

# I WAS STILL THERE WHEN YOU LEFT ME

STUDENT  
ACADEMY AWARDS  
WINNER

BAFTA STUDENT  
FILM AWARDS  
SHORTLIST



ANAÉ ROMYNS & JOËL BUNGANGA

IN A MOVIE DIRECTED BY MARIE MC COURT

A nighttime photograph of a city street. In the foreground, a bus stop with a glass shelter and several people is visible. Behind it, a row of modern, multi-story buildings is illuminated by streetlights. The sky is dark, and the overall scene is lit with a warm, yellowish glow from the city lights.

WATCH THE TRAILER



A young Black man and a young girl are sitting together, looking somber. The man is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt and a chain necklace. The girl is on the right, wearing a blue and white striped shirt. They are both looking down and to the right. The background is a wooden wall.

## LOGLINE

While her block is burning, a 7 years old girl is consumed by guilt thinking she started the fire.





## STORY

Lila, 7 years old, is saved by Karim, her young neighbor, from a fire she thinks she started. They take shelter in an apartment from where they see their tower burning. But when Karim realizes his friend is still in the building, he wants to go back. Out of his sight, Lila locks the door and hides the key of the apartment.





LILA

ANAÉ ROMYNS

Instagram: [@anae2mad](#)  
[molinarikarine@gmail.com](mailto:molinarikarine@gmail.com)

Anaé was 9 years old during the shooting of the movie and it was her first time acting. She has been dancing since she was 3.



A close-up, low-key photograph of a person's face. The person is wearing a mask that has a rough, textured, almost metallic or stone-like appearance. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the side, highlighting the texture of the mask and the person's eyes. The background is dark and out of focus.

# KARIM

JOËL BUNGANGA

Instagram: [@\\_b2g\\_](#)

[joel.bgg@gmail.com](mailto:joel.bgg@gmail.com)

Joël was 17 years old during the shooting of the movie and had never acted before. He was street casted for the short film.



# MARIE MC COURT

## is a Franco-Danish director

Marie Mc Court is a Franco-Danish director. She graduated from her Masters degree in Directing at the Institut des Arts de Diffusion (IAD) in 2019 in Belgium. While developing her first feature and second short film, she's doing street casting for her projects and for others on the side. Her graduation film, *I Was Still There When You Left Me*, shot with first time actors, won at the Student Academy Awards and was screened at prestigious film festivals worldwide, winning multiple awards. Festival selections include: San Sebastian International Film Festival, Regard Film Festival, Busan International Short Film Festival and many more... Marie constructs her characters on the basis of real life stories, writing intimate films embedded in more dramatic social issues. She's very inspired by the work of Lynne Ramsay, the Safdie brothers, Ruben Östlund and Toni Morrison.

Instagram: [mariyonce](https://www.instagram.com/mariyonce)  
[marieluciemccourt@gmail.com](mailto:marieluciemccourt@gmail.com)





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A few months after I started writing, a building collapsed in Marseille, killing 8 people.

It reminded me of what happened at the Grenfell tower in 2017 in London (The polyethylene facade panels could be the cause of the fire's rapid spread, and the death of at least 79 people.)

With my co-writer, Abdoul, we wanted to initiate discussions about what these events tell us about our society. The system we live in ignores a part of the population who lives in precarious and dangerous conditions. As the system is difficult to materialize as a character, we wrote a story in which a little girl sets fire to her building, so that we could evacuate the question of her responsibility.

Who's the real culprit ? The absent parents, the people in charge of the safety conditions, the people who built the tower...? The state, who let them build that tower?

Why are certain types of violence not questioned and threatening the lives of a part of the population?

By using an immersive point of view, I leave informations offscreen and invite the spectator to invest himself a little more in the narrative.

I wanted to create empathy as a tool to avoid the trivialization of violence and suffering.





Title I was still there when you left me

Production Médiadiffusion

Year of Production 2019

Duration 23 mins

Country of Production Belgium

Type Narrative Short

Genre Drama

Shooting Format Digital

Finish Format DCP

Aspect Ratio 1.85:1

Sound Format 5.1 Stereo

Language French

Subtitles English

Directed by  
Marie Mc court

Screenplay  
Marie Mc court  
& Abdoukarim Hamadi

Editing  
Lucie Floch' Levi

Original Score & Sound Design  
Rowan Van Hoef

Visual Effects  
Thomas Scourneau

Grading  
Robin Zschau

Production Manager  
Sandy Lardinois

First Assistant Director  
Ilya Jacob

Casting  
Maja Ajmia Yde Zellama

Cinematography  
Mélanie Jacques

Camera  
Oscar Haezenberghe

Sound  
Victor Connan  
& Owen Rose

Set Design  
Camille Leys

Hair and Make-up  
Clara Bauduin

Dresser  
Femi Kidjo  
& Rojin Açılan



# FESTIVALS - Prizes

*\*Winner of Student Academy Award (USA)*

*\*Shortlisted for BAFTA L.A Student Film Award (USA)*

\*Grand Action Prize / Festival de Contis 2020

\*TV Prize / Les enfants Terribles 2019

\*Public Prize / Rencontre des écoles de cinéma de la Ciotat 2019

\*Prix Grande Région / Festival International du film de Nancy 2020

\*Best student short / Prague International Indie Film Festival 2020

\*Best debut actress / Prague International Indie Film Festival 2020

\*Best student short / Short to the point 2020



## FESTIVALS - Selections

**\*San Sebastian International Film Festival 2019 /**

*Nest film student competition (Spain)*

**\*Busan International short film festival 2020 /**

*International competition (South Korea)*

**\*Regard Festival 2020 /**

*International competition (Canada)*

**\*Festival International du Film Francophone de Namur 2019 /**

*National competition (Belgium)*

**\*Aesthetica Short Film Festival 2020 /**

*Drama section (England)*

**\*Coté court 2020 /**

*Panorama selection (France)*

**\*Cinemanía 2020 /**

*International competition (Canada)*

**\*Edinburgh Short Film Festival 2020 /**

*International competition (Scotland)*

**\*Zlín Film Festival 2020 /**

*International Student Film Competition (Czech Republic)*

**\*FEST New directors New film Festival 2020 /**

*Nexxt competition (Portugal)*

**\*Prague International Indie Film Festival 2020/**

*Official selection (Czech Republic)*

**\*Short to the point 2020 /**

*Official selection (Romania)*

**\*Jakarta Independent Film Festival 2020 /**

*Student project competition (Indonesia)*

**\*Festival de Contis 2020 /**

*European competition (France)*

**\*Festival International du film de Nancy 2020 /**

*Competition Grande Region (France)*

**\*Les enfants Terribles 2019 /**

*National competition (Belgium)*

**\*Festival International du film de Mons 2020 /**

*National competition (Belgium)*

**\*Cinémondes 2020 /**

*Competition officielle (France)*

**\*Festival Travelling 2020 /**

*Urba(ciné) competition (France)*

**\*Rencontre des écoles de cinéma de la Ciotat 2019 /**

*Competition officielle (France)*

**\*International Student Film Festival Budapest 2019 /**

*International competition (Hungary)*



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*Avec l'aide du Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles.*