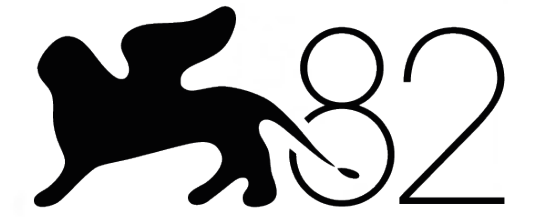


A LONG GOODBYE

BY KATE VOET & VICTOR MAES



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2025
Venice Immersive



ΣΥΝΟΠΛΑ

A Long Goodbye tells the story of Ida, a 72-year-old pianist living with dementia. In this animated, interactive VR experience, we walk in Ida's shoes. We experience a day in her life, as her reality is fading. The apartment, where she spent a lifetime with her beloved husband Daniel, first feels empty and undefined. When we interact with objects and play the tape recordings of her husband, her playful world gradually comes to life, as if drawn in paint before our eyes.

Like pieces of a puzzle, memories and conversations help Ida to rediscover herself. But we also discover Daniel's struggles, as he hopes to stay connected and realizes their remaining time together may be short. A Long Goodbye is a poetic experience about the impact of dementia, but above all it is about love and the long goodbye of two lovers who shared a life together.



the heart remembers...



WORLD PREMIERE
82nd Venice International Film Festival
Venice Immersive Competition

August 26, 2025: press preview day
August 26 - September 6, 2025: screening dates



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When we put the VR headset on, the first questions that come to mind are: Who am I? And where am I? This confusion is exactly what our protagonist is dealing with and this became the starting point of the story.

We were drawn to this theme because of Victor's grandfather who lived with Alzheimer's disease, and whose health declined rapidly after Victor's grandmother passed. The experience of having witnessed this emotional transformation closeby, made us explore how dementia is experienced and how it influences the relationship with your past, with yourself and with your loved ones?

A Long Goodbye is at once a personal and a universal story about human connection. It serves as a reminder that people are always so much more than their illness. Instead of focusing on what is lost, we need to stay close and hold on to shared affection.

Kate Voet & Victor Maes



FACTS

6DoF interactive VR - single user

Hardware: standalone - Quest 3

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Production countries: Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands

Languages: English, Dutch

Selected markets: VR Days '21, Stereopsia Booster Lab '21, NewImages XR Development Market '23 & '25, Venice Gap-Financing Market '23, IDFA Doclab Forum '24

PRESS MATERIALS

Stills:

<https://mab.to/zRx0gmgUHvJya/eu1>

Portrait directors:

<https://mab.to/6qvrpbA0c18gQ/eu1>

Website:

www.alonggoodbyevr.com



DIRECTORS, CAST & COMPOSER
ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS UPON REQUEST.

TEAM & PARTNERS

Written & directed by Kate Voet & Victor Maes

Cast Elizabeth Counsell (UK), Richard Wells (UK), Marlies Heuer (NL), Derek de Lint (NL)

Composer Joep Beving

CG supervisor Gael Chaize

Art director Daniel Balage

Digital art studio Velvet Flare

Lead developer Frederik Smolders for Polygoat

Sound designers Niels van der Leest & Lars Tesselaar for Game Audio Squad

2D animations Mathieu Jadin, Tom Lemmens, Pieter Vanluffelen

Additional design & coding Victor Maes

Producers An Oost, Emmy Oost

Co-producers Donato Rotunno, Richard Valk

A co-production by Cassette for timescapes, Tarantula, Valk Productions

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BLO'S DIRECTORS

Kate Voet (1989, Belgium) is a film director and screenwriter of fiction projects. She studied directing and English literature in Amsterdam, New York and Brussels. Her projects have been selected for development labs and markets such as the Venice Gap-Financing Market, Torino Film Lab, and IDFA Doclab Forum. Her short films *Les Homards Immortels* (2017) and *The Tears of Things* (2021) toured festivals internationally and received several awards.

www.katevoet.com

Victor Maes (1992, Belgium) graduated from LUCA School of Arts Brussels' film program with a short animation film and studied cinematography at the Global Cinematography Institute in Los Angeles. He's been working as a camera assistant on feature films since 2016 (*Close & Girl* by Lukas Dhont, *Holly* by Fien Troch). As a cinematographer he recently shot *Ever Since*, *I Have Been Flying* by Aylin Gökmen (Locarno & Toronto IFF '23).

www.victormaes.com

BLO'S CAST

Elizabeth Counsell has had a career spanning over six decades, her screen credits include *EastEnders* (BBC), *Outlaws* (Four Eyes Entertainment), *Call the Midwife* (Neal Street Productions), *Unforgotten* (ITV), *The Invitation* (Sony), *Born to Kill* (Channel 4), *Grace of Monaco* (Stone Angels), *Cold Call* (Channel 5), *Born To Kill* (Channel 4), *Bull* (Ingenious Entertainment) and *Brush Strokes* (BBC).

Elizabeth's extensive theatre work includes many leading roles in Shakespeare, including *Rosalind*, *Viola*, *Titania*, *Beatrice* and *Lady Macbeth* (this last opposite Michael Gambon).

Other stage work includes *Blonde Poison* (St. James Theatre), *Miss Dietrich Regrets* (St James Theatre), *The Glass Menagerie* (Lyric Theatre) and *The Birthday Party* (Theatre Clwyd). She is also active in radio drama (BBC Radio 3 & 4, Augustine Institute, etc.) and showcases fine soprano singing; her accolades include a nomination for Best Supporting Actress at the ATC Seneca Awards for radio.

Richard Wells is a classically trained actor and linguist living in Brussels, with over three decades of experience. He has voiced over 10,000 projects, spanning multiple formats - including advertising, documentaries and animations as well as playing numerous roles on television and in feature films. Richard is surprisingly famous in the gaming industry for voicing "PEGI 18" in video game trailers, which gained him a huge following on TikTok. His first self-introduction video charted millions of views and likes quickly building a devoted fanbase.

Marlies Heuer was born in 1954 in Netherlands. She received her training at the Amsterdam Theaterschool's mime school in the early 1970s, where she studied movement dance and drama. Since then, she has worked as an actress and theatre maker in all kinds of theatre productions. She is known for her roles in Alex van Warmerdam's 'The Last Days of Emma Blank' (2009, Venice Film festival), Theo Van Gogh's 'May 6t'h (2004) and 'Rooksporen' by Frans van de Staak (1992, IFFR).

Derek de Lint has had a career of more than 40 years and is one of the greatest Dutch actors with an impressive international career. Derek has appeared in series such as *Gooische Vrouwen* (2024-2025, 2005-2009), and the international series *Jack Ryan* (2022, Amazon Prime), *Silent Witness* (2011, BBC), *The L Word* (2005, Showtime), *Into the West* (2005, DreamWorks), *NCIS* (2004, CBS), and *Poltergeist: The Legacy* (1996-1999, Showtime). He had his breakthrough in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (1988) opposite Juliette Binoche and Daniel Day Lewis. He has performed in feature films such as *The Admiral* (2015), *Valentino* (2013), *Stealing Heaven* (1988) and *Mascara* (1987) with Charlotte Rampling. He also played a leading role in the Dutch feature film *The Attack*, which was awarded the Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1987 and in *Soldier of Orange* (1977) directed by Paul Verhoeven, alongside Rutger Hauer.

BLO COMPOSER

Joep Beving is a Dutch composer and neo-classical pianist based in Amsterdam who considers his work simple music for complex emotions. Given the sparse, emotionally vulnerable nature of his music, his physically imposing appearance (six-foot ten height with long hair and a beard) stands in sharp contrast to his languid, haunting creations. Beving's compositions are sparse, simple, and usually quite minimally adorned.

Joep Beving was catapulted into stardom when his self-released debut album *Solipsism*, initially made for family and friends, was picked up by Spotify and brought to millions of ears around the world. Where it was never really his intention to become a performing artist, he now is traveling the world and has played in sold-out venues from the USA to Australia. Joep's music borrows from the classical vocabulary but seems to appeal to a broader audience, racking up over 190 million streams to date on Spotify alone.

www.joepbeving.com

BLO'S PRODUCERS

Cassette for timescapes produces films and XR projects that merge innovative storytelling with social and political engagement. As a leading Belgian company for author-driven documentary and VR, we have successfully co-produced projects with partners in the US, UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Finland. Our films are distributed worldwide, often accompanied by tailored impact strategies.

Recent highlights include *A LONG GOODBYE* by Kate Voet and Victor Maes (Venice FF 2025), *THIS IS MY MOMENT* by Lieven Corthouts (DOK.fest München 2024), *FLOATING WITH SPIRITS* by Juanita Onzaga (Venice 2023, Cannes 2025), and *ALL-IN*

by Volkan Üce (CPH:DOX & Hot Docs 2021). Previous co-productions include *SHADOW WORLD* by Johan Grimonprez (Tribeca FF 2016) and *THE IMAGINARY FRIEND VR* by Steye Hallema (Venice 2023).

Cassette for timescapes is led by a team of women—An Oost, Magalie Dierick and Emmy Oost—who have collaborated for over a decade. VR producer An Oost has pitched at VR Days, NewImages, IFFR CineMart and the Venice Gap-Financing Market, and served on the FIPADOC Smart Jury. In 2019 Magalie Dierick won the Eave producers network award at When East Meets West. Emmy Oost began her career producing films for internationally acclaimed Belgian filmmaker Johan Grimonprez (*DOUBLE TAKE*, Berlinale & Sundance 2009). She received the Flanders Prize for Film in 2016 and in 2019 founded Filmimpact, an organization promoting social impact through film in Flanders.

www.timescapes.be

Tarantula Luxembourg was founded 30 years ago by the Luxembourgish producer, director, and screenwriter Donato Rotunno. Since 1995, Tarantula Luxembourg has become a well-established company that makes bold artistic choices. Present in the main international festivals including Cannes, Toronto, Venice and Locarno, Tarantula has produced many fiction and documentary films of all lengths. A significant amount of them address the context of immigration and politics with a sense of poetry and a specific artistic vision.

Amongst Tarantula's most famous coproductions feature are the critically acclaimed "A Piece of Sky" by Benedicte Liénard (Un Certain Regard official selection in Cannes 2002) first feature film ever produced by Tarantula, "Fratricide" by Yilmaz Arslan (Locarno Festival, 2005). More recently was "Two of us" by Filippo Meneghetti (Best Foreign Language Film selection for the Golden Globes, 2021), "Harka" by Lotfy Nathan (Un Certain Regard, Cannes, 2021), *Blanquita* by Fernando Guzzoni (Official Competition, Venice, 2022) followed by "Holly" by Fien Troch (Official competition, Venice, 2023), "Horizonte" by César Augusto Acevedo (TIFF, 2024) and "Floating with Spirits" by Juanita

Onzaga (Venice Immersive Official Competition, 2023 & Cannes Immersive 2025).

www.tarantula.lu

Valk Productions was founded in 1999 by director and producer Richard Valk and produces short artistic animation projects, like It's Nice in Here (Semaine de la Critique Cannes 2022 and Oscars shortlist 2022) by Robert-Jonathan Koeyers, documentaries like Douwe Dijkstra's Neighbour Abdi (Locarno Film Festival, winner of the Pardino d'Oro for Best International Short Film 2022) and VR projects like Adriaan Lokman's Flow VR, Februar by Maarten Isaak de Heer and The Miracle Basket by Abner Preis (Venice Immersive 2022).

An important resemblance in all productions can be found in the fact that they are independent, artistic films and VR projects, such as the collaborations with Daphna Awadish, Hisko Hulsing, Juliana Erazo, Arjan Brentjes, Abner Preis, Daan Lucas, Suzie Templeton and many projects with Rosto (†), but also with international talent such as Dmytro Hreshko and Sandra Desmazières. In addition, Valk Productions likes to collaborate with international co-producers like Autour de Minuit (FR), Cassette for timescapes and Take Five (BE), Twenty One Pictures (NO) and Animais (PT).

This artistic level is how Valk Productions likes to profile itself. The focus of the company is to collaborate with creative makers who come up with innovative, original or daring ideas and to tell moving stories from all over the world.

www.valkproductions.com

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