

## Director's Statement

"Not Killing Lola" was born from a deep need to tell a story that rarely finds its place in cinema the story of a life that defies societal expectations and structures.

My aim is not to stage a classic drama about a mental disorder, but to immerse the audience in the emotional world of a person whose perception is shaped by impulsivity, hyperfocus, and inner chaos. This film is a direct, unfiltered exploration of a reality where moments of clarity and storm are closely intertwined.

At the center of the story is Manny, a hitman whose tightly controlled external life stands in stark contrast to his inner turmoil. Through an encounter that challenges everything he believes, Manny begins to question his convictions. His journey is marked by the constant tension between the desire for order and the need for freedom, an internal conflict that I aim to make tangible through the film's imagery, rhythm, and camera work. The staging is designed not to let the audience remain mere observers, but to draw them emotionally into Manny's world, making every decision and every crisis immediately palpable.

Yet Not Killing Lola goes beyond a personal story. At its core, the film addresses universal themes: loyalty, betrayal, redemption. It is about the fragility of human relationships and the difficult search for truth and freedom in a world full of constraints and uncertainties. Lola, as Manny's counterpart, embodies the courage of independence and resistance against systems of control. Their encounter opens up the possibility for both the characters and the audience to understand change not as an escape, but as a conscious decision.

For me, Not Killing Lola is not merely a neo-noir thriller. It is a film that blurs the boundaries between genre and personal narrative, inviting viewers to engage with the complex realities of human existence.

My goal is not only to create a sense of suspense but to build an emotional space where reflection, empathy, and transformation are possible. In a world that often demands quick answers, I want this film to make visible the uncertainty, chaos, and beauty of the human struggle opening a space where the audience can confront their own questions: about freedom, about loyalty, and about what ultimately makes us human.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Hawie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" and the last name "Hawie" clearly distinguishable.