



# EPIPHANY

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## Logline / synopsis

**How do you find your own identity when the society you live in doesn't accept that identity?**

Our protagonist in this documentary is a young adult who wants to find his own identity through becoming a drag queen. At first Wouter confronts the viewer with his childhood. We hear that he has been bullied due to the fact that he is gay, a sexuality that isn't accepted in the village where he was raised. He received a lot of judgement about how he would dress and act, this all changed when he moved to Amsterdam.

In Amsterdam he felt safer than ever before, and felt more confident to express himself. After having connected to the drag queen scene, he decides to become a queen himself.

## About the film

We decided to make a documentary about Wouter, because we felt it was important to tell his story. Most of the documentaries that exist about drag queens, are about people who already are drag queens. In these documentaries the focus is mostly put on the visuals. We wanted instead of making a highly visual documentary, make it more about the story. How does Wouter experience his journey into becoming a drag queen, and what is the reason for this.

We decided to first film Wouter at his house, and talk to him about his childhood. Besides being an aspiring drag queen Wouter is also a photographer. He has taken different photos of drag queens at places they felt unsafe. He has a real passion for photography and would like to become a professional photographer one day.

On another day of filming we spent a lot of time with Wouter in places that were significant to his journey of self discovery. Wouter has made most of his favourite photographs in these places. Afterwards, to resonate with his journey to become a drag queen, we ended our shooting days with him putting on drag.

## About the group

We are Media students, from the University of Amsterdam. We consist of a group of six people. We are called, Julia, Rosa, Jürgen, Leyla, Cathy and Pien. We have previously worked together on a fiction film too, so we know each other well. Due to the fact that we had already worked together, the cohesion in this group was good. We never had any bad encounters with one another. Sure we had our disagreements, but we always agreed with each other at the end.

## Behind the scenes



Pien, Julija and Jürgen researching our documentary subject.



Our Director of Photography Pien looking at a shot of Wouter putting on make-up.



The colour-grading of one of our favourite shots in the film.

## Links

[IDFA Press Junket \(Snippet\)](#)

[The Making Of Blog](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What is your goal with the film?**

*Showing the everyday life of a person in combination with the things that make them special, while also getting more representation for the LGBTQ+ community.*

### **2. Who was your biggest influence?**

*All of the filmmakers who gave guest lectures during the course inspired us.*

### **3. What was the biggest challenge in the making of this film?**

*Finishing the film in time was really a challenge, during shooting as well as during the editing process.*

**4. How did you decide to make a film about Wouter specifically?**

*Interviewing a drag queen seemed inspiring to us, but this had been done many times already, also, one of our crew members knows an aspiring drag queen and showing his view on the drag scene seemed rather interesting to us.*

**5. How did you work together as a team?**

*On set and in the editing room, we worked with a small part of the crew, to work more efficiently, the rest of the crew focused on the press-related activities of the film.*

**6. What did Wouter want to get out of this project?**

*I think to him it was a way of opening up more, by letting strangers into his home and recording him he really had to show a lot of himself. I also think it was a beautiful way for him to look back at the progress he's made in life.*

## Credits

Director Leyla Bani Baher  
Producer Rosa Id & Jürgen Zweers  
Editor Cathy Cardoso  
Director of photography Pien Bennen  
Assistant camera Leyla Bani Baher  
Sound recording Rosa Id  
Assistant sound Julija Narmontaite  
Editor in Chief of "Making of" Jürgen Zweers