

DOXY

THE SYSTEM

press kit

DOXY

krooncrv

MENUETTO
FILM

NL FILM
FONDS

NL FILM
INCENTIVE

noo
fonds

VAF

Vlaanderen
verbeeldt de werlt

Cinema Delicatessen

1
FIRST
HAND
FILMS

written & directed by:
Joris Postema

producer:
**Janneke Doolaard,
Harmen Jalvingh,
Sylvia Baan**

director of photography:
Wiro Felix NSC

sound on set:
**Susanne Helmer,
Kees de Groot,
Tim van Peppen**

editor:
Ruben van der Hammen NCE

sound design:
Wolf Doyen

mix:
Michel Schöpping

music:
**Lee Ranaldo
(from Sonic Youth)**

colour grading:
Veerle Zeelmaekers

visual effects:
Bart van Brussel

finishing:
FeverFilm

poster and title design:
Chris Marmier

production company:
DOXY Films

co-producer Belgium
Menuetto Film

co-producer and broadcaster NL
KRO-NCRV

with the support by
**Nederlands Filmfonds,
NPO-fonds, Netherlands Film
Production Incentive, VAF**

distributor (NL)
Cinema Delicatessen

sales agent
First Hand Films



length:
90 and 53 minutes

spoken languages:
English, Dutch, German

country of production:
The Netherlands, Belgium

subtitles:
English, Dutch

frame rate:
25fps

aspect ratio:
scope (2.35:1)

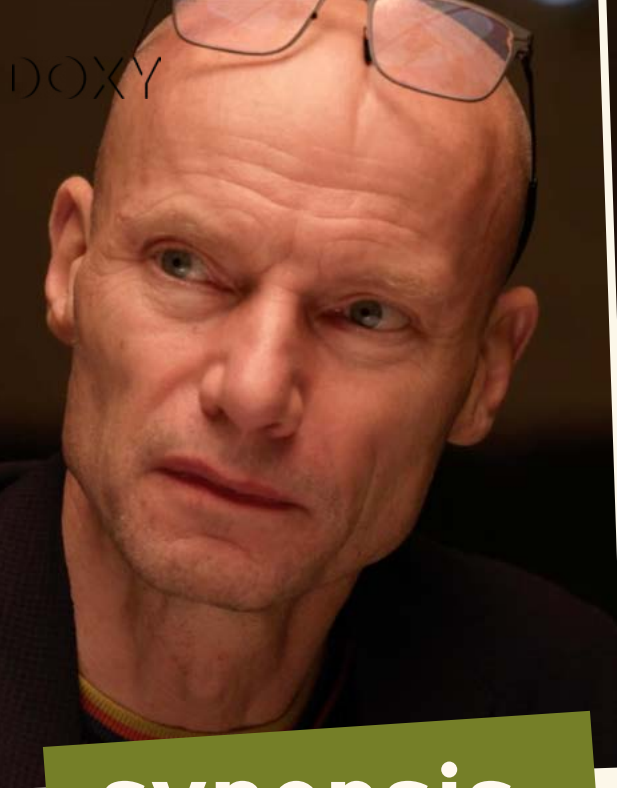
sound:
**5.1 or 2.0, theatrical,
TV and web**

available formats:
DCP, ProRes, H264, MXF

copyright year:
2025

logline

After years of fighting for change in the system, three passionate idealists are searching in their own ways for new possibilities for a better future. What does it take to live a good life?



synopsis

The System is a compelling documentary about those who refuse to accept the status quo. As climate crises, economic inequality, and political instability are felt worldwide, we follow three passionate idealists who are each trying to make a difference in their own way: Henk Ovink, international water diplomat in New York; Pippi van Ommen, co-founder of Extinction Rebellion in Amsterdam; and Berlin-based climate activist and anti-fascist Tadzio Müller.

Time and again, their actions and diplomatic efforts come to nothing. New insights are becoming increasingly necessary. After all, isn't it mainly about rediscovering what is truly valuable?

Award-winning director Joris Postema (***Stop Filming Us***) offers no simple answers in ***The System***, but shows that change is possible - precisely through doubt, cooperation and imagination. With an enchanting soundtrack by Sonic Youth's Lee Ranaldo, the film takes you on a quest for hope in a world in transition. Because to change the system, we need each other.

A large group of people, mostly men, are walking in a single file line across a dark, barren, volcanic landscape. They are all wearing white full-body protective suits, including hoods and face masks. Some are carrying backpacks or baskets. The terrain is dark and rocky, with hills in the background. The sky is overcast.

director's statement

When I began this project, I still held on to the hope that we might be able to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis. That there was still time to turn the tide, to take collective responsibility and choose a different path. That hope was genuine – fuelled by the belief that if enough people took action, real change could happen.

Since then, I've come to the painful conclusion that the climate catastrophe is already underway. We are in the midst of it. The signs are everywhere: floods, droughts, wildfires, mass extinction, destroyed ecosystems, people forced to leave their homes. And while that realisation sank in gradually, it hit hard. Because it doesn't just mean that something has been lost, but also that the world we thought we lived in – a world in which progress was always possible – no longer exists.

With ***The System***, I want to show that accepting this reality is a necessary step in order to – as one of the main characters says – preserve the prospect of a good life. We live in a world defined by uncertainty: growing inequality, rising authoritarianism, war, and the devastating effects of climate change. It's tempting

to become cynical, to withdraw, to believe that nothing really matters anymore. But in a world like this, hope is more important than ever. Not as a comforting feeling, but as a conscious choice. A way of refusing to give in to passivity.

The three protagonists of ***The System*** embody that struggle. They wrestle, clash, fall, and get back up again – and through their struggle, we see just how far we still are from a revolution towards a fairer and more sustainable world. And yet, that struggle also offers hope. Tadzio, Henk, and Pippi helped me to see that, and reminded me that change doesn't come from above, but from people who keep trying in spite of everything.

I hope this film doesn't just confront viewers, but also encourages them. That it helps them to feel what's at stake – and what's still possible. That in the stories of these three people, they recognise something of their own longing for justice, for connection, for a future. And that they come away strengthened by the knowledge that, even in a world that feels increasingly threatening, change is indeed still possible.

 A portrait of Joris Postema, a man with curly brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people.
 biography

 A scene from a protest or demonstration. In the foreground, a person in a black hooded jacket has their right arm raised in a fist. To their right, a person in a bright yellow raincoat is seen from the back. Further right, a person in a red hooded jacket is holding a smartphone. The background is filled with thick blue smoke or tear gas against a clear blue sky.

Joris Postema

Director Joris Postema (1973) made his debut in 2013 with the documentary **FC Rwanda**, which premiered at IDFA and subsequently travelled the world, from Ivory Coast to Denmark and from Canada to Italy. His work includes titles - mostly produced by DOXY Films - such as **Daans Inheritance** (2016, IDFA), **Vrienten & Vrienten in: Bass men** (2019), **Stop Filming Us** (2020, including winner of the Dutch Movies Matter Award at the Movies that Matter Film Festival 2020, and nominated for the Prix Europa 2020), **White Lions** (2022), **Be the Fool** (2024), **The Earring and I** (2025) and **Salo Muller: No is Maybe** (2025). His latest film, **The System**, will be released this autumn.

Joris has many years of experience as a film and television director, and nearly all his films have achieved national and/or international recognition. He won awards including the Best Dutch Movies Matter Award and Special Mention at the Human Rights International Film Festival in Berlin, was nominated for the Prix Europa TV Documentary, and has sold work to broadcasters such as Al Jazeera and Netflix. In his documentaries, Joris digs beneath the surface to uncover hidden stories. He also worked for many years as a football match director in the Eredivisie and Eerste Divisie for broadcasters such as Canal+, Talpa, and SBS.



DOXY

DOXY is a leading independent film and television company for eye-catching documentaries that have a long (festival) life. The drama productions fall under FIXY. Our starting point is connecting relevant subjects with an original visual style; a curious, critical and inspired look at the people, stories and imagery that give society a 21st-century face. Recent titles include ***The Lions by the River Tigris*** (2025, Zaradasht Ahmed, CPH:DOX 2025), ***Forgive us Our Debts*** (2024, Sergej Kreso, AJB DOC), ***Hidden Dance of Eels*** (2024, Hans Dortmans, DOCVILLE 2025), ***The Story of Ne Kuko*** (2023, Festus Toll, IDFA 2023, HotDocs 2024, DOC NYC 2024), ***My Maysoon*** (2023, Batoul Karbijha, Movies that Matter) and ***A Way to B*** (2022, Jos de Putter and Clara van Gool, IDFA 2022).

DOXY's strength lies in the team's years of experience and extensive network. The team has produced dozens of films, competed at A-list festivals, won national and international awards, and achieved (cinema) successes. CEO Janneke Doolaard is part of the European producers' network EAVE, was a Producer on the Move in Cannes in 2016, and has served on the board of NAPA (Netherlands Audiovisual Producers Alliance) since 2019. Together with Head of Production Sylvia Baan and Producer Harmen Jalvingh, she leads DOXY.

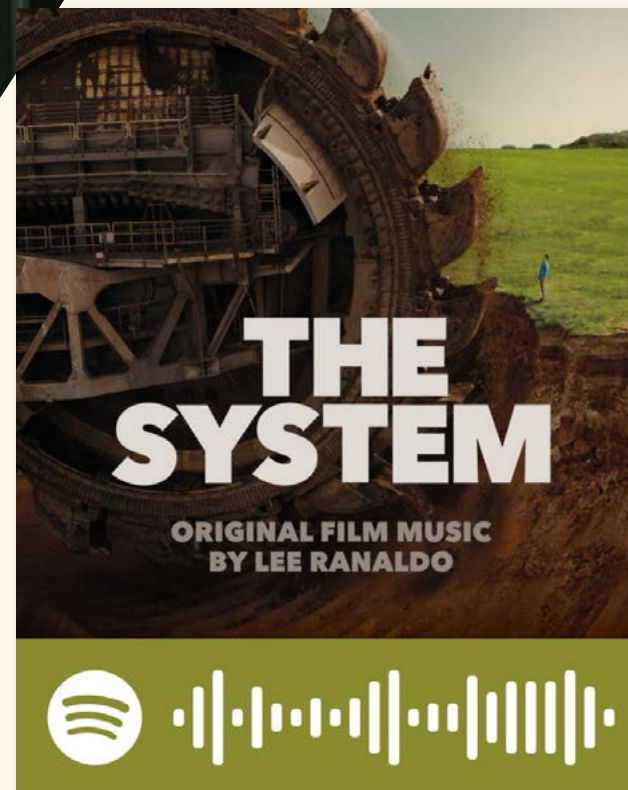
Menuetto

Menuetto is a Belgian independent film and TV production company, specializing in auteur-driven fiction and documentaries with mainstream potential. Menuetto was founded in 2017 by Hans Everaert, former business director of the Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF) and general manager of Menuet, the production company behind ***GIRL*** (2018), ***The Broken Circle Breakdown*** (2012), ***The Misfortunates*** (2009), and others. Menuetto builds on the expertise and network of Menuet, but within a new structure. In 2021, they won the Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival with ***La Civil***, and were named one of Variety's "Ten Producers to Watch" worldwide. In 2022, ***The Eight Mountains*** won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival (Official Competition) and ***The Fruit Tree*** was selected for the Venice Film Festival (Orizzonti). In 2023, the WWII drama ***Will*** was the most attended Belgian film at the box office, and in 2024 the film was released worldwide on Netflix.



soundtrack

Scan this image in the Spotify app
to listen to the soundtrack.



30 seconds
left

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UCLG Africa

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