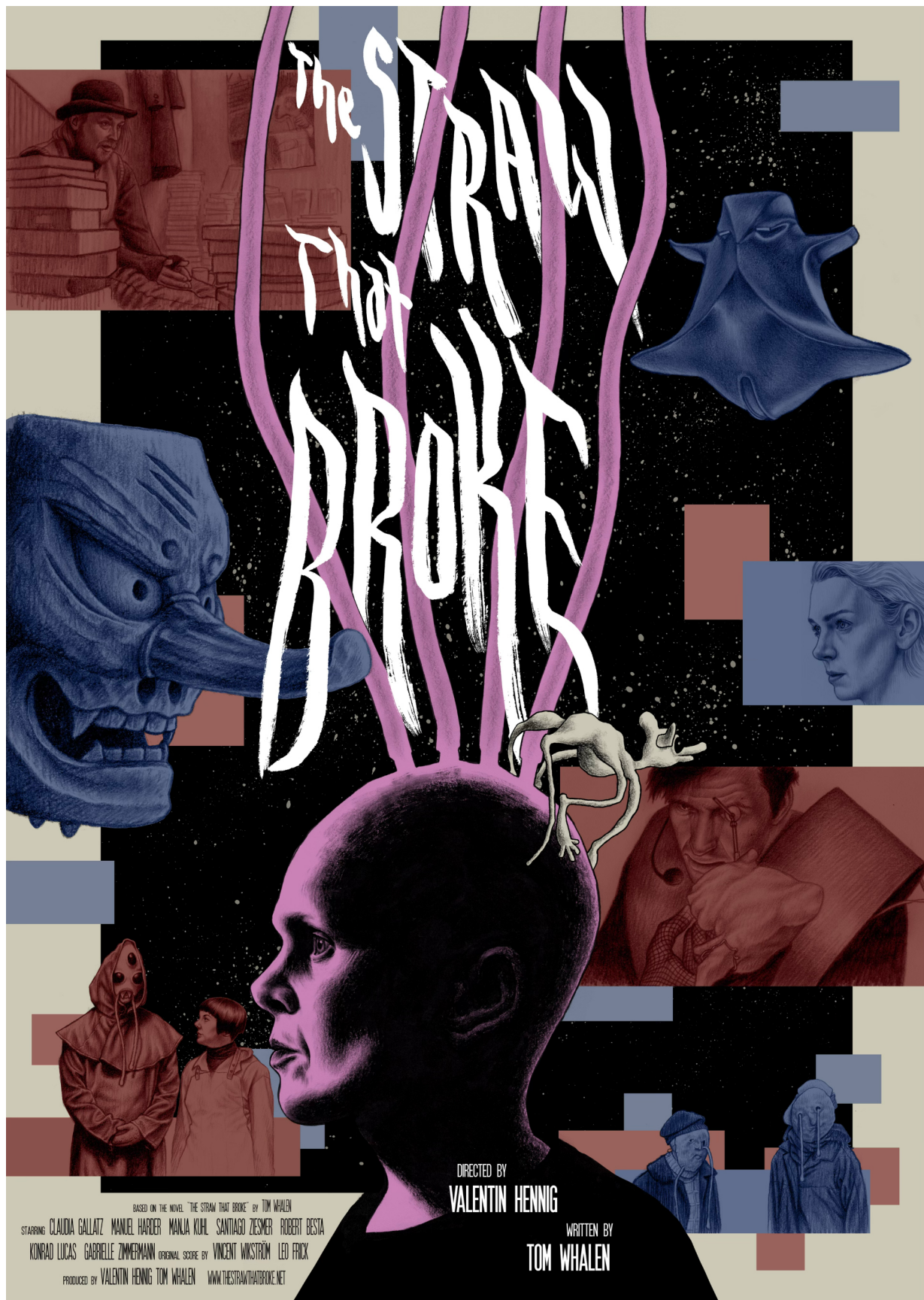




The Straw That Broke

Press Kit



Fact Sheet

Production Period: 2015 – 2021
Directors Cut: 2023
Country of Origin: Germany
Original Language: German
Subtitles: English
Runtime: 70 Minutes
Technical Format: 4K, 16:9, Color

Cast & Crew Credits

Director: Valentin Hennig
Screenplay: Tom Whalen
Based on: The novel “The Straw that Broke” by Tom Whalen
Producers: Valentin Hennig, Tom Whalen
Principal Cast: Claudia Gallatz, Manuel Harder, Manja Kuhl, Santiago Ziesmer, Robert Besta, Konrad Lucas, Gabrielle Zimmermann
Music: Vincent Wikström, Leo Frick
Sound Mixing: Vincent Wikström
Sound Design: Bastian Gies, Rosa Grünwald, Vincent Wikström
Editor: Valentin Hennig
Cinematography: Valentin Hennig, Fabiola Maldonado, Mizi Lee
Color Grading: Fabiola Maldonado, Valentin Hennig
VFX & CGI: Oleg Kauz, Gaëtan Aguado, Thomas Dawidowski, Taokan Xu
Stop-Motion Animation: Valentin Hennig
Makeup & Hair: Melanie Jatzkowski, Nicole Czapalla, Ines Gläse
Costume Design: Elke Hennen, Johannes Kaufmann, Valentin Hennig, Isabella Braunreuther
Production Design: Valentin Hennig, Florian Fischer, Elke Hennen
Production Consultant: Maximilian Höhnle
Key Art / Poster: Noah Bailey, Bureau Progressiv



Synopsis

“The virtual is viral,” Clea Barden, an editor at DeBase SF, a subsidiary of PetroDent, tells Claudia Weiss, her favorite underpaid, overworked creator of sci fi virts (pulp entertainments of the future), before assigning her an impossible task that will take Claudia from her one-room writing studio in Stuttgart to Nueva York to a Harkon orbital to Relix, a water-based information planet that may hold the secret of how to save the multiverse from the O-Cloud, a virus that is destroying all sentient life forms at their ontological core. But how much of what Claudia encounters along her journey of self-discovery has been altered by the virtual? And can a smart-talking mouse transformed from her fictional virt really save her and the multiverse from their demise?

The Straw That Broke delves, via a multitude of cinematic and narrative devices, into these and other metaphysical matters, while remaining a tale of loss and love, hope and despair, about Claudia Weiss and us all.

Jury Evaluation & Critical Acclaim

Premiered at the 55th Hof International Film Festival, 2021

Nominated for the German Cinema New Talent Award, 2021

Official Rating: "Highly Commended" (Prädikat Wertvoll)
Awarded by the German Federal Film Assessment Board (FBW)

"Initially, one stops looking for narrative cohesion and is simply fascinated by a cyber-technologized post-world where human identity and humanity itself are called into question."
— *FBW Jury Statement*

Key Jury Takeaways

On Atmosphere & Worldbuilding:

The jury praised the film's distinctive retro-futuristic aesthetic, highlighting the "compelling, trash-aesthetic settings, which always convey something simultaneously familiar and repellent-futuristic." They described the film's environment as a captivating "fragmented nightmare world" that guides the viewer through a dreamlike state.

On Style & Cinematic Voice:

Drawing comparisons to legendary masters, the jury noted that the film's unique approach "reminded [them] of Super 8 trash movies of the 1950s and '60s, or of Stanislaw Lem." Despite its experimental nature, they concluded that "one clearly senses a distinct indie filmmaking force and a concise, coherent cinematic language."

On Theme & Cultural Relevance:

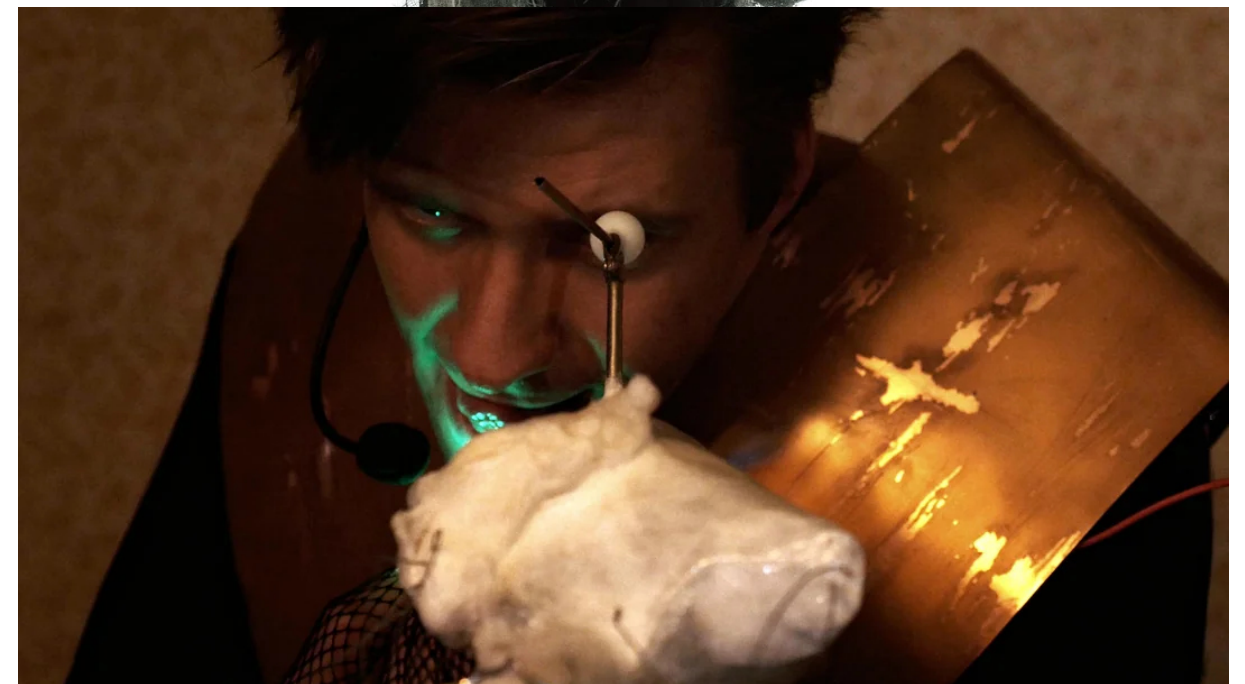
The evaluation commends how the film addresses the massive digital transformation of our modern society, stating that Director Valentin Hennig and writer Tom Whalen "reflect the massive transformation of our society in a way that is both timely and timeless," ultimately calling the project a "highly idiosyncratic search for identity in a post-world [that] can thoroughly captivate."

Press & Promo Quotes from FBW

"Fascinated by a cyber-technologized post-world where human identity and humanity itself are called into question."

"A distinct indie filmmaking force and a concise, coherent cinematic language."

"Reminded [the jury] of Super 8 trash movies of the 1950s and '60s, or of Stanislaw Lem."





Preview-Link

Exclusive Preview Link:

<https://vimeo.com/valentinhennig/thestrawthatbroke?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Password:

EM2026!

Contact

Valentin Hennig (Co-Producer, Director)

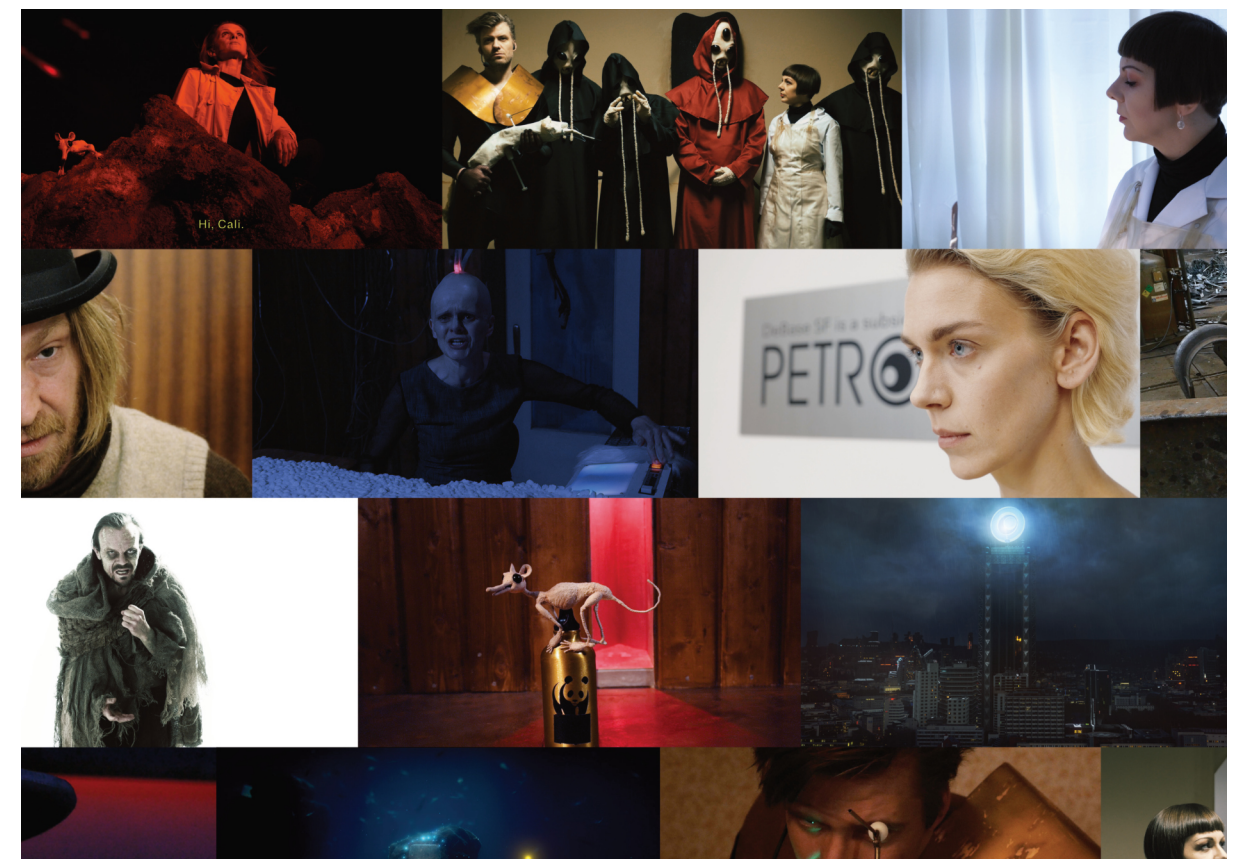
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