WRITER'S INTENTIONS

Having grown up in the shadow of no-man's land, the violent division that scars my country has left an indelible mark on my identity. The imperative to reconcile with our tumultuous past, embrace forgiveness, transcend bitterness, and accept the "other" has been a driving force in my journey as a writer-director.

Cyprus, with its unique European Union identity, stands as a small, fractured island on the outskirts of the EU's focal point. In "Brothers," I aim to compel the audience to scrutinize the intricacies of how the two central characters grapple with deep-seated emotions and prejudices, working together to unravel a complex case. The narrative becomes a vessel to explore and comprehend their bottled sentiments and lingering resentments and emotions, many in reality still grapple with, their lives shaped by the weight of historical events.

The shift between a local crime story to an international conspiracy of Luxembourg and Germany develops gradually through Sophie Jaeger's investigation and Hans Kohlmann's Bundestag hearings, and offers me the opportunity to contrast Luxembourg, Germany and Cyprus in a very unique and personal way. Sophie's investigation, with its unfamiliarity and its unique use of the local language, culture and customs, the rigidity of the German court-room drama, with Cyprus' political and social chaos is intriguing.

This is a very local story with deeply human resonances the world over. Sibling rivalry is timeless. A Cain and Abel, a Polynices and Eteocles, a Romulus and Remus, almost always with tragic outcomes.

The series is not entirely fiction. With the discovery of hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean, tensions between Cyprus and Greece with Turkey have risen. In a recently ignited feud that involves France, Egypt, Libya and Israel on the one side and Turkey and Russia on the other, the exploration of these reserves is the apple of discord blown out of proportion. We want to be as close to reality as possible. The contemporary political references give our story its strength. As geopolitics shift and change, we will be more concrete closer to production.

As a showrunner I am keen on portraying the consequences of rejecting diversity and multiculturalism, I would leverage visual elements to effectively convey the theme of loneliness and isolation stemming from such stubbornness. The cinematography would play a crucial role, employing stark contrasts and desolate landscapes to mirror the emotional isolation experienced by characters clinging to exclusionary beliefs. Wide shots capturing barren terrains and abandoned spaces would symbolize the emptiness that accompanies the rejection of diversity.

The color palette would be carefully chosen to reflect the emotional undertones. Cool, muted tones could dominate scenes where rejection prevails, emphasizing the coldness and lack of warmth that comes with isolation. Conversely, moments of inclusivity and acceptance could be bathed in warmer, inviting hues, visually representing the potential for connection and unity.

Character placement within the frame would be used strategically. Isolating characters within vast landscapes or framing them against empty backgrounds would visually emphasize their

emotional seclusion. Contrastingly, during moments of diversity and collaboration, characters might share the frame closely, reinforcing the power of unity.

In terms of set design, spaces could be arranged to reflect the emotional states of the characters. Closed, claustrophobic settings might represent the insularity of rejecting diversity, while open, welcoming spaces could showcase the potential for connection and understanding.

Lighting would also be a powerful tool. Harsh, solitary lighting could cast long shadows, heightening the sense of isolation. In contrast, softer, diffused lighting might be employed during moments of acceptance, symbolizing the breaking down of barriers.

To further amplify the narrative visually, symbolic elements such as physical barriers, like fences or closed doors, could be incorporated to represent the self-imposed boundaries that come with resisting diversity. These elements would gradually evolve or disappear as the characters learn to embrace inclusivity.

The collaboration with European creatives from our co-production partners is a pivotal aspect of the series. This collaboration will celebrate diversity and multiculturalism, infusing the project with a rich blend of artistic influences from various backgrounds. The aim is to create a series that reflects the mosaic of European cultures, resonating with a broad and diverse audience.

My commitment to responsible production extends to environmental sustainability. We will actively embrace green practices to minimize and counter our carbon footprint. From eco-friendly set designs to sustainable filming locations, we aspire to lead by example, contributing to a more environmentally conscious entertainment industry.