

# FACTSHEET

## THE ONLY ONE

European Cinema for Active Ageing

CINAGE

LIGHTS,  
CAMERA,  
ACTION!

65+



<b>Title</b>	<b>VIDANGE PERDUE (<i>The Only One</i>)</b>
<b>Release date</b>	June 14, 2006
<b>Running time</b>	90'
<b>Director</b>	Geoffrey Enthoven
<b>Country</b>	Belgium
<b>Language</b>	Dutch
<b>Producer</b>	Mariano Vanhoof
<b>Writers</b>	Jaak Boon (scenario), Geoffrey Enthoven (scenario)
<b>Cast</b>	Nand Buyl as Lucien Knops; Marijke Pinoy as Sylvia; Viviane de Muynck as Mathil.
<b>Genre</b>	Comedy-drama
<b>Awards</b>	Best Belgian film of 2006 by the Belgian Film Critics Association winning the André Cavens Award, and received two awards at the International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg.

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### Plot

Lucien Knops is a widower in his eighties, who has lived in his daughter's house since the death of his wife. He loves his young adult granddaughter, who loves him back, but he gets on less well with his nagging daughter, Gerda. The daughter feels she has lost her independence, as when, for instance, Lucien barges in on the bathroom, invading her privacy, and she has zero tolerance for his old man habits, including his heavy drinking.

One day, Lucien can't take it anymore and he moves back to his own apartment, having decided that he is better off alone. Still, he has the frequent visits of Mathilda, an old acquaintance with whom he has been having an affair for years, although he was married and she herself is the wife of his best friend. She cleans the house for him and also provides him with sex. She is so much into him that she makes him promise he will never cheat on her (although she is cheating on her own husband). He complies. However, when a female neighbor comes to live on a house across the street the status quo is altered. By now Lucien had drunk his way into a driving ban and he had almost set the house on fire with a frying pan. So, he decides to accept his daughter's suggestion, which he should go to a retirement home he had previously visited with her and his son-in-law. Everything is set for him to sell his house and provide Gerda with the necessary money to buy a mobile home/caravan, when Sylvia, the neighbor, starts to help him.

When Mathilda took a bad fall and was hospitalized, Lucien got himself a new cleaning lady, but she was as crooked as she was young and beautiful and she vanished one day, robbing him of his monthly pension.

Enters Sylvia, centre stage. She teaches him how to use a computer, how to go shopping for the healthiest food, how to cook Asian dishes, takes him to the theatre and in general takes away his loneliness, providing him with a new will to live and useful skills to be autonomous. Gerda and the dejected Mathilda make a fuss of Lucien's friendship with Sylvia, purely for selfish reasons, and Gerda even threatens to have him committed to an institution.

No such thing comes to pass, but Lucien is voted off as the chairman of his social club, a position he had occupied for 30 years. The much younger successor is respectful but paternalistic, and the attitude is repeated again by his fellow club members when, later on, Lucien is filmed for a television channel, following his angry letter to a newspaper complaining about a politician's theory that senior citizens older than 85 should not be medically taken care of because they were too much of an expense for the Government.

After realizing that Sylvia has spent the night with a man, Lucien decides to avoid her, because he deems her unfaithful, since she is in reality married to an Alzheimer's patient committed to the retirement home he had once thought of entering himself. However, after a few days the two friends make up.

In the end, Sylvia decides to pull her husband out of the retirement home, on Lucien's advice, and he decides to take a trip to Paris, to visit his granddaughter who had relocated there to study. He looks younger and brave about the future, although he has sold his house and given some of the money to Gerda.

### Active ageing competencies

All the six competencies.