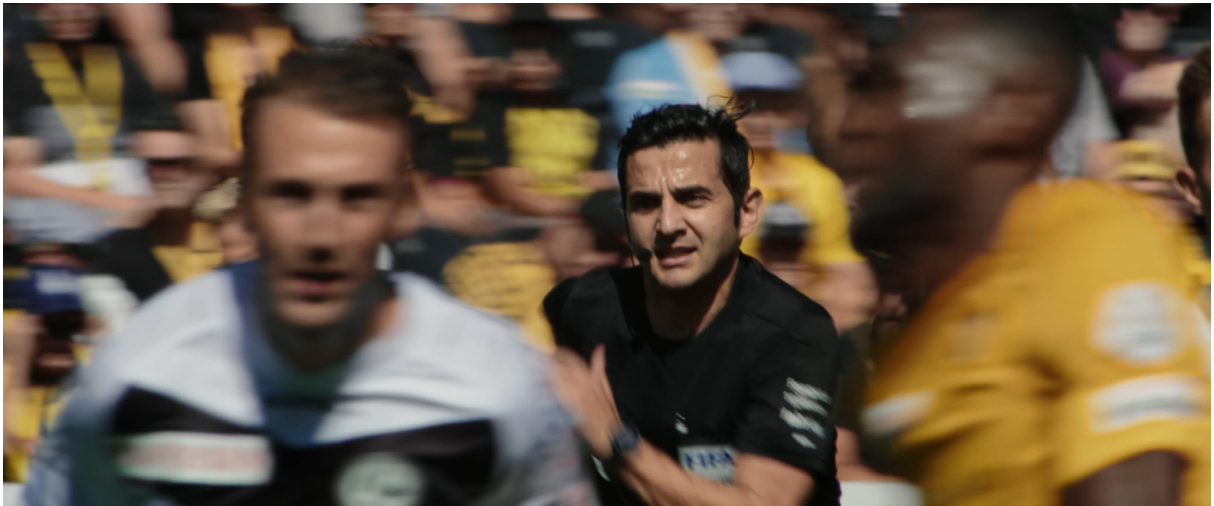




# The Game - Das Spiel

by Roman Hodel



Documentary  
17 minutes  
2020

## Short Synopsis

A whistle. The stands of the stadium get loud. The players protest angrily. The presenters follow the action on the field. In the middle of it, the referee. The whole stadium watches him. Now he has to decide and direct the energy of an entire stadium.

## Long Synopsis

A whistle. The stands of the stadium get loud. The players protest angrily. The presenters follow the action on the field. In the middle of it, the referee. The whole stadium watches him. Now he has to decide.

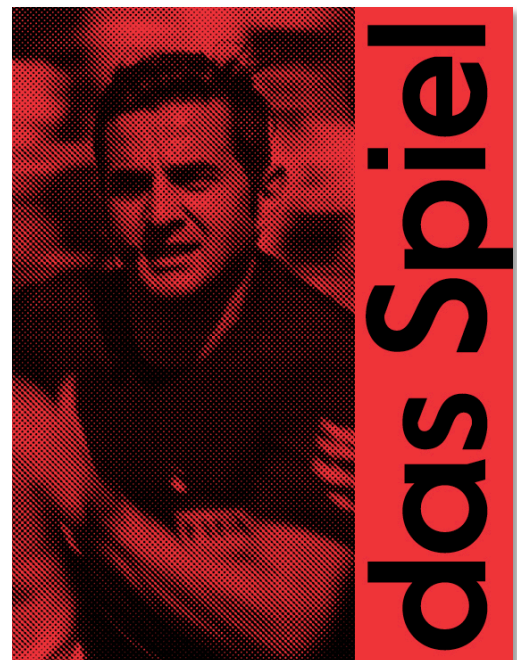
With the referee Fedayi San we experience the highs and lows of a football game, what it means to earn respect on the field and direct the energy of an entire stadium.

## Directors statement

The referee has the power to decide over yellow or red card, penalty or no penalty. His judgement can make the difference between victory and defeat. Within a heartbeat he can turn into a tragic figure forced to withhold the rage of an entire stadium.

It was my intention to show the person who takes those decisions. Therefore I took a glimpse behind the curtains of a soccer game in an informative but endearing way. By closing in on family relationships and on player-referee interactions, the film allows the audience to experience the sheer unbearable pressure of a referee while getting to know the person under the referee jersey: Fedayi San – a human being with fears and doubts.

Roman Hodel, 2020



## Team

Main Protagonist: Fedayi San

Author & Director: Roman Hodel  
Producer: Franziska Sonder, Ensemble Film Gmbh

Coproducer: SRF Swiss National Broadcaster  
Urs Augstburger

DoP: Lukas Gut  
Sound: Oscar Von Hoogevest  
Director 2nd unit: Lena Mäder  
DoP 2nd Unit: Ramon Königshausen  
Sound 2nd Unit: Salome Wüllner

Editor: Rolf Hellat, Roman Hodel  
Sounddesign: Oscar Van Hoogevest  
Mixing: Maurizius Staerke Drux  
Color Grading: Ramón Königshausen

## Technical Information

Shooting format: 2K / 4K  
Screening format: 2K DCP  
Length: 17 minutes  
Language: Swiss German, German, Turkish, English, Italian  
Subtitle Versions: English, German, French, Italian

## Fedayi San - Protagonist

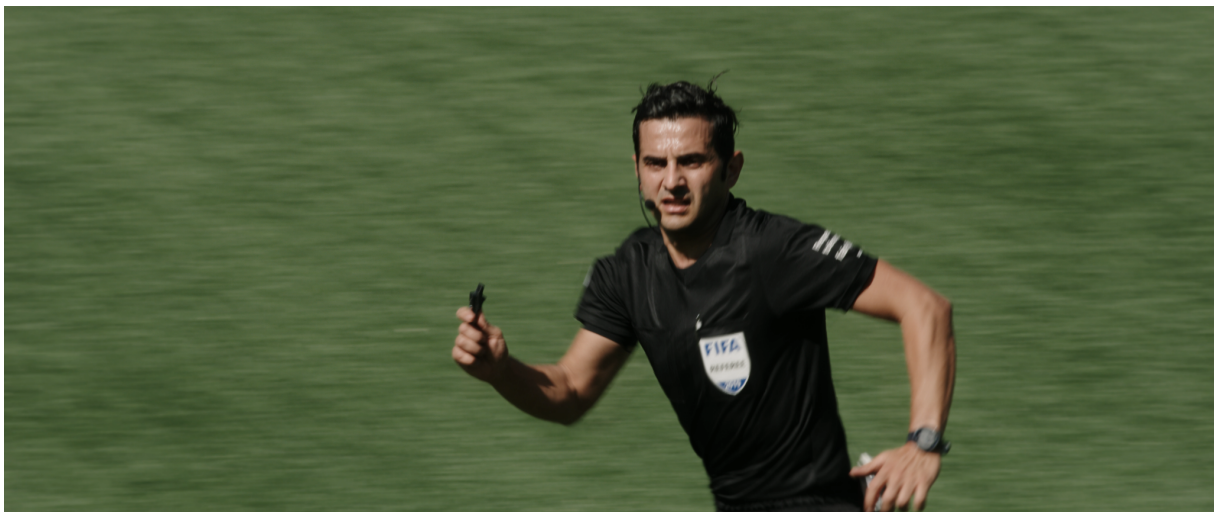
Fedayi San was born and grew up near Zurich, Switzerland as the youngest son of Turkish immigrants. As a child he played football ambitiously and started refereeing on the side at the age of 17. Quite unexpectedly, this led to a steep career as a football official.

“Back then I earned more as a referee than I did with my day job”.

When, aged 28, he received an offer from the Challenge League (the second division). Fedayi was picked to replace a sick colleague in the top division of Swiss football, the Super League. He fulfilled the assignment with flying colours. “In the end I had to send off the goalie,” says Fedayi grinning.

16 years after his first assignment as an official, he got chosen as one of the seven Swiss FIFA officials.

Fedayi carries big hopes on his shoulders: at long last, a Swiss official is supposed to referee one of the really big tournaments once again. His wish: “To hear the Champions League anthem first hand.”



## Roman Hodel - Director

[www.romanhodel.com](http://www.romanhodel.com)  
[mail@romanhodel.com](mailto:mail@romanhodel.com)

1989. Roman Hodel studied at the Video Department of the Lucerne School of Art and Design (HSLU) and works as filmmaker and cinematographer.  
His short film BLUELIGHT (2014, co-directed with Lena Mäder) premiered at the Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur and THE GAME celebrates its world premiere at the 77. La Biennale di Venezia.



2020 The Game – Das Spiel  
Documentary / 17 minutes

Festivals:  
World Premiere at the 77. La Biennale Di Venezia

2014 Bluelight - Blaulicht  
Documentary / 17 minutes  
in co-director with Lena Mäder

Festivals (selection):  
18. Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur  
Filmplus Köln 2015 , 35th Filmschoolfest Munich

Awards:  
Awarded with Luzerner Filmpreis  
Filmplus Köln „Special Mention“

**Franziska Sonder, Ensemble Film - Producer**

[www.ensemblefilm.com](http://www.ensemblefilm.com)  
[sonder@ensemblefilm.ch](mailto:sonder@ensemblefilm.ch)

2015/2016 she enrolled the «Atelier Ludwigsburg- Paris» at the Baden-Württemberg film academy and the film school La Fémis. She's a participant of the Ex Oriente development programme, Eurodoc 2018 and the Rotterdam Lab in 2019.

Cofounder and producer at Ensemble Film in Zurich with several feature documentaries to be released in early 2021: **LOVING HIGHSMITH** by Eva Vitija, **DIDA** by Corina Schwingruber Ilić and Nikola Ilić, **LOVE WILL COME LATER** by Julia Furer.



2020 The Game – Das Spiel by Roman Hodel  
 Documentary / 17 minutes

Festivals:  
 World Premiere at the 77. La Biennale Di Venezia

2016 The License – Die Lizenz by Nora Fingscheidt  
 Fiction / 12 minutes  
 Production: Filmakademie Baden Württemberg, arte, SWR

Festivals (selection):  
 38. FILMFESTIVAL MAX OPHÜLS PREIS (Official Selection, Saarbücken, Germany)  
 5th KRALJEVSKI FILMSKI FESTIVAL (Official Selection, Kraljevo, Serbia)  
 32nd BREST EUROPEAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL (Official Selection, France)  
 14th MANCHESTER INT'L SHORT FILM & ANIMATION FESTIVAL (Official Selection, UK)

2013 When the curtain falls - Wenn der Vorhang fällt by Maurizius Staerkle Drux  
 Documentary / 38 minutes

2011 Between Islands - Zwischen Inseln by Maurizius Staerkle Drux  
 Documentary / 65 minutes



## Press Material

Stills:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/sh38pdfcc2m2vt3/THEGAME\\_Filmstills.zip?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/sh38pdfcc2m2vt3/THEGAME_Filmstills.zip?dl=0)

Film link

<https://vimeo.com/396524196>

Password on request: [sonder@ensemblefilm.ch](mailto:sonder@ensemblefilm.ch)