

CLEAN

A movie poster for the film 'CLEAN'. The background is a solid, deep blue. In the foreground, two men are shown in profile, facing right. The man in front has a short, buzzed haircut and a serious expression. The man behind him has longer, dark hair and a mustache, looking down. The overall mood is somber and intense.

*NO
ONE
IS*

A Koen Van Sande film

Tibo
Vandeborre

Vincent
Van Sande



Production Notes

A man in a light blue shirt is looking out a window. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The man's expression is serious and contemplative. The window shows a view of trees outside.

'CLEAN' is written and directed by Koen Van Sande

'CLEAN', starring Tibo Vandendorpe and Vincent Van Sande, is a gripping thriller exploring the fragile yet unbreakable bond between two brothers. A story of love, loss, and the cost of control.

'CLEAN' is a production by Cartouche, in co-production with Popocatepetl and BNP Paribas Fortis Film Finance.

With the support of the Flemish Audiovisual Fund (VAF), the Brussels-Capital Region, the Federal Government's Tax Shelter incentive, and Kinopolis Film Distribution (KFD).



Synopsis



CLEAN is an intense family drama over about police officer Mathieu, whose carefully ordered life unravels again when his heroin-addicted brother Timo, after years of silence, suddenly reappears at a Christmas gathering.

When Timo is arrested during an intervention, Mathieu loses control: determined to "save" his brother, he locks him in a remote cabin for a brutal cold-turkey detox.

As the situation escalates, Mathieu is forced to choose between his career, his family, and his last chance at reconciliation with his brother.

CLEAN is an emotional journey about addiction and the limits of control. The film makes us reflect on how we perceive addicts: as victims or as criminals?



CLEAN is a gripping family drama about police officer Mathieu (Tibo Vandenberghe), whose life is upended yet again when his heroin-addicted brother, Timo (Vincent Van Sande), crashes the family's Christmas dinner. Their mother (Katelijne Damen) remains detached; their father (Jos Verbist) dismisses Timo as filth. The tension peaks when Timo is caught shooting up in the bathroom, forcing Mathieu to intervene. Old wounds reopen, and the family's fragile unity is pushed to the brink.

The father demands Timo be committed, but Mathieu hesitates. Timo's return after three years off the grid doesn't just threaten the family, it jeopardizes Mathieu's career in the narcotics unit, as he's caught between the "War on Drugs" and his brother's spiral. His wife (Ruth Becquart), a public prosecutor, fights to shield their children and the family's reputation from the fallout.

When Timo is arrested during a drug raid, Mathieu finds himself trapped. His unit is hunting a ruthless heroin dealer whose lethal product is killing users. Timo knows the dealer, but if he talks, the entire family becomes a target. Will Mathieu choose his family, his duty, or his brother?

Convinced he can "fix" Timo, Mathieu locks him in a remote cabin for a brutal cold-turkey detox. But his need for control spirals. Fearful of relapse, Mathieu imprisons Timo in the basement of their home. His heavy-handed approach fractures the family, endangers his career, and shatters his faith in law and order.

Meanwhile, Mathieu shields Timo from the force, which sees him as a pawn to catch the dealer. When Mathieu presents Timo as "clean" at a family dinner, it backfires. Timo feels used, a trophy rather than loved. He flees.

Mathieu chases his brother through the shadowy streets of Brussels, only to end up in the dealer's lair (played by Martin Swabey). Suspecting betrayal, the dealer forces Mathieu to inject heroin, administered by Timo.

CLEAN is a raw, emotional journey of addiction and the limits of control. The film challenges us to confront how we perceive addicts: as victims or as criminals?

A man with dark hair and a mustache is sitting in the driver's seat of a car at night. He is wearing a blue denim jacket and is holding a handgun in his right hand, which is raised towards the ceiling of the car. The background is dark with blurred lights from other vehicles, creating a bokeh effect. The word "CAST" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

CAST

Mathieu: Tibo Vandenborre
Timo: Vincent Van Sande
Myriam: Ruth Becquart
Father Rudy: Jos Dom
Mother Veerle: Katelijne Damen
Lenny: Lewis Hannes
Oscar: Rover De Hauwere
Agent Sabine: Martha Canga Antonio

Dealer: Martin Swabey
Social worker: Ellen Sterckx
Teamleader: Jeroen Van Der Ven
Chief of Police: Guy Dermul
Agent Sven : Felix Maesschalk
Friend Timo: Aäron Roggeman
Friend Timo 2: Pepijn Vandelanotte
Special guest: Shauna Dewit



Character Descriptions



MATHIEU : Tibo Vandenberghe

Mathieu Rochet (45) is a police commissioner and the face of the Brussels Drug Brigade: methodical, task-oriented, and trained to remain composed under pressure. Control, responsibility and reputation drive him; protocol is his reflex, shaped by an authoritarian father and a life where emotions are suppressed. He is brave and analytical, but at home, he is closed off.

The return of his heroin-addicted brother, Timo, forces him to confront his need for control and his rigid moral absolutism. What begins as punishment and restraint shifts toward care and protection, even at odds with the force. Over the course of his arc, Mathieu evolves from enforcer to human: choosing closeness over repression, love over image.



TIMO: Vincent Van Sande

Timo Rochet (38) is Mathieu's younger brother: unemployed, but a gifted graphic artist whose talent has been drained away by two decades of heroin use. Gaunt, neglected, and perpetually restless, he moves as if always searching for the next fix. Beneath his cynicism, humor, and sarcasm lies an emotional, intelligent man burdened by shame, guilt, and the deep-seated belief he was never wanted.

Drugs are both his anesthesia and his prison. Under pressure, he can lash out with biting aggression, purely out of helplessness. With Mathieu, he exists in a love-hate dynamic: resisting his brother's control while craving his recognition and salvation. Timo embodies the human toll of the War on Drugs.







CREW

Director: Koen Van Sande

Screenplay: Koen Van Sande, Daniel Lambo
& Jacques Boon

Producer: David Vermander

Director of photography : Huyn De Grande

Editor: Arnaud Bellemans

Sound design : Filip Jacobs

Originele Score: Eloi Ragot, 2 liedjes van Matt Watts
& Nicolas Rombouts

Art direction : Natalia Treviño

Costume Design: Regina van Eijden

Makeup : Lila Vander Elst

Sound: Lucas Magotteaux

& Hannes Leemans

Color grading : Xavier Dockx

1st AD : Stephen Van Mechelen

Co-producer: Marc Goyens

Associate producer : David Claickens & Alex Verbaere





Bios

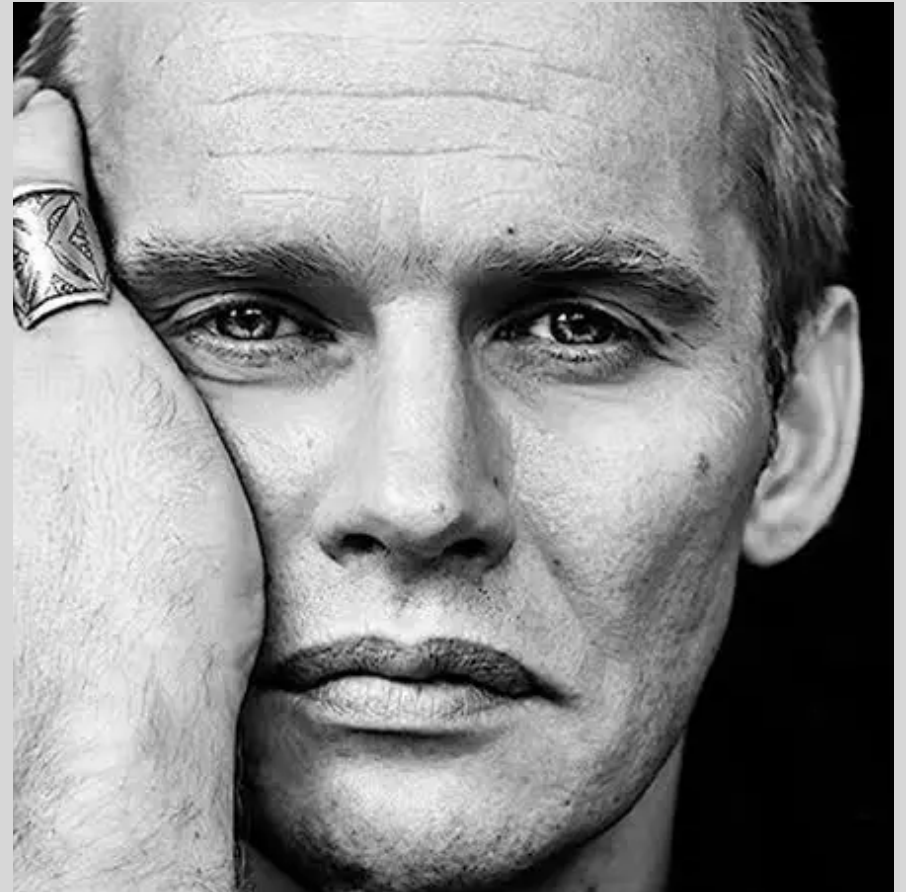
Tibo Vandenberg

Tibo Vandenberg landed his first leading role in the television series *De Smaak van De Keyser* (2008) as the young Jacques Marchoul.

He also delivered standout performances in feature films such as *Rundskop* (Bullhead) by Michaël R. Roskam, *The Invader* by Nicolas Provost, and *The Treatment* (*De Behandeling*) by Hans Herbots.

In theater, he performed in *Tanzung* with the company Bloet, alongside Jan Decorte, Taka Shamoto, and Sigrid Vinks.

In 2012, he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Flemish Film Awards for his role as Kris in *The Invader*.



Vincent van Sande

Vincent Van Sande's first major role was as Stijn in the police series *Zone Stad*, appearing as a recurring character since 2011. In 2012, he landed one of the lead roles in the film *Innocent Belgium*. Over the years, he also appeared in television series such as *Kongo* and *Witse*. In 2013, he featured in the ninth season of *Aspe* as Kristof.

In January 2014, Van Sande released his first short film, *Tussen De Oren*, in which he also starred. That same year, he played the role of Mario in the short film *Watafak*.

In 2016, he took on the roles of Chris in *Cordon* and Gaëtan in *Chaussée d'Amour*. He also appeared in several feature films, including as Frederik in *Wij* and Maurice in *Façades*.

In 2018, he played Frankie in the TV series *Glad Ijs*. In 2021, he appeared as Joeri in the drama series *Mijn Slechtste Beste Vriendin*. In 2022, he reprised his role as Tuur in the movie *De zonen van Van As - De cross* and also appeared in the TV series *Twee Zomers*. In 2023, Van Sande took on the role of Pieter-Jan in *Déjà Vu - Alles is Voorbestemd*. He also joined the cast of the third season of the popular West Flemish series *Onder Vuur*, playing Pieter (Postenpakker).

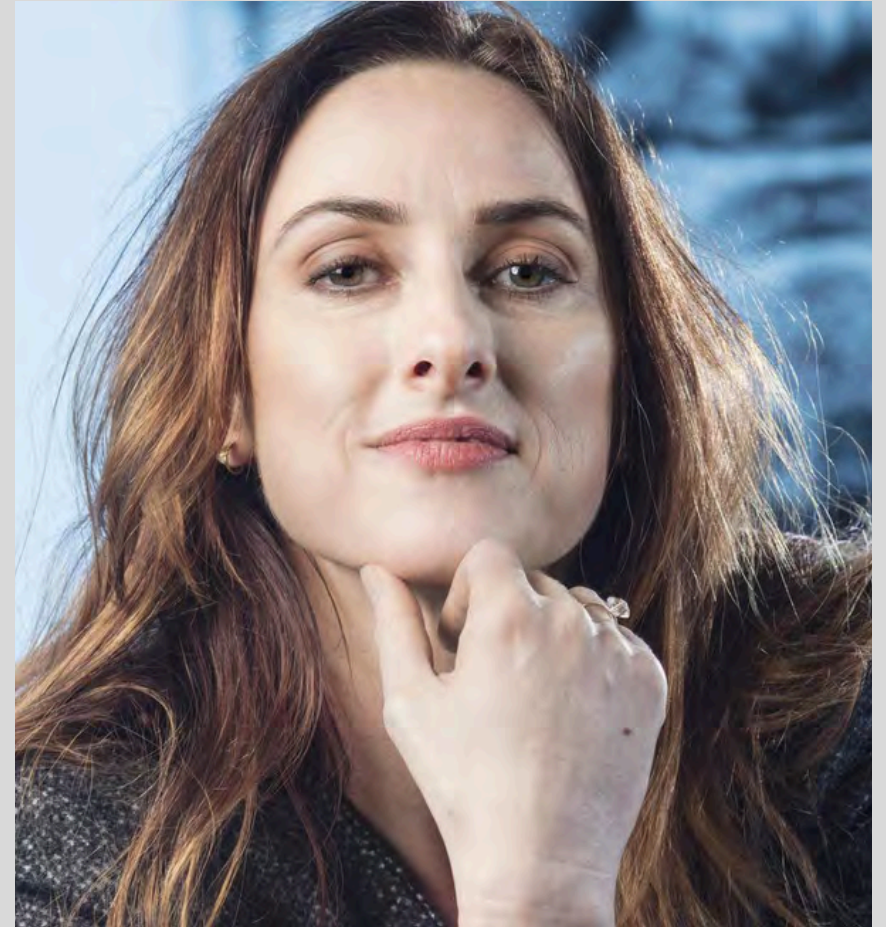


Ruth Becquart

Ruth Becquart graduated from Studio Herman Teirlinck in 1999. After her studies, she took the stage with theater company Malpertuis in productions such as *Germania 3*, *Kleur is alles (Color is Everything)*, and *Moederliefde (Mother Love)*, and with Het Toneelhuis in *Staat er haar op?!*, *Maria*, *Oom Vanja (Uncle Vanya)*, *Bioman*, and *Waar waren we gebleven (Where Were We?)*. She also performed with Laika in *De Karamazovs (The Karamazovs)* and with *De Zweep* in *De smerige trilogie, deel 2 (The Dirty Trilogy, Part 2)*. At Hetpaleis, she appeared in *De vikingen (The Vikings)*, *Ongelikt-King Lear (Unlicked-King Lear)*, *Matchboks de prequel*, and *Magic Palace – Heupen liegen niet (Magic Palace – Hips Don't Lie)*.

Becquart took on roles in feature films such as *Linkeroever (Left Bank)* and *Dirty Mind*. On television, she initially played smaller roles and guest appearances in series like *De Ronde*, *De Wet volgens Milo*, *Witse*, *Kinderen van Dewindt*, *Code 37*, *De Rodenburgs*, *Aspe*, *Rang 1*, and *Zone Stad*. In 2012, she landed her breakthrough role as Birgit Goethals in the VTM series *Clan*, which brought her widespread recognition. In late 2013, she portrayed Princess Astrid in *Albert II*, a drama series about King Albert II, and played Joke Willems in *Zuidflank*. She also appeared in a supporting role in the Dutch remake of *Smoorverliefd*, directed by Hilde Van Mieghem.

At the 2017 Film Fest Gent, Becquart received the Actors Guild Award for Best Actress in a Television Series for her role in *Chaussée d'Amour*. In 2024, she made her debut as a screenwriter with the film *Julie Zwijgt (Julie Stays Silent)*, in which she also starred in one of the lead roles. The film was selected as Belgium's official submission for the Oscars in the Best International Feature Film category.



Jos Verbist

Ijos Verbist has performed in numerous productions with renowned theater companies, including KVS Brussels, NTGent, Arca, Toneelgroep Hollandia, Blauwe Maandag Compagnie, Kaaithheater, and later Theater Antigone. In addition to acting, he also took on dramaturgy or directing duties for several productions with these companies. He collaborated with Djamel Hadjamar in performances such as *Dédé Le Taxi* and, more recently, *Wolfskers*. As a director, he worked on productions like *Buurman* and *Feydeau*.

Verbist has also appeared in a wide range of films, TV movies, and television series. In the film adaptation of *Vergeten straat (Forgotten Street)*, he portrayed Louis Paul Boon. He made guest appearances in episodes of *Heterdaad (Caught in the Act)* and *Witse*. In 2009, he played the role of Police Commissioner Wilfried De Boeck in *Van vlees en bloed (Of Flesh and Blood)*. In 2010, he had guest roles in the series *Oud België (Old Belgium)* on één and *Duts* on Canvas.

He also appeared in the drama series *Dubbelleven (Double Life)* on één, playing the father of Nina Overstijns, portrayed by Lotte Heijtenis. In 2012, he took on the role of Armand De La Ruelle in *Quiz Me Quick*. In 2013, he twice played the role of forensic psychiatrist Professor De Haes in *De Ridder*. In the spring of 2014, he appeared in the program *Achter de feiten (Behind the Facts)*. In 2017, Verbist starred as Karel in the drama film *Vele hemels boven de zevende (Many Heavens Above the Seventh)*.



Katelijne Damen

Katelijne Damen (1960) is a Flemish actress. She has performed in theater productions with renowned companies such as Theater Malpertuis, KVS (Royal Flemish Theatre), Fakkelteater, Blauwe Maandag Compagnie, Het Zuidelijk Toneel, Compagnie De Koe, and, in recent years, Toneelhuis. As a director, she has helmed productions like *Moetterland* and *Spinnen kunt ge niet opereren (You Can't Operate on Spiders)*.

Under her driving force, the theater organization Drie Vingers V.Z.W. was established. For this group, she directed and wrote *Crème au beurre*.

Damen has also acted in films, including *Ce sunt amorettes (1996)*, *Man van staal (Man of Steel, 1999)*, *Any Way the Wind Blows (2003)*, and *Duffel (2007)*. On television, she has appeared in series such as *Kijk eens op de doos*, *Moeder, waarom leven wij?*, *Sedes & Belli*, *Rupel*, *Terug naar Oosterdonk*, *Flikken*, *Koning van de Wereld*, *Witse*, *W817 (as Linda Peiremans)*, and *De Smaak van De Keyser*.

In 1990, she received the Theo d'Or Award for her leading role in *Strange Interlude*. In 1996, she was honored with the Mary Dresselhuys Prize for her entire body of work and theater career.





Koen Van Sande

Koen Van Sande is a Belgian director known for his scripted work in film and television. His short films *Research* (2014), *Cracks* (2015), and *Lockdown* (2018) received international selections and awards. He created the series *The Kidnapping of Phil Frisco* (2021), directed *Onder Vuur S3* (2024).

In January 2025 he shot his first feature film *CLEAN* funded by VAF and Screen Brussels. The film has its world premiere as the closing film at the Film Festival of Ostend, February 2026.

Now he is creating *Nest 2026*, a new fiction series funded by VAF. The series got selected for Torino SeriesLab and Series Mania. National broadcaster VRT picked up the project in co-production with Taiwan.





Directors Statement

'CLEAN' is an emotional thriller inspired by the true story of Peter Muyschondt. After losing his brother to heroin, Peter became an advocate for a more humane drug policy. But this isn't just his story, it's my story too.

The film revolves around the intense, high-stakes conflict between two brothers: one, a by-the-book cop driven by duty; the other, consumed by addiction. Their fragile bond becomes a battleground as Mathieu's sense of responsibility and his brother's heroin addiction tear them apart.

'CLEAN' interrogates our obsession with control; over ourselves and those we love. Mathieu attempts to save his brother through brutal isolation, convinced that control is the answer. But when does control turn toxic? And what does it truly mean to be 'clean'?

Peter Muyshondt

Peter Muyshondt is currently the Chief of Police for the Rupel local police district. He began his career as an officer in the Belgian Gendarmerie (Rijkswacht) and has served in various units, including the Surveillance and Investigation Brigade (BOB) in Antwerp, the Special Units (POSA Antwerp), and the security detachment at Brussels National Airport. Following the police reform, he transitioned to the Antwerp Local Police and later to the Voorkempen Police. In 2018, he joined the Rupel Police District, where he oversees police management for the Tomorrowland festival, among other responsibilities.

Peter is married and the father of three children.

After the passing of his brother Tom, he authored two books. *Broers waren we* (We Were Brothers) served as the inspiration for the film *Clean*. *Beleid op speed* (Policy on Speed) is his advocacy for a more humane drug policy.



Broers waren we

The film CLEAN is inspired by the book *Broers waren we* (*We Were Brothers*) by Peter Muysbondt and Han Zinzen.

Broers waren we is a quest—not for reasons or causes, not for excuses or apologies. It is a quest to uncover the human being behind the addict and the criminal, and the human being behind the police officer, who is torn between what the law demands of him and what his conscience dictates. It is a quest to explore how society treats those who don't fit in, who refuse to stay within the lines. And perhaps, it is a quest to discover how we can truly engage with such people.

it is a quest for Tom, and for restoring the dignity he deserved.





Cartouche

2026 Nest – TV Series: 8 x 50' – Sven Huybrechts & Koen Van Sande (Pre-production) – VRT Belgium, TAICCA Taiwan
Nominations: Series Mania Pitching, TCCF Taiwan Pitching, Torino Series Lab, MIA Rome

2026 Buffalo Johansson – TV Series Animation: 8 x 30' – Lars Damoiseaux (Pre-production)
Nominations: Torino Series Lab

2025 Clean – Feature Film – Koen Van Sande – In Post-Production

2024 Old Town – Short Film – David Vermander

Nominations and Prizes:

Show Me Shorts New Zealand, Sediciorto Italy (Audience Award), Badalona Filmets Spain, Brest European Short Film France, Foyle Film Festival Northern Ireland, Kyiv Molodist Ukraine, FF Oostende Belgium, Brussels Short FF Belgium, FEST New Directors Portugal, Edmonton Int. FF Canada, Shnit Worldwide Festival Amsterdam, Bengaluru Int. Short Film Fest India, ...

2021 Glad Ijs (The Kidnapping of Phil Frisco) – TV Series: 10 x 45' – Raf Reyntjes & Koen Van Sande – DPG Media / Amazon ... Distributed by: Keshet

2019 Lockdown – Short Film – Koen Van Sande

Nominations:

ECU Paris, Oaxaca FilmFest Mexico, Evolution Mallorca, Braunschweig International FF Germany, FF Oostende Belgium, ...

2018 Cracks – Short Film – Koen Van Sande

Nominations: Ensors, Montreal World Film Festival, FEST Portugal, ...

2018 Research – Short Film – Koen Van Sande

Nominations: Raindance, Chelsea NY, ...

Cartouche - Productions





Technical Information



Location: België

Original Language : Nederlands

Filming Dates : Januari & februari 2025

Supported by : ALLEXA 35

Format : DCP 24fps

Aspect ratio : 2:35

Resolution : 4K

Runtime : 104 min

Subtitles : BIL NL/FR

Co-Producer : Marc Goyens

With the support of : Popocatepetl

BNP Paribas Fortis Film Finance

Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds (VAF)

Tax Shelter

KFD

Contact





CARTOUCHE

Koen Van Sande
Director
+32 477 344 794

David Vermander
Producer
+32 496 55 66 11

