

PRESS KIT

STÄRNESCHI

EN: SUNDOWN | FR: LA LUEUR DES ÉTOILES | ES: EL OCASO

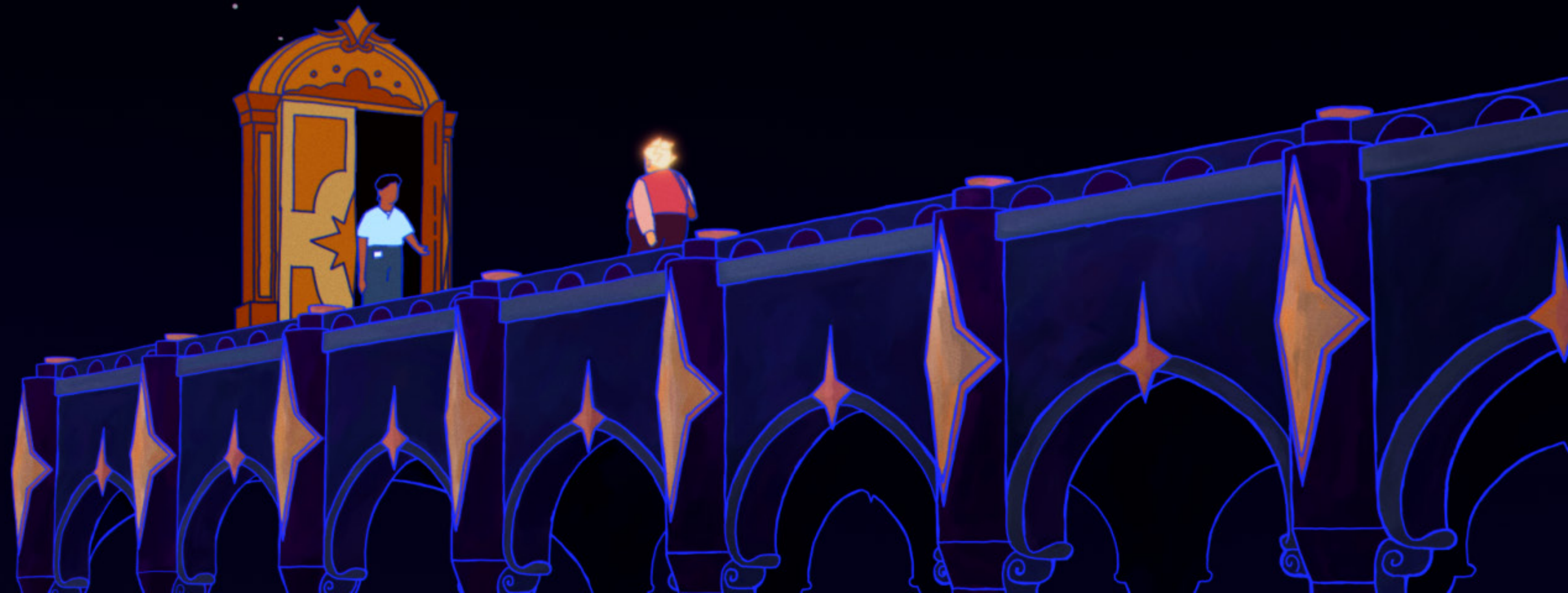
A FILM BY

Jérémie Jayraj ITTY

Inna SOROKA

Julia ESTRADA TORRES

Sammi KHUU



LOGLINE

Joakim, a young, compassionate caregiver working in a dementia ward, navigates the emotional toll of his work as he learns to accept the limits of his ability to help.



SYNOPSIS



On an isolated island, surrounded by a monotonous sea, Stjärneschii reflects the world of people living with dementia, a world in which life happens in the present, with fleeting visits to the past. The elderly home residents are portrayed as humans with star growth, each shining with a unique intensity that symbolises their experiences, temperaments, and the changes in brain structure central to dementia. These star growths are also a symbol of how we perceive people with dementia in the present, while what we see is often a distant echo of who they once were, like starlight reaching us long after it was emitted.

Through a door, Joakim, a young care worker, steps onto a pier leading to an observatory on a remote island. There, he meets Mama Lucia, a star-lady and resident of the observatory. Like the other star residents living on the island, she is affected by dementia. Confused and uncertain, Mama Lucia searches for a bus that will take her away from the island. Joakim gently reassures her and accompanies her back to the observatory, where he attends to his daily duties. As his shift progresses, the star residents express a flood of urgent and overwhelming needs, pushing him to his limits. Mama Lucia's desire to leave the island and return to her mother in Italy grows stronger, eventually causing the situation to escalate. Joakim is swallowed by a massive star-wave formed from the overwhelming emotions and demands of the residents.

Washed ashore at the end of the pier, Joakim faces a decision: should he leave the island and the difficult work behind, or return and face the challenges once again? He chooses to return, for the residents, for the work, and for the warmth and meaning they hold for him.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Stärneschii is inspired by Jérémie's experiences caring for his grandmother with dementia and working in a dementia ward.

Witnessing both the strain of the work environment and the deep compassion of his colleagues led him to create a story that centres on a healthcare worker rather than patients.

Told through a lens of magical realism, we chose to transform a sterile, secure dementia unit into a warm and inviting observatory with a pier leading to a gateway to the outside world, surrounded by a monotonous sea. This setting, drawn from Jérémie's own daydreams at work, mirrors the structure of a real ward while embodying the emotional and physical isolation of dementia care, where the outside world rarely breaks through. Dementia is visualised through star-like growths on the patients, symbols of how we perceive them in the present, while what we see is often a distant echo of who they once were, like starlight reaching us long after it was emitted. Their varying forms and placements also reflect dementia as an umbrella term encompassing many different conditions.

Drawing from both Jérémie's personal background and the reality of dementia care, where patients often revert to different languages from their past, we wanted to incorporate multiple languages and dialects in our film. Set in a Swiss ward, the film reflects the diverse linguistic landscape caregivers navigate daily.

Through a shifting tone, from whimsical to overwhelming, we explore both the hardships and the tenderness of care work in our film. Ultimately, the film is a love letter to the resilience, empathy, and underappreciated dedication of those who work in this field.



DIRECTORS



JÉRÉMIE JAYRAJ ITTY
(director)

Jérémie Jayraj Itty (born 2001) is a Swiss-Swedish-Indian filmmaker and illustrator based in Zürich, Switzerland. After attending the Gestalterisches Propädeutikum at the Zurich University of the Arts in 2020-2021, he went on to do an internship at Fantoche - Festival for Animation Film.

In the summer of 2025, he graduated from the Lucerne School of Art, Film & Design with a Bachelor's degree in Animation. For his graduation project, he wrote and directed Stärneschii (2026), a short film inspired by his experiences working in a dementia ward as well as taking care of his grandmother, who had dementia.



INNA SOROKA
(co-director)

Inna Soroka (born 2003, Zhytomyr, Ukraine) is a Ukrainian filmmaker and illustrator currently based in Switzerland.

She studied graphic design at the Lviv National Academy of Arts from 2020 to 2022, before continuing her studies in animation at the Lucerne School of Art, Film & Design. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Animation in 2025 with the graduation film Stärneschii (2026).

DIRECTORS



JULIA ESTRADA TORRES
(co-director)

Julia (born 1998) is a Swiss-Mexican stop-motion set and prop designer/builder, tattoo artist and character designer with a BA in Animation based in Zurich. After working on multiple award-winning animation projects like *The Fastest Way To Bingo* (2024), *feelslikeimfallinginlove* (2024) and *Double Or Nothing* (2025), she completed her Bachelor's degree with the graduation film *Stärneschii* (2026).

After her graduation from the Lucerne School of Art, Film & Design in summer 2025, she continued to work as a set & prop designer/builder and tattoo artist, as well as working on her first Art Exhibition at Inter-Action Gallery in Germany.



SAMMI KHUU
(co-director)

Sammi Khuu (born 1998, Switzerland) is a Chinese-Swiss filmmaker and illustrator based in Lucerne, Switzerland.

After attending the Gestalterisches Propädeutikum at the Zurich University of the Arts in 2020, they continued their studies at the Lucerne School of Art, Film & Design. They graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Animation in 2025. They completed their Bachelor's degree in Animation in 2025 with the graduation film *Stärneschii* (2026).

CREDITS

Direction: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY

Adapted from: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY

Co-Direction: Inna SOROKA, Julia Flor ESTRADA TORRES, Sammi KHUU

Line Producer: Marwan Abdalla EISSA

Production Management: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Sammi KHUU

Creative Direction: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY

Script: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY

Storyboard: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Inna SOROKA

Layout: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Inna SOROKA

Concept Art: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Inna SOROKA, Julia Flor ESTRADA TORRES, Sammi KHUU

Character Design: Julia Flor ESTRADA TORRES, Lena METZGER

Environment Design: Sammi KHUU

Background: Janick MÜLLER

Modelling: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Sven KRISTLBAUER

Animation: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Inna SOROKA, Julia KRUMMENACHER, Corinna PUGNETH

Additional Animation: Lea GLITSCH, Persephone HUYNH MURPHY, Polina TYRSA, Maximiliano Andrés VELASCO GUTIÉRREZ, Mickael MARRO, Giuliana Giada SPINA

Clean-Up/Colouring: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Inna SOROKA, Julia Flor ESTRADA TORRES, Lena METZGER, Janina MÜLLER

Additional Clean-Up / Colouring: Viktoriia VASYLETS, Phil VO, NGUYỄN Tiến Minh Khuê, Lara MRAVIČIĆ, Giuliana Giada SPINA

Film Editing: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Julia Flor Estrada TORRES

Compositing: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY

Additional Compositing: Yannick BAREL

Voices: Gianluca PINARELLO (Joakim), Anna CAMPISANO PROVENZANO (Lucia), Sandra MAHLER (Greta, A-Chan), Françoise SCHWEIZER (Jaqueline), Jeroen VISSER (Hr. Sutter), Christine MUNZ (Francine)

Music: Landolin WIRZ (Composer, Synthesizer, Recording Engineer), Grégoire GEDLEK (Lyrics), Mairya MEDETOVA (Vocals), Yann WYSSENBACH (Guitar), Louis SIEGFRIED (Drums), Sulthan Yazid BUTIKU (Assistant Recording Engineer), André BELLMONT (Production)

Foleys: Céline BERNARD

Sounddesign: Jérémie Jayraj ITTY, Julia Flor ESTRADA TORRES, Marvin BUEELER, Maximiliano Andrés VELASCO GUTIÉRREZ

Sound Editing: Marvin BUEELER, Etienne KOMPIS

Sound Mix: Etienne KOMPIS

Mentoring: Oswald ITEN

Technical Support: Jean FIRST, Tim MARKGRAF

Secretariat: Elena RAST, Kat WOODTLI

Executive Producer: Gerd GOCKELL, Marwan Abdalla EISSA

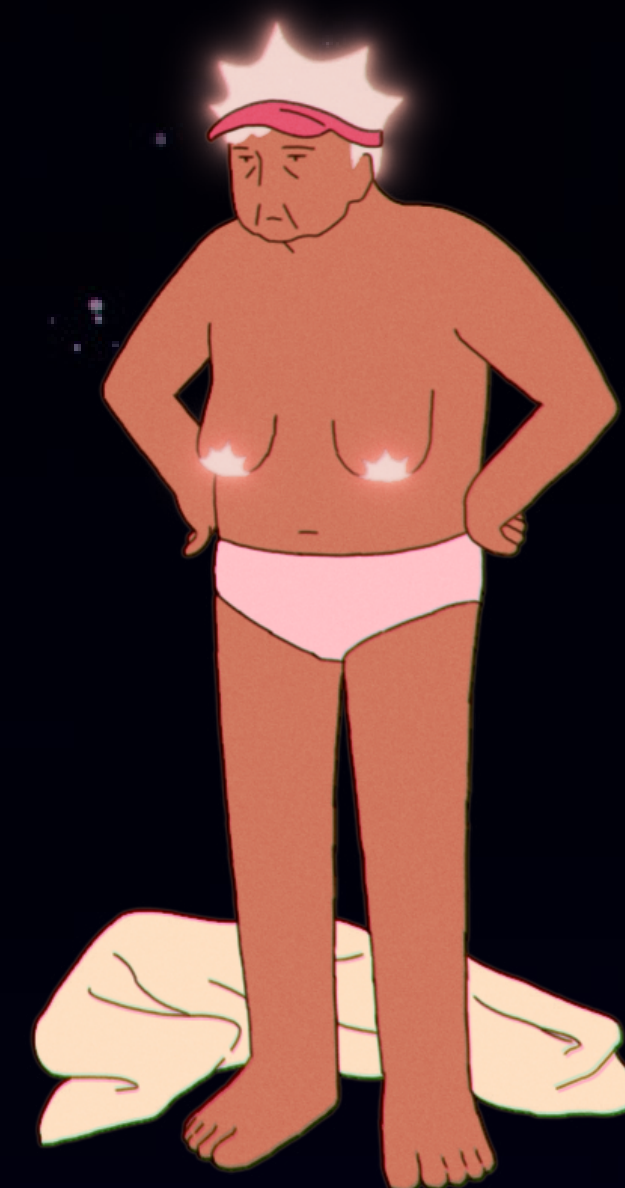
Production: HSLU Design, Film & Kunst / BA Animation Jürgen HAAS

Co-production: Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF, Gabriela BLOCH-STEINMANN

Support: Paulie und Fridolin Döblin Stiftung, Gemeinde Küsnacht

TECHNICAL SHEET

TITLE:	Stärneschii (Sundown, La Lueur des Étoiles, El Ocaso)
DURATION:	6:40 mins
TECHNIQUES	2D Computer animation
FORMAT	1998 x 1080 px, 2K Flat, 1:85
LANGUAGES	Swiss-German, German, French, Italian
SUBTITELS	German, English, French, Spanish



CONTACTS

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