

## BEHOLD, SUCH CLOWN-DIRECTED BY JACOB PILGAARD

This short film takes the viewer on an emotional rollercoaster as it depicts the story of a children's hospital clown who gets an unexpected mission before retirement.

“Behold, such clown” meets all of the characteristics of the melodrama subgenre, featuring a twisted plot that deals with a strained familial situation, illness and tragedy and following a character that overcomes a difficult and devastating situation.

The storyline is complicated and elements of the high sentimental charge are under-covered one by one until the end of the story. The first intrigue, Elias' forced retirement is just a pretext, the real intrigue come later in the form of the estranged daughter he meets in the hospital, as a mother of a terminally ill child. Further on, we discover that the past of the two relatives was marked by a horrible accident, where the father failed to save both daughters. On top of that, the little girl is highly aware of her disease, making Elias' mission particularly difficult.

Though appealing to the heightened emotions of the audience, the film stays fairly sensible because of its quality technical execution on all levels. It is admirable that the creative team who worked on this short managed to tackle such delicate matters without turning this into a totally tear-exciting piece of cinema. However, the chain of unfortunate events is a bit extravagant.

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The actors give remarkable performances, there is a good chemistry between them and a familiarity that demonstrates dedicated rehearsals. The actor portraying the protagonist manages to give life to a complex character. Elias is a magnificent impersonation of a clown. He is able to face the absurdity and injustice of life by bringing smiles on the faces of the youngest victims of illness, but he is also repenting for past mistakes through his work. Anne Reumert performs a suffering mother that learns to make amends with the past. As she fails to save her daughter from an incurable disease, she realizes that parents can't be superheroes and that her own father went through a similar drama when he couldn't save her sister from the fire.

The visual style consists of masterfully composed shots that come together in a slow-paced editing. In this character driven story close-ups play an important role, surprising a wide range of feelings and moods. In these portraits, the backing lights and shadow are faded, creating a delicate background. The bluesy ambient score well supports the story.

All in all, this short is a compelling cinematic journey that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

Written by

**GEORGIANA CONSTANTIN**

FILM REVIEW SPECIALIST

[www.bscfest.com/review-ecate](http://www.bscfest.com/review-ecate)

[contact@bscfest.com](mailto:contact@bscfest.com)

Sfinții Apostoli 44. Bucharest, RO 030167