

EEN VAN DE JONGENS & CLIN D'OEIL FILMS PRESENT  
A FILM BY **TOM FASSAERT**

# Between Brothers

**Tussen Broers**



PRODUCED BY EEN VAN DE JONGENS IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH CLIN D'OEIL FILMS, KRO-NCRV, WRT, SHILYER PROD. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM FASSAERT, MICK VAN DANYZIC  
EDITORS: THABI MOOL, DIETER DIEPENDAEL, TOM FASSAERT. SOUND DESIGNER: MARC LIZIERS. RE-RECORDING MIX: PAUL GIES. COMPOSER: TOBIAS BORKERT. COLOURIST: BLAISE JADOU.  
ARTWORK: STUDIO DAOUDI. LINE PRODUCERS: NOA DEFESCHE, ROSAN BOERSMA, MERLE BEMELMANS, BRITTE HERMANS, MIEKE STRUYVE. COMMISSIONING EDITOR: KRO-NCRV. MICHEL BRONGERS,  
JELLE PETER DE RUITER. VR: TOM BLEVAERT. SIMON VREBOS CO-PRODUCER: HANNE PHILIP. PRODUCERS: HASSE VAN HUNEN, RENKO DOUZE. DIRECTOR: TOM FASSAERT.

NL FILM FONDS NL FILM INCENTIVE                                     <img alt="fonds logo"

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## SPECS

Length	105'40"
Format	digital
Aspect ratio	2.39:1 (Scope)
Sound	5.1 & stereo
Available formats:	DCP, HD file
Spoken language:	Dutch
Available subtitles:	English, Dutch
Production country:	The Netherlands, Belgium
World premiere:	International Film Festival Rotterdam
International premiere:	TBA
Broadcast date:	TBA

## TRAILERS AND TEASERS

International trailer: *available from mid-January*

Clips: *available from mid-January*

## ONLINE

Website [www.betweenbrothers.film](http://www.betweenbrothers.film) *available from mid-January*

## SCREENER LINK

Available upon request from Noa Defesche [noa@eenvandejongens.nl](mailto:noa@eenvandejongens.nl)

# LOGLINE

After the death of their mother, two elderly brothers make a final attempt to clear up the wreckage of their past. In scenes as intimate as they are tragicomic, filmmaker Tom Fassaert, the son of one of them, is drawn ever deeper into the mystery of their long-lost father.

# SYNOPSIS

Elderly brothers René and Rob can't do with or without each other. René lives the life of a recluse, in a house that is overflowing with stuff. When things threaten to get out of hand, his younger brother Rob intervenes.

Filmmaker Tom Fassaert, Rob's son, documents these weekly visits and recognizes a familiar dynamic. Rob, a retired psychologist, slips into the role of counsellor; René, a longtime psychiatric patient, becomes his client. Their underlying irritation is genuine, but so is their affection.

As Rob and René repeat the same ritual every week, Tom begins to sense that something must be behind it. Something old and unspoken. In the family archives, he discovers a mystery: when the brothers were children, their father disappeared without a trace. No goodbye, no explanation, just an absence that has influenced three generations.

Tom has explored his family history before. In *A Family Affair* (2015), he examined the legacy of an emotionally elusive mother. In *Between Brothers*, he turns to his father and uncle. He takes them on a road trip without a clear destination, in search of traces of a man who deliberately left none behind. En route, it becomes clear that the man who disappeared has left more than just questions. He has left a blueprint for how men in this family withdraw and retreat, each in their own way.



# NOTE FROM DIRECTOR TOM FASSAERT

*“My mother’s life is over.  
The film is over.  
Now it is up to me to make sure the trauma does not continue.  
I will do it differently.”*

With these words, my father suggests that the most painful chapter of his life, and that of his brother, has finally come to an end. But is it really possible to close the past? To not repeat history? And to truly decide to “do things differently”?

In *Between Brothers*, I explore these questions through the stubborn yet deeply loving relationship between my father Rob and his brother René. Two elderly brothers who, at first glance, appear to be opposites. My father: rational, organised, a psychologist. René: fragile, poetic, socially derailed. In our family narratives, René is often portrayed as the living embodiment of everything that went wrong in their childhood, while my father represents the one who “made it.”

While making my previous film *A Family Affair*, I discovered that it was René who moved me the most. The more he allowed me into his mind and heart, the more he surprised me — with his honesty, his emotional precision, and his ability to speak about the past without filters, including about my father.

The death of their mother forms the immediate catalyst for this film. As their long-held hope for a cathartic reconciliation disappears, a new shift emerges between the brothers. My father decides to intervene in René’s life. What begins as an attempt to restore order soon reveals something far more profound. Beneath their constant friction a shared absence emerges: a deep longing for a father figure who was never truly present. In that search, the brothers become equals, and I, as a filmmaker, am forced to look differently at them, and at myself.

While filming their history, an unavoidable question arises: am I not just as afraid of repeating the past? And will I truly succeed in doing things differently, now that I am becoming a father myself?

# CREDITS

## With

René and Rob



Screenplay & direction	Tom Fassaert
Producers	Een van de jongens (NL) Hasse van Nunen & Renko Douze
Co-producer	Clin d'oeil films (BE) Hanne Phlypo
Cinematography	Tom Fassaert, Mick van Dantzig
Editing	Thabi Mooi, Dieter Diependaele, Tom Fassaert
Sounddesign	Marc Lizier
Soundmix	Paul Gies
Composer	Tobias Borkert
Line producers	Noa Defesche, Rosan Boersma, Merle Bemelmans, Britte Hermans, Mieke Struyve

Sound recording	Tom Fassaert
Color grading	Blaise Jadoul
Post-production coordinator BE	Antoine Vermeesch
Trailer editor	Maurits Malschaert
Editor 52' version	Neel Cockx
<b>KRO-NCRV</b>	
Commissioning editors	Michiel Brongers, Jelle Peter de Ruiter
Production management	Zelda Nieuwenhuis, Yolande van der Blij
Producer	Leonie van Zanten

*Between Brothers* is an Een van de jongens production in coproduction with Clin d'oeil films, KRO-NCRV, VRT, Shelter Prod and was made with support from the Netherlands Film Fund, Netherlands Film Production Incentive, NPO Fund, CoBO, Cultuurfonds Almere, Flemish Audiovisual Fund (VAF), Taxshelter.be & ING and the tax shelter of the Belgian federal government.

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY TOM FASSAERT

Filmmaker Tom Fassaert (1979) spent his childhood in both The Netherlands and South Africa. These contrasting environments have undoubtably shaped the way he looks at the world. But his love of film stems from his father's passion for home movies.

Common thread in his films is intimacy between himself and his subject. Through this intimacy, he investigates themes like bonding, intergenerational trauma and the desire for autonomy. Gently, he observes both the tragedy and the absurd wrapped inside a recalcitrant reality.

His debut film, *An Angel in Doel*, premiered at the Berlinale in 2011, where it received world-wide attention. His second, *A Family Affair*, opened IDFA 2015. It won the Special Jury Award and was nominated for a European Film Award. *Variety* mentioned Fassaert as 'One of the ten documentary makers to watch'.

# PRESS IMAGES

Download [here](#) all available visual materials (719 MB, stills, poster, poster image). When using, please credit the correct ©.

image	caption / link	©
	Poster Between Brothers <a href="#">JPEG / PDF</a>	Poster design: Amira Daoudi  Between Brothers - Een van de jongens / KRO-NCRV
	Posterbeeld Tussen Broers <a href="#">JPEG / TIFF</a>	Between Brothers - Een van de jongens / KRO-NCRV
	Posterbeeld liggend Tussen Broers <a href="#">JPEG / TIFF</a>	Between Brothers - Een van de jongens / KRO-NCRV



Rob en René  
[JPEG](#) / [TIFF](#)

Photo: Mick van  
Dantzig  
  
Between Brothers -  
Een van de jongens /  
KRO-NCRV



Rob en René  
[JPEG](#) / [TIFF](#)

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Between Brothers -  
Een van de jongens /  
KRO-NCRV



Tom Fassaert  
[JPEG](#) / [TIFF](#)

Photo: Mick van  
Dantzig  
  
Between Brothers -  
Een van de jongens /  
KRO-NCRV

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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