

# Jonas Smulders - Biography

Jonas Smulders (1994) is an actor and filmmaker. At the age of 22, he was awarded the Golden Calf Award for Best Actor for his lead role in WE WILL NEVER BE ROYALS, a role that gained him international recognition as well. In 2015, he won the Spotlight European Breakthrough Award at Kilkenny's Subtitle fest. The International Film Festival Berlin selected Jonas as a Shooting Star in 2018, a prize for the ten brightest and most promising young European actors.

Smulders comes from an artistic background. His father is a well-known painter and his mother is a dancer. Both have encouraged him in his career. One of his mother's friends, an Italian director, gave him in a small role in a film when he was 16 years old. This was the kickstart of his career and many other roles followed.

His film debut was TUNNEL VISION. In 2013, he had a breakout role as the lead in Mees Peijnenburg's graduation project EVEN COWBOYS GET TO CRY, which screened at Berlinale, and in the feature THE DINNER by Menno Meyjes. He also appeared in the television-film BOYS, by Mischa Kamp, which screened at various international film festivals. In 2014, Smulders landed his second leading role in KETAMINE by Rogier Hesp. In 2015, he starred in the film adaptation of the Dutch bestseller VENTOUX; and played lead roles in the One Night Stand's A GOOD LIFE by Aaron Rokus and WE WILL NEVER BE ROYALS, by Mees Peijnenburg, about a troubled teenage brother and sister growing up on their own in the tough world of Child Protection. The latter earned him a Golden Calf Award (Dutch Academy Award) for Best Actor in a TV Drama.

In 2016, Jonas starred in several films and television series, such as BRASSERIE VALENTINE, ZENITH, Marc de Cloe's drama SILK ROAD, Bram Schouws's debut feature BROTHERS and the TV drama DUTCH HOPE.

In 2017, he directed his own short film TAX, and the short film HOW DO I SURVIVE was released, which Jonas wrote and Shady El-Hamus (DE LIBI) directed. A year later, Jonas was accepted at the Netherlands Film Academy to study directing, but unfortunately had to stop after one year. Many interesting acting opportunities appeared and decisions had to be made.

In 2018, Jonas made his theater debut at Toneelgroep Oostpool. Together with Martijn Lakemeier and Chris Peters, he starred in the theatre production ALL THE PEOPLE #5 (o.t. ALLEMAAL MENSEN #5), by Marcus Azzini.

In the beginning of 2020, Jonas starred in the feature film DRAMA GIRL, directed by Vincent Boy Kars. The film premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) and portrays the story of a young woman. In the movie they try to replay some crucial scenes of her life. Jonas plays her boyfriend. The movie is a beautiful portrait in which fiction and documentary intermingle.

That same year, Jonas played a leading role in the movie PARADISE DRIFTERS, for which he earned a Golden Calf nomination. It marks the third collaboration with director Mees Peijnenburg. In this road movie, Jonas plays the part of Lorenzo, a boy who tries to earn money fast by dealing drugs. The film had its premiere in February 2020 at the International Film Festival Rotterdam and was also selected for the Generation 14plus at the Berlinale 2020 and made its way through a bunch of film festivals.

Most recently, Jonas played the lead role in the first Dutch Netflix Original Film FOREVER RICH, directed by Golden Calf winner Shady El-Hamus, which will be released in 2021. The film tells the story of Richie and his journey to becoming the greatest rap-artist in The Netherlands.

In addition, he played a lead role next to Sallie Harmsen (BLADERUNNER 2049) in DOODSTIL, a spin-off of the successful crime drama PENOZA.

Upcoming is the release of THE EAST INDIES with Marwan Kenzari (ALADDIN, THE MUMMY) and Martijn Lakemeier, directed by Jim Taihuttu. THE EAST INDIES is set during the post-WW2 Indonesian War of Independence in 1946, and follows the story of young Dutch soldiers who join an elite squad fighting the Indonesian people. The main character finds himself on the wrong side of history and begins to question the brutal attempts to strike down the resistance. The film is expected to hit theatres in 2021.

Currently Jonas is also developing a new short film, which he will also direct.