

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT & SALES DOSSIER

CELL BUDDIES

(CELMAATJES)

OVER 150 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS • 28 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS • SCREENED IN 45 COUNTRIES

A handcrafted stop motion slapstick comedy following two wildly mismatched prison cellmates whose chaotic jailbreak reveals an unlikely bond of trust.

TECHNIQUE & RUNTIME

Puppet Stop Motion • 5:11 min

WORLD SALES EXCL. NETHERLANDS

Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg



SYNOPSIS & TECHNICAL SPECS

Grit meets goof in an impossible prison break.

Logline: Sam wants to break out of prison but his cellmate Bob isn't much help.

Synopsis: Sam, a cynical raccoon, hatches an intricate escape plan from behind bars. He is forced to team up with Bob, an oversized, gentle manatee whose loyalty far outweighs his wits. As their breakout spirals into a flurry of clumsy slapstick mishaps, Sam's hardened edges begin to soften.

Cell Buddies is a whirlwind of physical humor and genuine heart: while escaping four walls takes luck, breaking through their own emotional barriers creates something far rarer: true friendship.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Original Title	Celmaatjes
International Title	Cell Buddies
Completion Date	January 2025
Running Time	5 min 11 sec
Animation Type	Stop Motion Puppet (Handcrafted armatures & sets)
Language & Subtitles	Dutch spoken • English subtitles (burnt in & SRT)
Framerate / Aspect	24 fps • 16:9 Flat
Audio Format	Stereo / 5.1 Surround Sound
Screening Masters	DCP (24 fps), Apple ProRes 422 HQ, h.264



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"In a world that often feels rigid, *Cell Buddies* is a playful story about two misfits who discover that freedom isn't just about breaking out, but breaking open. Sam, the grumpy raccoon, and Bob, the gentle manatee, embody the messy magic of opposites: grit meets goof, schemer meets saint, and irritation melts into unexpected kinship.

Stop motion was our deliberate medium of choice. It is raw, tactile, and alive with authentic imperfection, much like our oddball duo. Every frame was sculpted and animated by hand by our crew of five art school students. We bent wire armatures, painted miniature woodwork, and rigged puppets frame by frame in the dark, chasing that alchemy where chaotic ideas turn into cinematic rhythm."

"The physical process mirrored the story itself: connection isn't found in sterile perfection, but in the handmade friction of collaboration.

Sam and Bob's jailbreak is a circus of clumsy escapes and slapstick mishaps, but at its core, this film is about the walls we don't see. Trust doesn't come easy to a raccoon who sees the world as a lock to pick, or a manatee too gentle to realize he's already free. Together, they remind us that friendship isn't something you plan: it's something that happens in the least expected places."

The Cell Buddies Crew



PRODUCTION TEAM & FULL CREDITS

CREATIVE TEAM

Melle Windig

DIRECTOR, CONCEPT & SCRIPT, LEAD ANIMATION, MOVING STORYBOARD, VOICE OF SAM, PUPPET & SET PRODUCTION, CLEAN UP

Hidde Alberts

CO DIRECTOR, CONCEPT & SCRIPT, LEAD ANIMATION, VOICE OF BOB, PUPPET PRODUCTION, VFX & EDITING

Arjen van der Plas

CONCEPT & SCRIPT, ADDITIONAL ANIMATION, PUPPET PRODUCTION, SET PRODUCTION, CLEAN UP

Miguel Reyes

CONCEPT & SCRIPT, ADDITIONAL ANIMATION, SOUND DESIGN & AUDIO MIX, PROPS & SET PRODUCTION, CLEAN UP

Jurgen de Smit

CONCEPT & SCRIPT, ADDITIONAL ANIMATION, VOICE OF REX, PROPS & SET PRODUCTION, CLEAN UP



FESTIVALS, AWARDS & DISTRIBUTION

LEADING & A LIST SELECTIONS

- DOK Leipzig** (Germany, 2026): Dok Kids Official Selection (A List)
- Encounters Film Festival** (UK, 2026): Official Selection (Oscar and BAFTA Qual.)
- DokuFest** (Kosovo, 2026): Dokukids Official Selection (Oscar Qual.)
- Interfilm Berlin** (Germany, 2025): Long Night of Weird Shorts (Oscar Qual.)
- Filmfest Dresden** (Germany, 2026): Kids 3 (Audience Award Winner)
- Kurzfilmfest Hamburg** (Germany): Mo & Frieze (Special Mention Award)
- MONSTRA Lisbon** (Portugal, 2026): Int. Student Competition
- Zlín Film Festival** (Czech Republic, 2026): Int. Short Animations for Children
- Kaboom** (Netherlands, 2026): Dutch Shorts Selection
- Cinekid Filmfestival** (Netherlands, 2026): Official Selection
- Kuandu KDIAP** (Taiwan, 2025): Panorama Selection
- Schlingel IFF** (Germany, 2025): Official Selection

SELECTED AWARDS

- Filmfest Dresden** (Germany): Golden Pony Audience Award **Mo & Frieze Hamburg** (Germany): Frieze Special Mention Award **Golden Baklava Int. Festival** (Turkey): 1st Prize Animation Winner **Indy Film Library**: Winner Best Student Film 2026 **Flamingo Int. Film Festival**: Overall Winner and Audience Award
- Chester Animation Festival** (UK): Audience and Leaping Boar Award
- Filmfest Düsseldorf** (Germany): Audience Award
- Cinemare Kiel** (Germany): Audience Award
- Mangalia Youth Film Festival** (Romania): Best Animation Winner
- Lytham Int. Film Festival** (UK): Best Animation Winner
- Earls Court Int. Film Festival** (UK): Best Animation Winner
- Anifest Rozafa** (Albania): Best Animation Winner
- Koo(rts) Film Festival**: Winner Audience Award
- Oxford Shorts** (UK): Best Animation Winner



SCREENED ACROSS 45 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

World Sales and non competitive screening requests (Excl. The Netherlands):
Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg (KFA)
Email: sales@shortfilm.com • Web: www.shortfilm.com

Theatrical Distribution (The Netherlands):
Eye Filmmuseum: Korte Film Poule
Email: kortefilmpoule@eyefilm.nl • Web: www.eyefilm.nl

Production & Screening Inquiries:
Melle Windig
Email: melleobiwindig@gmail.com
Private password protected Vimeo screener on request.