

# MERCKX

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **BORIS TILQUIN**  
AND **CHRISTOPHE HERMANS**









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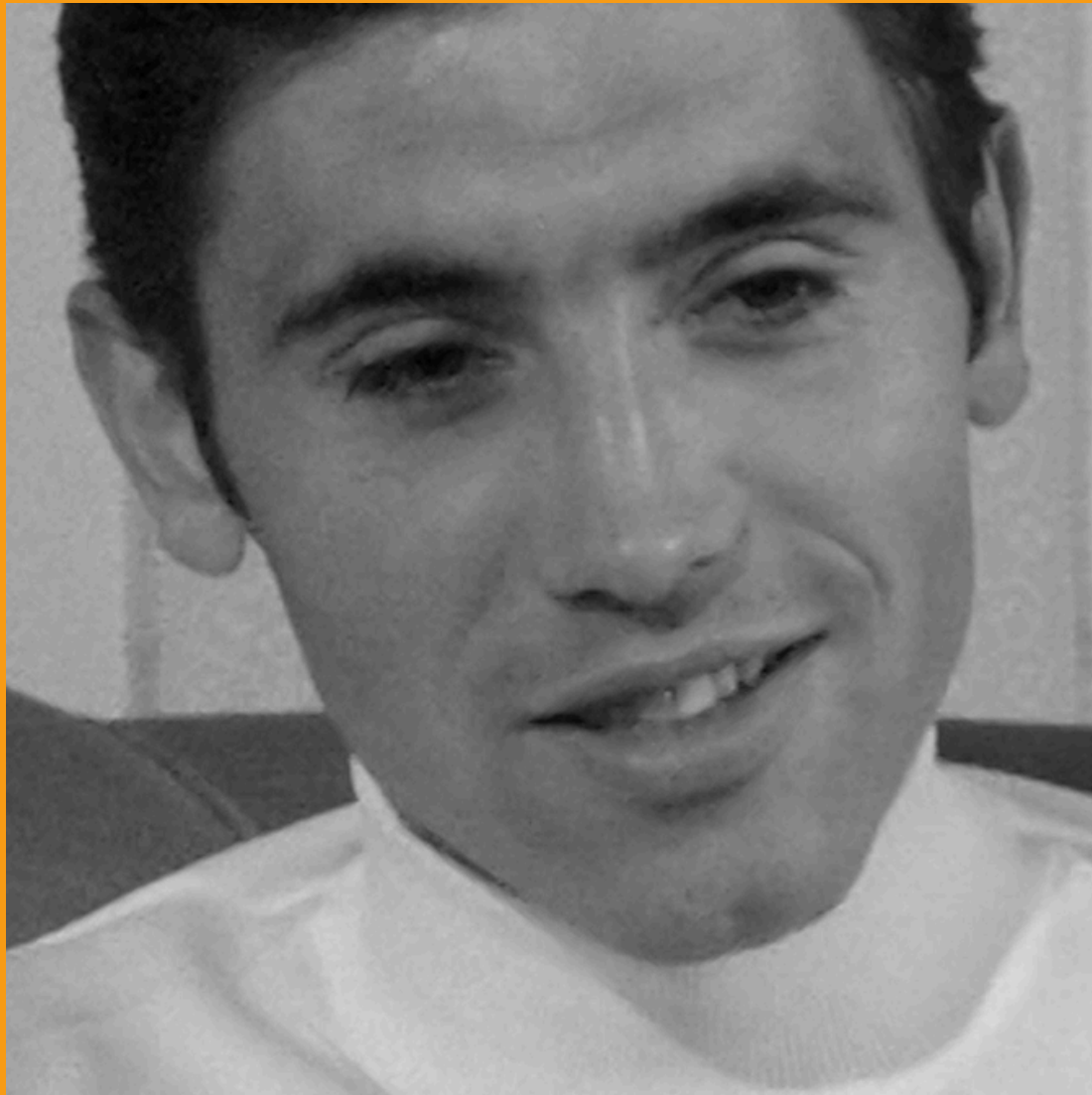
They called him "The Cannibal" because he seemed to devour his opponents in every race. Belgian cycling legend Eddy Merckx won everything there was to win on a bike between 1967 and 1975: five Tours de France, five Giros, three World Championships, one Vuelta, a legendary hour record in Mexico, and countless Classics. In less than a decade, he became the ultimate icon of cycling.

Directors Christophe Hermans and Boris Tilquin offer a fresh perspective on the Merckx phenomenon. This documentary, composed entirely of archival footage, flows seamlessly through the highlights and trials of his career—often recounted, yet never quite like this. But Merckx is more than a list of victories and crashes. Unseen footage also captures a remarkable era of transition in the world of cycling. The film's dramatic structure paints the portrait of a man with extraordinary resilience. Where did his relentless drive to excel come from? How did he keep pedaling when adoration turned into discord? Hermans and Tilquin reveal the inspiring man behind the legend, telling a universal story about determination—and how it can be harnessed to overcome even the greatest of obstacles.









### **Technical Sheet**

Directors: Christophe Hermans & Boris Tilquin

With: Eddy Merckx, Joop Zoetemelk, Jan Janssen, Rodrigo Beenkens

Genre: Documentary, Biopic

Duration: 84' & 55'

Language : French, Dutch, Italian

Country of Origin: Belgium

Year of Release: 2025

### **SLOGAN**

Portrait of the living legend Eddy Merckx, the greatest cyclist of all time.

### **SYNOPSIS**

From 1967 to 1975, Eddy Merckx won everything, devouring his rivals and leaving nothing behind. In less than a decade, he established himself as the ultimate icon of global cycling. But with constant triumphs, the "Cannibal" eventually became a divisive figure. How do you keep pedaling when admiration turns to hatred? This documentary traces the extraordinary journey of the greatest champion of all time.





MOLTENI  
ARCORE

a-Cola

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We have always explored reality with a camera in hand, through human journeys experienced at the pace of our protagonists. With **MERCKX**, we venture into uncharted territory: the archival documentary. Immersing ourselves in images from the past, shedding light on stories buried beneath a new angle, is about giving life back to a man and his era. Eddy Merckx, a complex and universal figure, has fascinated us. His life, rich beyond measure, lends itself to a dramatic narrative, structured like a true work of fiction.

The story is built around the key milestones of his career, revealing not only his athletic achievements but also his personal struggles. Eddy is driven by a deep desire: to prove his worth, against all odds. He faces major obstacles, such as team rivalries, doping accusations, and relentless media scrutiny. His journey, marked by pivotal moments like the 1971 Tour de France or the 1975 assault, showcases an extraordinary resilience, combined with an unshakable determination to win.

This film goes beyond a simple portrait of a champion. Through Eddy, we explore an entire social, economic, and political context: that of a sport in transition, trapped in a globalized capitalist system. More than just a sports film, **MERCKX** examines the human condition: what lies behind the armor of a man? What connections exist between his childhood, his values, and his insatiable drive to push beyond his limits?

By revisiting his victories and injuries, we aim to reach a wide audience. Beyond cycling enthusiasts, this film highlights an era and a humanity, through immersive dramaturgy and the timeless strength of a man confronted with injustice. **MERCKX** is the story of a man who turned his trials into the driving force of his success and who continues to inspire us through the universal lens of resilience.



## **BORIS TILQUIN**

Boris Tilquin is a Belgian author based in Brussels. After studying Philosophy and Film Editing/Screenwriting, he began working as a screenwriter. In 2017, he won the award for Best Screenplay at the short film festival Le court en dit long. A year later, his 8x52' series project FILS DE was selected for the pitch session at the Series Mania festival, among more than 370 programs from 40 countries.

DROSERA, his first fiction short film as a screenwriter and director, which he co-directed with Maud Carpentier, will be released soon. MERCKX is his first archival documentary for RTBF, VRT, and ARTE, which he co-wrote and directed with Christophe Hermans. The duo is already working on their second archival documentary: HEYSEL (broadcast: 2025). Boris Tilquin also works as a consultant and script doctor for films and television series.

## **CHRISTOPHE HERMANS**

Christophe Hermans is a screenwriter, casting director, and filmmaker based in Belgium. He has been teaching at the University of Liège since 2017. He holds a degree in filmmaking from the Institut des Arts de Diffusion, with his graduation film POIDS PLUME (2005), which won several awards and was screened at numerous film festivals worldwide.

His work mainly consists of short films and documentaries, occasionally including a fiction film, such as LA RUCHE (2021). He has also worked as an assistant director on several film projects. His films have been presented at various international festivals, including the Tehran International Short Film Festival, Molodist in Kyiv, and Interfilm in Berlin.









# CONTACT

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