
STILL HERE

Press Kit · Presentation Dossier

a short film by ALESSIO GALFO · 2026

SOME MASKS DON'T COME OFF. THEY WASH AWAY.

AI Generative Film · 2026 · 2'11"

LOGLINE

On a rainy night in Victorian London, an aging clown bends over a puddle and slips into a vision: his act, an audience that walks out on him, the mask the rain washes away.

SYNOPSIS

On a deserted late-19th-century London street, in the rain, an aged clown sees himself in a puddle. The reflection pulls him into a packed circus where, before his act even begins, the audience rises and leaves in indifference. He is left alone under a fading spotlight. When the rain dissolves his makeup and he looks up, he is no longer the Clown: he is Jeff, an ordinary man who picks up his suitcase and walks on. Still here.

Act I – The Street

Jeff walks through the rain, suitcase in hand, with nowhere to go. He bends over a puddle and his clown reflection swallows him.

Act II – The Vision

Inside a crowded Victorian circus, the Clown stands at the center of the ring. He opens his mouth to announce the show, but the audience rises and leaves as if he did not exist. Only he, the empty seats and a shrinking spotlight remain.

Act III – The Portrait

In extreme close-up, a real tear falls and drags the black makeup down his face. The rain begins to dissolve it entirely: purification and loss at once. «Some masks don't come off. They wash away.»

Act IV – The Return

Same street, same rain. He is no longer the Clown: he is Jeff, without makeup, who stands up, picks up his suitcase and walks away into the fog. No backstage, no comforting reveal: the film ends suspended, on the man who is still here.

« SOME MASKS DON'T COME OFF. THEY WASH AWAY. »

TECHNICAL SHEET

Title	STILL HERE
Director / story / screenplay	Alessio Galfo
Year	2026
Country	Italy
Runtime	2 min 11 s
Genre	Poetic / surreal drama
Format	1920×872 · 2.20:1 · colour · 24 fps
Audio	Stereo · original music & sound design
Dialogue	Essentially none (one unfinished line in English)
Technique	Entirely AI-generated film · original AI-generated music

CREDITS**A film by ALESSIO GALFO**

Story, screenplay & direction – Alessio Galfo

AI image generation & supervision – Alessio Galfo

Editing & sound design – Alessio Galfo

Original music – Alessio Galfo

Character design «Jeff Patterson» – Alessio Galfo

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PROCESS NOTE

The film is entirely made with generative-AI tools. The character – Jeff Patterson, «the Clown» – was defined through a visual-consistency sheet (physical, makeup, costume, environment, mood and negative prompts) that kept his face and costume coherent from one generation to the next. The music is original and AI-generated as well. Editing, rhythm and sound design were built in post-production. The full character sheet is available as a separate document.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We all wear a mask. We put it on to face the world, to be seen, to be loved – and sometimes we no longer know how to take it off. STILL HERE comes from one simple question: what is left of us when the mask falls?

I chose a clown because he is the figure who makes others laugh while emptying out inside: applauded and, at the very same moment, alone. The rain does not punish him, it washes him. There is no backstage, no comforting reveal: when the makeup slips away there is no hero, only an ordinary man who picks up his suitcase and walks on. And yet he is still here.

I made the film entirely with generative-AI tools, but every choice – the story, the rhythm, the silence, water as an agent – is mine. The technology was the pencil; the gaze is human.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Alessio Galfo is an Italian author exploring generative AI as a narrative language. STILL HERE is his directorial debut short: he created its story, screenplay, character design, editing and original music, directing every shot through written direction. His work investigates the mask, identity, and what remains when it falls away.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to my daughter Sophie «Soso» Galfo and to Claudio Napoli, who put up with me through every new version.

Contact

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