



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
LA RÉSIDENCE

# LICHTENBERG

A FILM BY  
SAULÈ BLIUVAITĖ

## Technical Information

**Title:** Lichtenberg  
**Screenplay:** Saulė Bliuvaite  
**Nationality:** Lithuanian  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Duration:** 100 min  
**Production Company:** Afterschool Productions

## Director's Information

Saulė Bliuvaite is a Lithuanian film director, screenwriter, and editor.

She graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2018 and began her filmmaking career with several short films, while also co-writing **Isaac**, Lithuania's submission for the 2021 Academy Award for Best International Feature.

Her debut feature, **Toxic**, premiered in the International Competition at the 2024 Locarno Film Festival, where it won the prestigious Golden Leopard.

Since its debut, **Toxic** has been screened at around 100 film festivals worldwide, garnered numerous international accolades, and was nominated for the European Discovery – Prix FIPRESCI at the European Film Awards.

## Saulė Bliuvaite

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## Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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### Synopsis

A contemporary artist Maja arrives in a remote border town to search for a rifle that once belonged to her late father. She seeks to recover the weapon for an art piece that traces the shadow of his death. Her initial detachment from the town slowly gives way as she is drawn into the vortex of its mysteries: the search for a missing girl, anxiety-ridden neighbors, haunted villas, and the healing friendship with Vincas, a man who survived being struck by lightning.

### Statement of Intent

An idea of a gun floats around a small town, shifting in meaning with each resident – an art subject, a tool of violence and fear, a toy, a symbol of grief, an item of protection. With a personal connection to this object, I'm curious how its role bends under the quiet pressure of circumstance, bringing strangers together in unexpected ways. Like a Lichtenberg figure – the branching mark left on the skin by a lightning strike – these connections form delicate traces in the wake of destruction.

### Synopsis

Maja, une artiste contemporaine, arrive dans une ville frontalière isolée à la recherche d'un fusil qui appartenait autrefois à son père défunt. Elle souhaite récupérer cette arme pour une œuvre d'art qu'elle crée autour de sa disparition. Son détachement initial vis-à-vis de la ville s'estompe à mesure qu'elle est entraînée dans le tourbillon de ses mystères : la recherche d'une jeune fille disparue, des voisins en proie à l'angoisse, des villas hantées, et l'amitié apaisante de Vincas, un homme qui a survécu à la foudre.

### Note d'intention

L'idée d'une arme à feu plane sur une petite ville, sa signification varie avec chaque habitant : sujet artistique, instrument de violence et de peur, jouet, symbole de deuil, outil de protection. Personnellement liée à cet objet, je suis curieuse de voir comment son rôle évolue en fonction des circonstances, et la manière dont il rapproche des inconnus de manière inattendue. À l'instar d'une figure de Lichtenberg – ces marques ramifiées laissées sur la peau par la foudre –, ces liens forment de délicates traces dans le sillage de la destruction.

