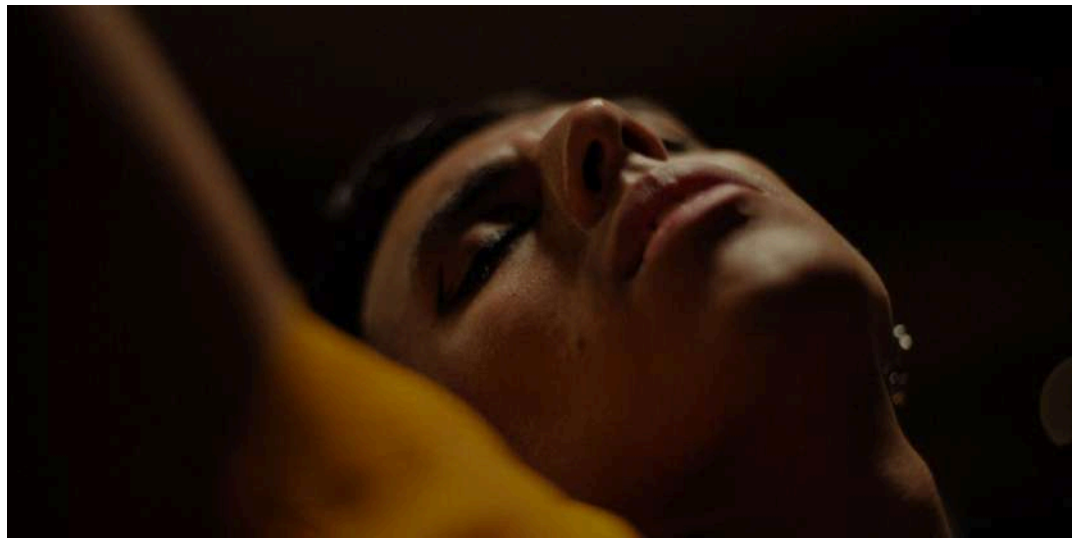




MASC4MASC

A SHORTFILM BY FELIX AUGUSTIN

PRESS KIT



SYNOPSIS

Rafael and his friends reign supreme in a world dominated by masculinity and casual sex.

One of these hookups leads to a passionate but brief encounter with Alex and a moment of intimacy arises between them.

However, when Alex shares an intimate moment with another man, Rafael grapples with his own desires and fears, torn between two worlds.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I was young, I thought that coming out would liberate me from stereotypes and societal expectations placed upon me as a man. Fast-forward more than ten years, I now find myself needing to justify my identity within the queer community.

MASC4MASC = masculine for masculine / gay men who are exclusively interested in other masculine-presenting gay men.

MASC4MASC is a film that challenges concepts of masculinity, binary gender perceptions, the definition of „being a man,“ and how these factors influence our understanding of intimacy.

We are all shaped by binary gender perceptions, whether consciously or unconsciously and these imprints often hinder our self-discovery and personal development.

MASC4MASC challenges the boundaries of Post Queer Cinema and proposes the idea of “Non Queer Cinema”: The removal of heteronormativity makes „queerness“ obsolete but paradoxically creates a more universal story.

For instance, a gay man surrounded by straight men in a gym, longing for sensitivity, is no longer limited by stereotypes. As all characters are queer men, sexual orientation becomes a non-issue. The focus shifts from solely affecting gay men to impacting men in general. It becomes an inherently queer movie with a universal approach.

The film provides a snapshot of the collapse of queer patriarchal affection—a farewell letter to the person we were expected to be and the person we expected ourselves to become.



BACKGROUND

MASC4MASC is the practical implementation of an artistic research question during a master program at the Stockholm University of the Arts.

It's based on the director's own experiences within the queer community and is mixed with a kind of numbness he felt from his own intimacy for years.

MASC4MASC premiered in Sweden nationally at the Göteborg Film Festival, had its world premiere at the KASHISH Pride Film Festival and its North American premiere at Frameline, the San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival. Furthermore the will was screened at the Queer Screen Film Festival in Sydney, Australia, Way Out West Festival in Göteborg, Cinema Queer México – Festival de cine and Cinema Queer International Film Festival in Stockholm.

A FILMMAKER'S APPROACH

As writer/director Felix Greisinger established the core of his story and adapted the screenplay to create a non-heteronormative space, he struggled to find the right setting for it to unfold.

Choosing both a gay club and an apartment in my script not only increased my frustration but also confirmed my suspicions. I myself was so indoctrinated with the notion of where „one is gay“ that I didn't question the choice of location. Neither as a director nor as a production designer.

Rethinking the space and location for the film, I endeavored to find a place that could amplify and reinforce the essence of my story.

A place that would encapsulate the struggle for love amidst performative masculinities, the comfort of relying on a patriarchal system and the longing for genuine human connection – the gym.

I didn't just want to find a space saturated with performative masculinities; I aimed to redefine, recode, and recontextualize it. I wanted to strip this place of its connotations and reclaim it.

The film embraces its inherent queerness and actively seeks to break free from deeply entrenched heteronormative spaces.

By establishing a new norm where characters' sexuality remains unconditional, an environment is created in which queerness can thrive authentically and unapologetically.



CASTING

The casting for the lead role took place over several months in Stockholm. After receiving around one hundred fifty applications, a handful of actors were invited to audition and ultimately Victor Iván was chosen.

As the dance couple, Filip Doré and Adrian Cruz were selected, non-actors directly cast from the Swedish Ballroom Community, marking their first film roles.

Additionally, we cast acting students, actors, and non-actors for supporting roles and extras in and around Stockholm.

SHOOT AND LOCATION

The filming took place at a dance studio/ gym in Stockholm, Sweden, over three days in the spring of 2023.

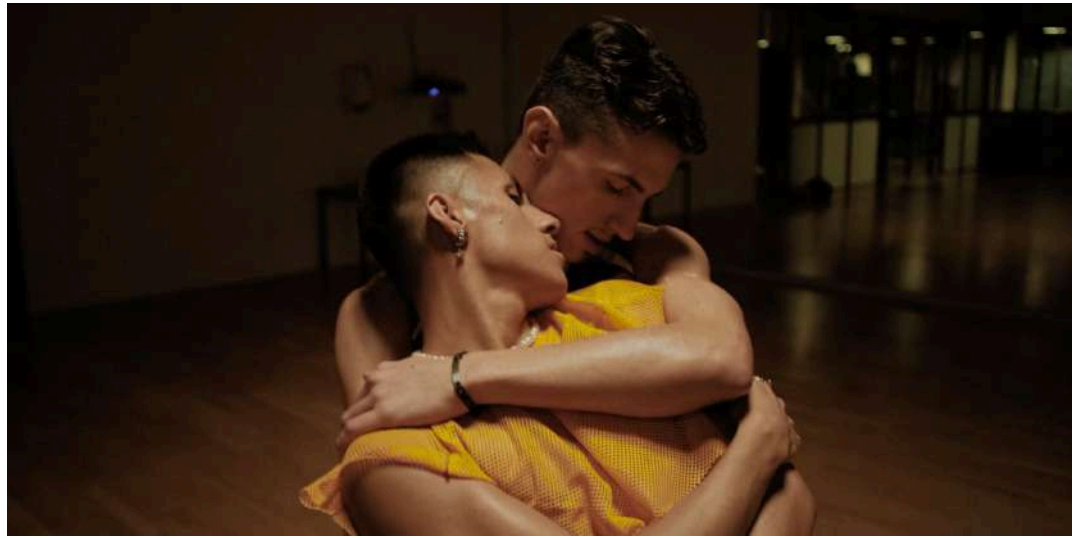
The footage was captured on an Arri Alexa in 2:1 format by cinematographer Christine Leuhusen.

The crew primarily comprised professional film workers from the Stockholm region, along with film students from Stockholm University of Arts and other film schools in the area.

POST PRODUCTION

The post-production and grade was handled by Caj Müller from International Pictures and Grader Daniel Pherson.

Stockholm based sound designer Petar Mrdjen, supervised the sound design, foley recording and mixing.



THE FILMMAKER

Felix Augustin Greisinger

writer, director, production designer

Felix Greisinger is a writer, director and production designer working within film, TV and advertising, based in Stockholm, Sweden.

His work spans both national and international projects across Sweden, Austria, Spain and Greece.

Born in Austria in 1993, Felix completed a Bachelor of MultiMediaArts with a focus on directing in 2016 at the University of Applied Science in Salzburg and a Masters in Production Design at the University of Arts in Stockholm in 2023.

Felix crafts queer utopian dystopias that challenge conventional norms, all while exploring universal themes and shedding light on hidden subcultures.

At the core of his creative journey lies a commitment to pushing the boundaries of post-queer cinema.

Felix is currently developing his first feature film, based on MASC4MASC, and working on a short film script about class struggle and opportunities within the queer art world.





KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Company

Två Träd Film
in cooperation with
Stockholm University of Arts

Writer/Director

Felix Greisinger

Producer / Co Producer

Svante Tidholm
Irene Lopez

Cinematographer

Christine Leuhusen

Production Designer

Felix Greisinger

Costume Designer

Peter Englund

Film Editor

Alexander Linder
Erik Dalström

Sound Designer

Petar Mrdjen

Composer

Knut Olav Rygnestad
Petar Mrdjen
Anders K Nilsson

Supervisor

Ester Martin Bergsmark
Linda Janson

Intimacy Coordinator

Sara Arrhusius

With

Rafael

Victor Iván

Alex

Filip Doré

Angel

Adrian Cruz

Joel

Emir Waldmark

Country of Production

Sweden

Date of Completion

2024

Shooting format

2:1

Duration

8.24 mins

Genre

Drama



INTERNATIONAL SALES & ENQUIRES

Svante Tidholm
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E: svante@tidholm.se

FESTIVALS

- Göteborg Film Festival 2024 - *nominee for Dragon Award*
- KASHISH Pride Film Festival - *Winner: Best Student Short Award*
- FRAMELINE / San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival -*Official Selection*
- Queer Screen Film Festival Sydney
- Way Out West Festival Göteborg
- Cinema Queer México – Festival de cine
- Cinema Queer International Film Festival Stockholm

LINKS

Film trailer <https://youtu.be/hM1VbFG6-KY>