



How does our memory work? Why do memories appear, and what is their real purpose? These themes are scrutinised by composer Dominykas Digimas and director Kristijonas Dirsė in a new musical film: "Why Does This Appear?"

The basis of the script is the nine most vivid memories of seven characters of the film. However, this work's narrative is built without words: only employing cinematic language and music that create nine silent scenes. Following the chain of memories, personal stories in the film are told and retold: every time mildly changing the emphasis of each memory. With the disappearing line between real and imaginary past experiences, the subjective nature of memory reveals itself.

"Why Does This Appear?" is a film where the surreal world of silhouettes intertwines with a documentary: a kind of illusion whose actors are the performers of Vilnius contemporary music ensemble.



synopsis

"Why does this appear?" is a silent musical film about memory. Seven people share memories from their lives. These stories come alive in shapes of silhouettes of people and objects, in the form of nine silent scenes - embodying those events and narrating them without words. The only means of expression are the cinematographic language and the sounds of music.

Before delving into these scenes, we see the characters, the authors of those memories, in the documentary interludes, portraying the triggers of those memories in peoples' daily lives. In the epilogue we come back to the only words we hear during the film - the question, raised in the beginning - "Why does this appear?". The parallel between the surrealistic world of silhouettes and documentary interludes showing the emotion caused by the reenactment of the memory, suggests the causal relation between emotion and memory.

structure

PROLOGUE



PART I memories from yesterday



BLUR ROAD



STORM

PART II memories about sand and earth



SAND BETWEEN MY FINGERS



SOIL TASTE STRAW

PART III memories from childhood



MY MOTHER'S FATHER'S FATHER



SUNSHINE CAKE



STEAM



CIGARETTE



FLOOR

EPILOGUE



CREW

Written and directed by Kristijonas Dirsė
Music composed by Dominykas Digimas
Music performed by "Synaesthesia"
artistic director Marta Finkelštein

Cinematographer Linas Žiūra
Camera assistant Ugnius Tuleikis
Gaffer Rytis Aliukonis
Lights Aistis Byla
Lighting technicians Alanas Buturlis
Juriij Jrkaza

Scenography Random Heroes

Costume Design Morta Nakaitė
Make-up and hair Reta Jončaitė
Diemante Merkevičiūtė

Producer Liucina Mackialo

Stage supervisors Sigita Ilonienė
Jolanta Butkuvienė
Decoration technicians Justas Vitartas
Michal Semaško

Scene technicians manager Šarūnas Kiveris
Technical director Gediminas Ušackas

Video technicians Karolis Žiūkas
Ričard Žigis

editing and grading Kristijonas Dirsė
English translation Marija Kiknadzė

musical recordings by
contemporary music ensemble "Synaesthesia":

Diemante Merkevičiūtė, Monika Kiknadze
Gunda Baranauskaite, Donatas Butkevičius,
Pranas Kentra, Andrius Rekasius,
Karolis Variakojis, Vytenis Gurstis
Artūras Kažimėkas, Marta Finkelštein



project financed by
LITHUANIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURE



LIETUVOS
NACIONALINIS
DRAMOS
TEATRAS



CAST

BLUR ROAD

Lora Lora Kmieliauskaitė

STORM

Rūta Diemantė Merkevičiūtė
Liutauras Pranas Kentra
Irina Marta Finkelštein
Waitress Monika Kiknadzė

SAND BETWEEN MY FINGERS

Little Lora Una Marija Bartaitė
Mum Diemantė Merkevičiūtė
Dad Artūras Kažimėkas
Little brother Vakaris Motiekaitis

SOIL TASTE STRAW

Little Agnė Brigita Timofejeva

MY MOTHER'S FATHER'S FATHER

Little Lora Una Marija Bartaitė
Great grandfather Vygandas Sinkevičius

SUNSHINE CAKE

Little Morta Ugnė Adelė Nakaitė
Mum Marta Finkelštein
Guests (children) Dovydas Pranas Kentra
Liepa Jučaitė
Marta Jučaitė
Saulė Zykutė
Ema Zykutė
Rapolas Vitkauskas
Guests (adults) Andrius Rekasius
Pranas Kentra
Donatas Butkevičius
Monika Kiknadzė
Artūras Kažimėkas
Diemantė Merkevičiūtė
Dominykas Digimas
Karolis Variakojis
Marta Finkelštein

STEAM

Little Edvardas Rimas Povilonis
Mum Marta Finkelštein

CIGARETTE

Little Novilė Marta Jučaitė
Little brother Vakaris Motiekaitis
Mum Diemantė Merkevičiūtė
Guests Dominykas Digimas
Donatas Butkevičius
Artūras Kažimėkas


FLOOR

Little Rūta Rusnė Stancikaitė
Mum Monika Kiknadzė

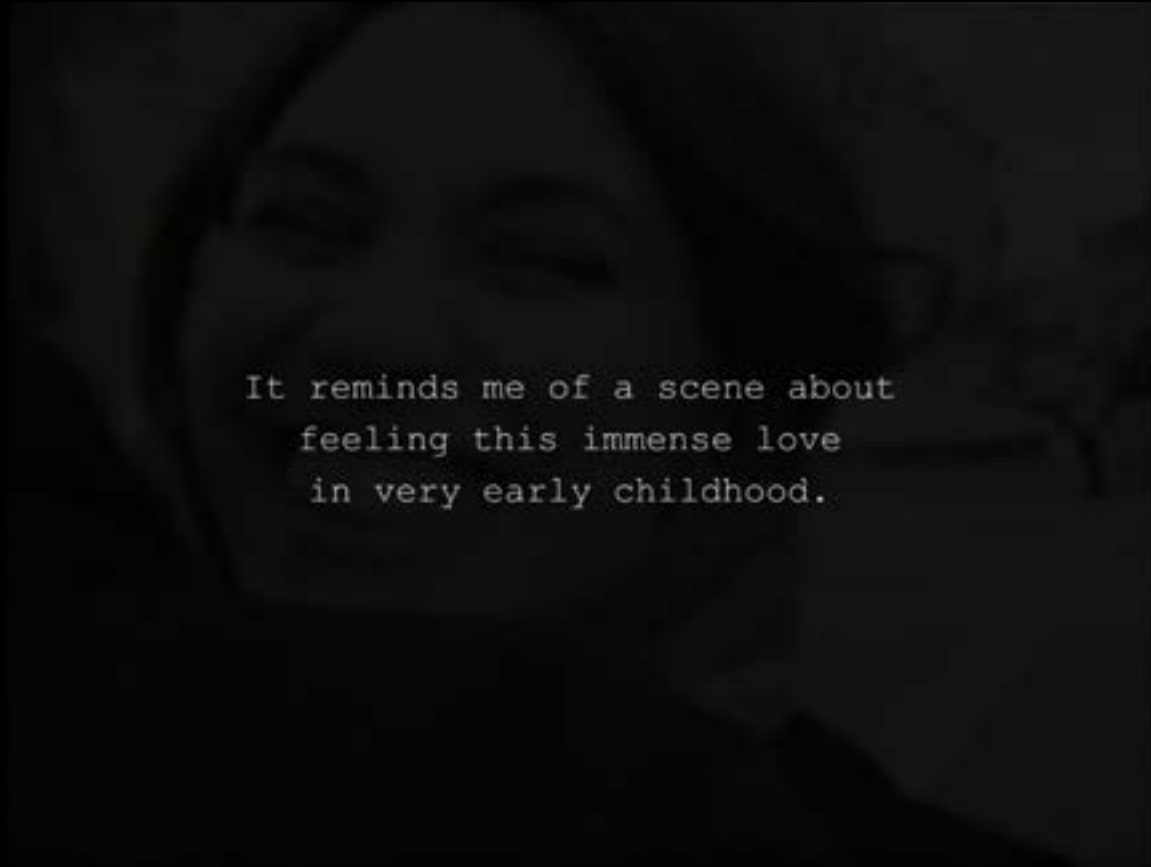
PARTNERS

Cinevera


STUDIA KINEMA




I removed the eyes and suddenly
became a blind person.




It reminds me of a scene about
feeling this immense love
in very early childhood.




While we were sitting in a small
restaurant, a powerful whirlwind
started spinning and carrying leaves.




I remember understanding what the
taste of earth was.



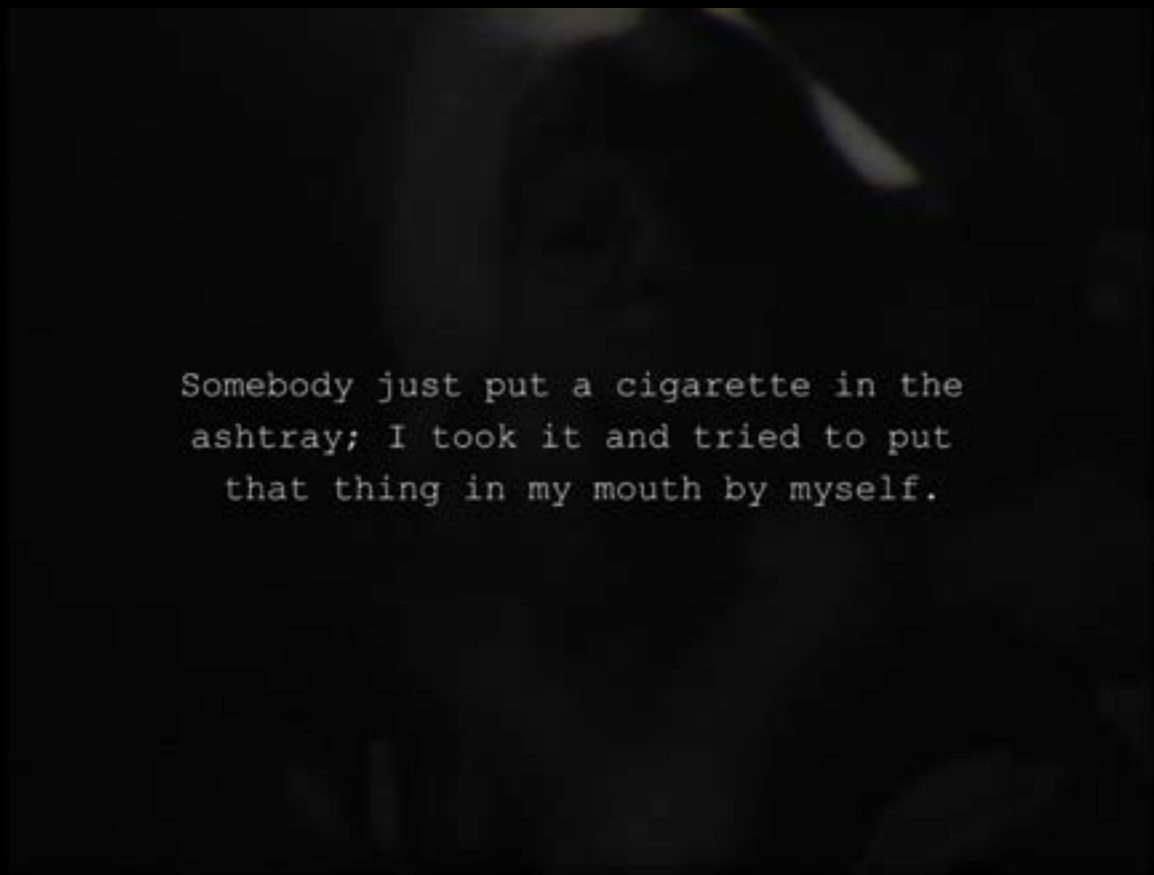
I was always welcome everywhere,
and I recollect having this thought
for the first time:
I'd better not go there.




I recall one thing: my mum went
somewhere and told me
not to touch the iron.



I was about three or four.
It was my birthday.



Somebody just put a cigarette in the
ashtray; I took it and tried to put
that thing in my mouth by myself.

A dark, grainy image showing a person hanging from a frame. The person's body is visible, and they appear to be in a state of suspension. The image is very dark, with only the outline of the person and the frame being discernible. The text is overlaid on the image.

Then, I - hanging on to the frame -
stood up and went to my mum.

Silent musical film
Why Does This Appear?

Technical specifications

Running time: 53min

Exhibition formats: DCP, HD ProResHQ

Aspect ratio: 4x3

Dimensions: 1440×1080

Sound: Stereo or Live Music (10 musicians)

Shooting format: 4K, 2K

Black and White

Original language: English

Subtitles: Lithuanian

Year of Production: 2020

Contact for distribution:

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Regarding live performances:

Marta Finkelstein
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