

Sarah Goebel

Amadeo\*Leo Arndt

Aaron Goebel

# Weil ich **LEO** bin

ein Film von Tajo Hurrle

HOCHSCHULE DARMSTADT PRÄSENTIERT GEFÖRDERT DURCH KULTURMUT CROWDFUNDING FÜR KULTUR RHEIN MAIN UND HESSENFILM UND MEDIEN GMBH

IN ZUSAMMENARBEIT MIT SEEHUNDMEDIA EINE CANGERFILMS PRODUKTION „WEIL ICH LEO BIN“

MIT AMADEO\*LEO ARNDT SARAH GOEBEL AARON GOEBEL UTE LUBOSCH UND THAPELO MASHIANE

BUCH UND REGIE TAJO HURRLE PRODUZENT PATRICK BÜCHTING PRODUKTIONSLEITUNG ELINE WEBKAMP KAMERA MARIUS KAST CASTING UND SCHNITT LEA AGMON

SCENENBILD FRANZISKA SCHUCHMANN UND ANJA GIELE KOSTÜMBILD MAGDALENA HARTUNG MUSIK FRANK HURRLE



# WEIL ICH LEO BIN I AM LEO



Short Film | 18 min | Germany | 2021

## SYNOPSIS

Wide meadows, romping in the woods and building cabins. Leo (12) spends the autumn holidays with big sister Noémie and cousin Emil on Grandma Marlies' farm. However when Leo is surprised by what Grandma Marlies calls big news, Leo faces an identity crisis.

"I am Leo" immerses itself into the emotional world of a child who is on the way to discover their gender identity. A film about expectations that overwhelm, about thoughts that restrict and about the courage to find yourself.

Watch Trailer [click here](#)



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT BY TAJO HURRE

I once read the quote "You can't be what you can't see" by Marian Wright Edelman. This sentence immediately resonated with me because it is so true for me.

When I was little, I was told I was a girl. But as soon as I got a sense of self, I felt that I wanted to be something other than a girl. I expressed that by cutting my hair short, wearing clothes meant for boys, and acting rebellious. I had a faint idea that trans people existed, but I had never heard the term non-binary.

That was in second grade. It took me 14 years to realize that what I felt was called being non-binary. The reason for that is simple: I had never heard of, let alone seen, non-binary people in my life.

When it comes to gender identities, there is still a lot to be done in terms of representation. With my short film "I am Leo," I want to contribute a small part to the visibility of trans and non-binary children. All children deserve to see themselves on screen - and to be seen. I hope to start a discussion between children and caregivers about gender identities. And just as this film helped me discover my identity, I hope it will help other people find theirs.

The main inspiration for "I am Leo" was the way I experienced my gender in my childhood. From the age of 7-10, I had a sense of freedom regarding my gender. I could wear whatever I wanted, I could play whatever I wanted, and I could pass as any gender I wanted. When I hit puberty, that framework became more narrow. I suddenly felt like there were expectations placed on me about how I should look and behave. Acting "like a boy" was no longer an option.

Leo also has this feeling when they get their first period. That same morning they were playing in the woods as usual, and now everyone tells them they are a woman. Leo knows it doesn't feel right, but they can't quite articulate it yet. They fall into a state of gender dysphoria that culminates in them tearing down their cabin. Only then does their sister realize what is really going on with Leo. She comforts Leo with what they need to hear, "Your period doesn't make you a woman, you're still Leo." We can only guess how Leo's gender journey will continue, but we can be sure they will have the support of their family.



## SPECIFICATIONS

Project Type	Short, Student Film
Genres	Drama, Children, LGBTQ+
Completion Date	July 19, 2021
Production Country	Germany
Production Budget	15 000€
Location of Filming	Odenwald, Hesse, Germany
Shooting Days	10
Language / Subtitles	German / English, German
Age Recommendation	10 - 13 years
Film School	Hochschule Darmstadt

## FESTIVALS

- 12.08.2021 Vancouver Queer Film Festival | Vancouver, Canada
- 05.11.2021 Chicago International Children's Film Festival | Chicago, USA
- 28.01.2022 Reelout Queer Film Festival | Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- 12.07.2022 Psaroloco International Children's & Young People's FF | Pireaus, Greece

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tajo Hurrle was born in 1998 in the south of Germany. They directed their first short film at the age of eight. From 2017 to 2021, they studied Motion Pictures at the University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt with a personal focus on screenwriting and directing as well as working with children and youth.



Tajo Hurrle's first student short film "Fisch-Bowle" ("A Fish in a Punch Bowl") won the German Youth Film Award 2019 and screened at international film festivals.

Their second film „Bandsalat" ("The Purple Child") premiered at the LUCAS Filmfestival, Germany's oldest film festival for a young audience and won "Best Youth Film" at Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival.

Tajo Hurrle successfully graduated in 2021 with the short film "Weil ich Leo bin" ("I am Leo") which had its American premiere at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

They are currently a scholar of the academy for children's media and the STEP program of HessenFilm.

## CREW

Writer & Director	Tajo Hurrle
Producer	Patrick Büchting
Executive Producer	Eline Weßkamp
Director of Photography	Marius Kast
Casting & Editing	Lea Agmon
Production Design	Franziska Schuchmann Anja Giele
Costume Design	Magdalena Hartung
Sound	Jochen Wolkersdorfer
Sound Design	Frederik Herre
Composer	Frank Hurrle

## CAST

Leo	Amadeo*Leo Arndt
Noémie	Sarah Goebel
Emil	Aaron Goebel
Grandma Marlies	Ute Lubosch
Lukas	Thapelo Mashiane



## CONTACT

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