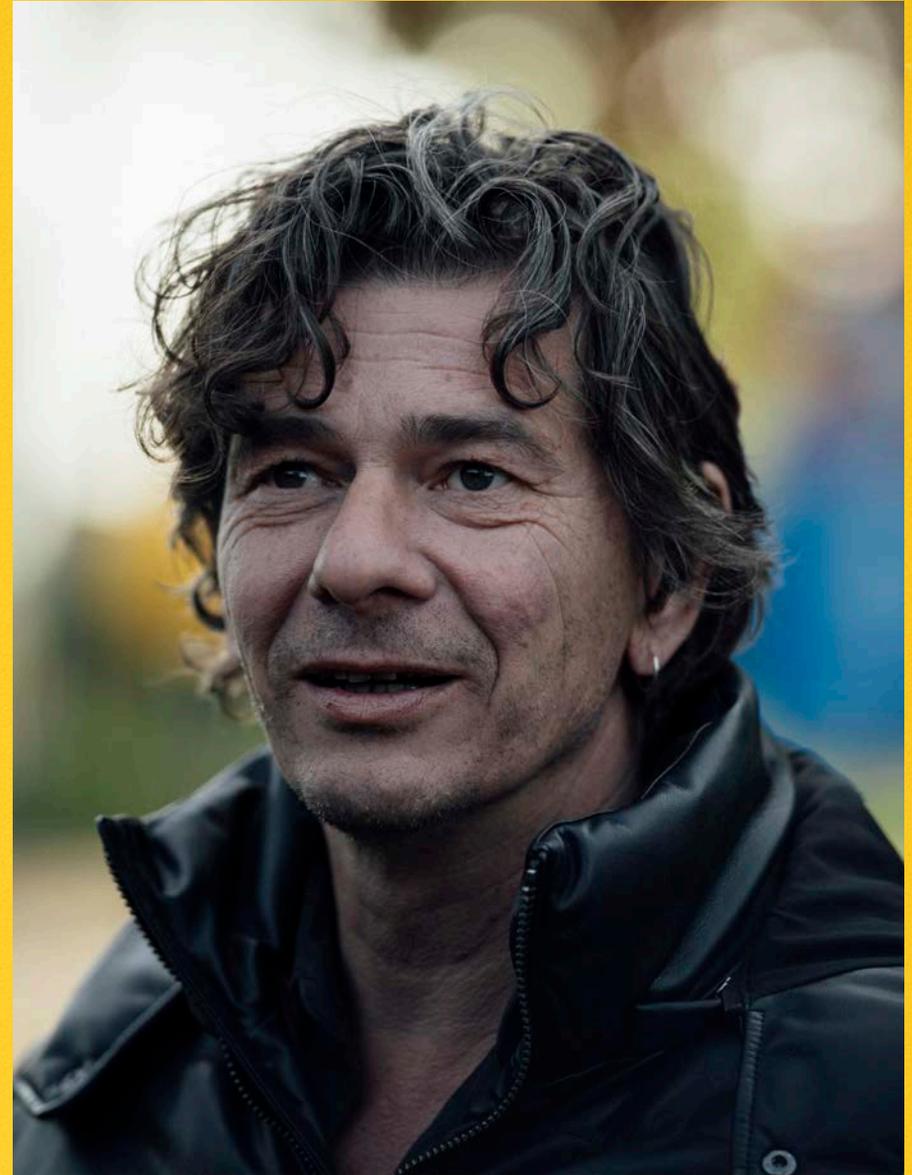


## **DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY**

Dimitri Verhulst is a well-known Belgian writer. With his novels he won, among others, the Young Europeans Literature Prize, the Libris and the Golden Owl Book Award. His work is translated into 30 languages and three of his books have already been filmed: 'De Helaasheid Der Dingen' by Felix van Groeningen which was selected for the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs in Cannes, 'Problemski Hotel' by Manu Riche and 'Un Ange' by Koen Mortier which had its world premiere in Toronto. He wrote the short film 'La Victime' for Michaël R. Roskam and co-wrote the film 'Sylvia,' currently still in development, for Michael R. Roskam. 'The Weeping Walk' will be his first full-length feature as screenwriter and director.

## **DIRECTOR STATEMENT**

In my 25-year career as a writer, there has always been one story that I wanted to tell and just couldn't get into a novel: it was "The Weeping Walk"! A different language was needed, one that included silence in its vocabulary. Film language, in other words. With this insight I could have easily thrown "The Weeping Walk" in a trashcan, in spite of that, apparently, I am not like that. Fifty is a better age to debut than twenty-five, and I was itching to do so. Ignorance can lead to innovation, but that's not a plea for backwardness. I may be an autodidact, but I, by no means consider myself uneducated. In the years leading up to the actual filming, I mostly stole a lot of knowledge with eyes and ears on various film sets. The series 'Made in Europe' that I made for the VPRO turned out to be of crucial to my confidence in this adventure. Desire was my biggest motive; all I needed to do was to jump. Nothing else.



**DIRECTOR & SCREENWRITER**  
**Dimitri Verhulst**



**CHARACTERS**

**BAS - Peter Van Den Begin**

Widowed husband of Christine. He has been a very devoted husband and a father. His greatest fear has always been that of losing the love of his children. His secret threatens coming to light during this lengthy burial.





**KAAT - Tine Roggeman  
& ANNA - Cami Moonen**

The two daughters. Motherless  
as of late. They are completely  
disoriented, and don't understand  
anything of this totally absurd  
journey.





**BETTY - Hilde Heijnen**

A total stranger, desperately in search of love, sets her sights regularly on widowers aiming.

**ANTOINETTE -  
Emiel Vandenberghe**

A foster son who was once taken into Bas's home and, without too much explanation at the time, was also put back on the street by Bas. He comes to tell his story during this funeral, but it is a quite, delicate revenge. More than resentment, he wants above all to show that he made it in life.





**HERMAN - Tom Vermeir**

Christine's childhood friend. He has to walk on eggshells just to avoid Bas, the widower.

**FRIDO -  
Dominique Van Malder**

The driver of the hearse, and the only person that claims knowing, where Wettelen lies. He was left by his wife the day before the funeral, he has the plague in his work, but Betty knows how to bring out his gentle side to the surface.





**NOTARY - Bert Haelvoet**

Brings the testament along with the news about Christine's last will during the funeral to her husband and her daughters.

**VERA - Amara Reta**

Christine's very best friend. More than anyone else here, she knows Christine's deepest secrets. With her monkish silence, she just adds to the mystery.



**AUNT SHERRY - Marijke Pinoy**

Christine's petulant sister. The family secrets bother her ugly, which she basically just expresses with her boxy silences.



**DILLIAN - Lukas Bulteel**

**COLLEAGUE - Steven de Leeneer**

**PRIEST - Frank Vander Linden**

**TROMPETER - ZouZou Ben Chikha**

**FATHER ABT - Koen De Ruyck**

**COSTUMS OFFICER - Pieter-Jan De Smet**

**CLOWN - Sieber Marly**





**CREW**



**DIRECTOR**  
DIMITRI VERHULST

**SCREENWRITER**  
DIMITRI VERHULST

**PRODUCERS**  
EURYDICE GYSEL & KOEN MORTIER

**CO-PRODUCERS**  
MARC VAN WARMERDAM  
MARTEN VAN WARMERDAM

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
MENNO MANS NSC

**EDITING**  
MANU VAN HOVE

**ART DIRECTOR**  
GEERT PAREDIS

**WARDROBE**  
CATHERINE VAN BREE

**MAKE-UP**  
EVALOTTE OOSTERDORP

**SOUND ENGINEER**  
OLIVER PATTINAMA

**SOUND DESIGN**  
VINCENT SINCERETTI

**MUSIC**  
PETER VERMEERSCH



# PRODUCER

**CZAR FILM & TV** is the fiction department of the international creative advertising production house CZAR.BE, and has been headed since 2010 by producer Eurydice Gysel and producer/director Koen Mortier. CZAR FILM & TV produces and co-produces feature films, short films, TV series and documentaries. The goal is to create a platform for innovative, auteur-driven directors and to promote Belgian talent worldwide.

Recent work includes the feature film “Skunk” (Koen Mortier,) based on a book by Geert Taghon, which was a great success in Flanders. ‘Skunk’ won Best Film Award at Tallin Black Nights Film Festival. In 2022, the 11-part Netflix documentary series ‘Voices of Liberation’ (Koen Mortier) was released. Other recent films include ‘Coureur’ (Kenneth Mercken), ‘Angel’ (Koen Mortier), ‘Waste Land’ (Pieter van Hees) and ‘Rookie’ (Lieven van Baelen). An earlier CZAR film, 2007’s “Ex-Drummer” (Koen Mortier), received high praise and won several awards. The film was sold to more than 20 countries.



In addition, CZAR FILM & TV is active as an international co-producer, including for “Borgman” (Alex van Warmerdam), which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. The film received multiple festival selections and awards. Other co-productions include “No. 10” (Alex Van Warmerdam), the popular BBC series “The White Queen,” “The Missing” and the series “Les Misérables.

In addition, CZAR produced the first feature film by Dimitri Verhulst, “The Weeping Walk,” which will be released in the fall of 2024 in cinemas. The feature-length film ‘Garden of Earthly Delights’ (Morgan Knibbe) is in development with Baldr Film, as well as ‘Black Wolf,’ Raf Wathion’s first feature-length animated film and Frederik Jan Depickere’s documentary ‘La Gorgona’.



## CO-PRODUCER

The independent film company Granite Film was founded in 1985 by producer Marc van Warmerdam and director Alex van Warmerdam. It resulted in nationally and internationally acclaimed films, including *The Dress* (1986), *Borgman* (2013 - official Palme D'or Cannes selection) and *No. 10* (2021). Granite Film co-produced, among others, the Sergei Loznitsa film *Donbass* (2018 winner Un Certain Regard Cannes) and *Angel* (2018) by Koen Mortier. With the arrival of producer Marten van Warmerdam, there will be new filmmakers on Granite Film's roster in the coming years in addition to Alex van Warmerdam.





## Production & financing

**‘The Weeping Walk’** is a Belgian-Dutch co-production between Czar & Graniet Film (Alex, Marc and Marten Van Warmerdam). The project could count on the support of the Flemish Audiovisual Fund (VAF), Screen Flanders, The Dutch Film Fund and the Dutch Film Production Incentive. BNP Paribas Fortis Film Finance provided the financing through the Belgian Tax Shelter.

## Distribution

Dutch FilmWorks (DFW) will take care of the Benelux distribution with Kinopolis Film Distribution (KFD) marketing the film in Belgium in the theaters. The company philosophy “Being the fastest in changing all the time has brought Dutch Film Works in recent years to its current status: the largest independent film distributor in the Benelux in the field of cinema, home entertainment, Video On Demand and TV (Pay TV and Free TV). By now DFW has a catalog of more than 3,000 titles in the field of feature films, TV series, documentaries and children’s products.

# TECHNICAL INFO

**RECORDING - 4K**

**SCREENING - DCP**

**LENGTH - 105 min**

**IMAGE - COLOR**

**LANGUAGES - English, French and Dutch**

**SOUND - DOLBY 5.1**

**ASPECT RATIO - 2:39:1**

**COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION - Belgium**



# PERSCONTACTS & MEDIA

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## **PERS DROPBOX**

All material can be found via this link  
[bit.ly/waaromwettelenpers](https://bit.ly/waaromwettelenpers)

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Instagram: @waaromwettelen

