



Little Heaven

a film by Lieven Corthouts

Presskit



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Little Heaven

PITCH

Right In the heart of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa is a small orphanage called 'Little Heaven'. One of the orphans, Lydia, is 13 today. A truly joyful event, because she can now move to the 'other house' where all of the 'big kids' live. Unfortunately this special day is overshadowed by the shocking news delivered to her by the head nurse: Lydia is HIV positive.

SYNOPSIS

The children living in the Ethiopian orphanage 'Little Heaven' are told that they have HIV on the day of their 13th birthday.

For the main character Lydia, this is without a doubt one of the most emotional events in her life, and with difficulty she can now understand why she is an orphan, and why she is so often ill and in hospital. More significantly she can now understand why the husband of her sister Betty didn't want to have Lydia in their home any longer.

In spite of this sad news, Lydia has no intention of sitting at home being depressed. She wants to live, and to dream. This is why as soon as she arrives into the room of the new orphanage, she hangs her motto above her bed: 'I want to be happy every day'.

The other children in the new orphanage do all they can to support Lydia. At first glance, they look like any normal group of young children: they go to school, they play together in the courtyard of the orphanage, and they have fun laughing on their bunk beds.

The children in the orphanage live as independently as they can. Apart from taking their daily dose of medication they try as much as possible to exclude the burden of illness from their daily lives. However, Lydia suffers quite a lot with her own health and is continually confronted with her illness during frequent hospital visits. 'I sometimes feel like a chemist shop with all the medication I have to take,' she sighs. Lydia's illness also prevents her from doing what she absolutely adores the most but no longer has the strength for, which is dancing.

The children in the orphanage receive news that the students with the best results can go to a better school in the coming year. This news encourages Lydia to persevere with her illness, and towards her dream to become a teacher later on in life, and she is now more determined than ever before to make this dream come true.

The director, Lieven Corthouts, lived in the "Little Heaven" orphanage for two years and placed Lydia's story at the heart of this documentary. The director follows Lydia, the main character with HIV in the lead-up to an important school exam. Will Lydia's marks be high enough for her to get into a better school and create a light at the end of this tunnel of struggle and set-backs?

Lydia reveals to viewers how her life vacillates between hope and despair through fragments from her diary. Little Heaven is a hard and confrontational story that never gives in to a sense of desperation thanks to the energy and vitality of the children and their caretakers in the orphanage.

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INFO SHEET

Technical details

Original language	Amharic
Running Time	'70 & '52
format	HDCam & Digibeta, stereo, Color
Filming location	Addis Ababa, Etiopia
Subtitles	English, Dutch, French
Format	Digibeta & HDCam - stereo - colour
Genre	creative documentary

Production

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in coproduction with Lichtpunt
with the support from the Flanders Audiovisual Fund
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the Belgian Federal Government Tax Shelter

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Little Heaven



Lydia



Melaku en Yirnekachew



Messeker



Birky

Little Heaven

MOTIVATION

In 2001, I travelled to Ethiopia for the first time. The country fascinated me to such an extent that I have now lived there, with some breaks in Belgium, for 8 years. During these 8 years, I have moved several times and the capital, Addis Ababa, has been my second home for the past 3 years. Meanwhile, I have learned their language, Amharic. My first visit to the Little Heaven orphanage in Addis Ababa was 5 years ago. The circumstances and personal stories of its inhabitants have never left me and I had regularly visited the orphanage until a few months ago, when I moved in. I wanted to make my next film here.

Addis Ababa is a bustling, vibrant city set against the backdrop of a land with a fascinating history and its own rich culture. It's a culture that is very different to that of other African countries, a culture that in its heyday was often closely associated with the West. At the other hand, Ethiopia has become one of the poorest countries in the world, while the population continues to soar. Despite low life expectancy and high infant mortality, the population grows by no less than 2 million every year.

Everywhere you go you are confronted with street children. According to UNICEF, 30 % of children in Addis Ababa between the ages of 10 and 14 no longer live with their parents and Ethiopia has one of the largest populations of orphans in the world, with 13 % of all children having lost one or both parents. That makes 4.6 million orphans, a massive figure.

HIV/AIDS is one of the major culprits, with as many as 800,000 Ethiopian children having lost their parents to this illness. Nowhere else in the world are so many people infected with HIV as on the African continent, primarily in the sub-Saharan region. Today 1 in 10 people in Addis Ababa are infected with HIV, and it continues to advance. Every year, thousands of children are born with the disease that is passed on by their parents. They are known as 'kids with the disease'.

It goes without saying that the life expectancy for children born with HIV is particularly low. Several factors keep these figures so high, but 'ignorance' is probably the main cause.

Due to financial constraints, AIDS inhibitors, drugs that significantly increase quality of life and life expectancy, are unattainable for most Africans and that applies to Ethiopians too. Only 37 % of infected Ethiopians have access to these vital drugs.

If we want to reverse this trend, there needs to be more support and structure to help the African people and to protect them by means of large scale prevention campaigns. HIV infected people need to be better informed and to receive more material assistance, with daily access to medications. There also has to be sufficient food every single day, more attention to personal hygiene and so forth.

By using an original and very personal treatment of this material, I hope to give this issue the attention it so urgently needs. This is the intimate story of a group of young children who live in a special orphanage in the turbulent city of Addis Ababa. These orphans have not only lost their parents to AIDS but have to live with the disease themselves.

At first, this may seem like an almost unbearable confrontation with illness and death, seen through the eyes of a child, but with this film I plan an approach that will draw the viewer into a fascinating tale that avoids sensationalism and shock tactics. Clearly, it's a tough subject, but the personal approach means that I focus closely on the positive force that emanates from the individual children, their carers and the amazing care scheme itself.

So I don't wish to make a film that shocks but rather a serene, intimate portrait of a group of children who despite the grim reality of their situation are trying to make the most of their lives and receive the support they deserve.

Little Heaven is the arena of my film, the name of the orphanage right in the centre of Addis Ababa. It is the first orphanage to be founded - some ten years ago - especially for children with HIV. It is situated on a busy dirt road that turns into a mud bath during the rainy season and is constantly subjected to the sounds of the city. The Ethiopian urban noise, that is, consisting of sheep and goats amidst cars, mopeds, pedestrians and the loudspeakers of music shops that play audio cassettes right on to the street.

I intend to tell this story of a special orphanage from the perspective of the group of children (between the ages of 12 and 18) but particularly of one girl in the group: Lydia Berhanu.

Lydia is a highly intelligent and empathetic girl of 13 whom I see as a symbol of the perseverance and life force that the group radiates despite its plight.

For me, Lydia is the personification of countless other children who share her lot in life, and she has the ability to present their story. She very much wants the chance to tell her story, as she is aware that she has had the good fortune to live in this orphanage. She often describes where she lives as a kind of heaven since children with HIV in Africa rarely get this type of care but have to survive on the streets.

For this reason, I don't wish to focus on Lydia as a 13 year old girl infected with HIV but rather allow this film to tell a more universal story of orphans around the world, whether or not infected with HIV. And by extension, all children who have to grow up and become adults in difficult circumstances.

For me, Lydia has the perfect personality to draw the viewer into my personal vision.

Little Heaven

CREDITS

with

Lydia Berhanu

and the other children of Little Heaven

**Birky, Endalkachew, Mulugeta, Hanna, Wongalewit, Marta
Messeker, Tsion, Briktawit, Salomon, Fitsum, Wondifraw
Kalkidan, Anteneh, Yirnekacho, Dagem, Malaku**

and their caretakers

Firehun, Saba, Wussine, Tezezeta, Genet, Madonna

directed & filmed by	Lieven corthouts
edited by	Jan De Costert
music by	Bert Joris Mulatu astatke
sound mix & design	Nils Fauth
commissioing editor Lichtpunt	Wim Van Rom[ae]y
producers	Frederik Nicolai Eric Goossens
production assistant	Maarten D'Hollander
online	Niels Christensen
grading	Birger Platteeuw
sound editor	Giorgo De Groof
translations	Adey Tadesse, Dagnu Getachew Lieven Corthouts, Steve Thielemans Tessa Martin, Elan Languages
postproduction sound	Piste Rouge
postproduction image	The Fridge
legal advise	MVVP - Herman Croux Carl Kerstens, Peter Marx
tax shelter belgium	Continuum Consulting NV
insurance	BCOH

music

Spaces

from the album 'Only for the Honest'
composed by Bert Joris
performed by Bert Joris Quartet
Bert Joris (trumpet) Dado Moroni (piano)
Philippe Aerts (bass) and Dre Pallemmaerts (drums)
© 52creations / codaex - 2011

Dewel

from the album 'New York - Addis - London'
composed by Mulatu Astatke
performed by Mulatu Astatke /
The Heliocentrics
© Strut Records - The Story of Ethio Jazz - 2009

Magone

from the album 'Magone'
composed by Bert Joris
performed by Bert Joris Quartet
Bert Joris (trumpet) Dado Moroni (piano)
Philippe Aerts (bass) and Dre Pallemmaerts (drums)
© Dreyfus Jazz - 2007

Esketa Dance

from the album 'New York - Addis - London'
composed by Mulatu Astatke
performed by Mulatu Astatke /
The Heliocentrics
© Strut Records - The Story of Ethio Jazz - 2009

thanks to

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Katrien Descheemaeker, Maya Wilsens, Peter Croonen, Wim Van Rompaey, Nora De Baets
Siebe Dumon, Rolf Orthel, Nathalie Capiou, Karel Verhelst, An Ratinckx, Christian Deschutter
Myriam De Boeck, Karla Puttemans, Hans Everaert, Pierre Drouot**

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www.siddartha.be

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Doc Station at the Berlinale Talent Campus



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CV LIEVEN CORTHOUTS



Lieven Corthouts is a Belgian documentary maker who divides his time between Ethiopia and Belgium. Lieven has lost his heart to the Ethiopian people, culture and nature. He has made several documentaries against the backdrop of this fascinating African country, such as the multi-award winning film **My Future** (Broadcasted by ARTE, TV3 (Spain), CIRTEF/TV5 MONDE (Conseil International des Radios-Télévisions d'Expression Française), TVI24 (Portugal) Prize best debut at Miradasdoc, Official selection New York independent film festival (screenings in New York and Los Angeles), Official selection Edic Doc, Official Selection Docville, Official Selection International film festival of Huesca, Official Selection Two riverside International film festival (first film), Official Selection Ethiopian film festival, Official Selection Addis Ababa international film festival, Special screening Belgrade international short and documentary film festival, Special screening Trois continents Film festival. Further, he has made several documentaries for NGOs and is a sought after consultant for filmmakers who want to film in Ethiopia.

CV ERIC GOOSSENS



Eric Goossens // studied communication sciences at the Catholic University of Leuven. Afterwards, he was an intern for a year at the Centre for Audiovisual Arts of CUL. He organised several national and international workshops for the FEMI (Flemish Media Institute), under the artistic supervision by Frank Daniel (American producer/screenwriter) and Stephen Peet (BBC). In 1990, Eric Goossens joined Little Big One as a television producer to work on various projects for the VRT, RTBF and Canal+. In 1995, Eric Goossens founded the production company Off World. Together with Anton Roebben, an exceptional animation expert, Eric founded the production company Walking The Dog, which produces creative animation films and series. Eric Goossens is also the vice chairman of anim.be, the association of Belgian animation producers.

CV FREDERIK NICOLAI



Frederik Nicolai // has been sharing his love for documentaries with Eric Goossens since 2002. Frederik started his career by executive producing fiction series, feature and short films in Belgium and the Netherlands. Then he completely dedicated himself to author documentaries and collaborated with broadcasters like VRT, NPS, VPRO,... Some successful films from that period were: 4 Elements (Jiska Rickels, opening film of the International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam 2006), Filming without boundaries (about George Sluizer, by Hans Heijnen), Panna (Nordin Isfar),... After years of commuting between Bruxelles and Amsterdam, Frederik chose Brussels as his home. Ever since, he has been working with Eric Goossens to expand the record and international network of Off World. Besides producer Frederik is also a direction coach for young filmmakers.

Off World is an independent production company based in Brussels, capital of Flanders, Belgium and Europe. Eric Goossens founded Off World in 1995, joined by Frederik Nicolai in 2002.

Off World's main goal is producing author documentaries for the national and international market. Over the last few years, the company has built up a large portfolio and a solid reputation as delegate producer and co-producer of many creative and original documentaries. Off World has a long-term collaboration with their national broadcasting companies VRT-Canvas, Lichtpunt and RTBF and national co-producers (Eklektik, Simple Production, Luna Blue Film...) Moreover, Off World co-produces documentaries with foreign broadcasting companies on a regular basis such as ARTE, IKON, RAI, TV3 and with foreign producers such as Zeppers Film (NL), Moztu Filmak (ESP), Amo Film, Monkey Bay, French Connection (FR). Together with our close partner Walking The Dog, a feature film animation production company, Off World produced several animated documentaries.

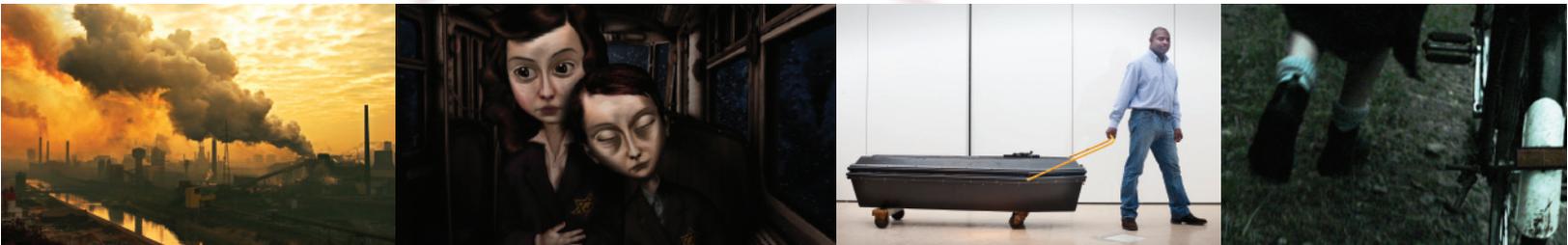
Off World's trademark is a contemporary and wayward look on the world, which springs from the passion and talent of the documentary authors.

Off World has build up a long term collaboration with renowned and distinguished documentary authors. However, Off World is also consistently investing in young filmmakers, as a creative investment for the future.

Off World maintains an personal editorial line in order to construct a clear frame for all its productions. In the centre of that frame we place the author's personal and original approach and his/her critical view on an historic or current society. We want to mesmerize the viewer, invite him to think and develop new insights. After all, that is the basis for a broader and more sceptical view on the world. This is never a luxury in our society that all too often evolves in just a single dimension.

Therefore, our documentaries must contain universal values and must be able to reach people across all borders. Starting from its own clear and sometimes even local context, the documentary can clear the path for a broader truth.

Besides being a key player in the industry, Off World also works to usher Flanders into the global documentary industry. In 2009, the production company cofounded the professional organisation Flanders Doc along with fellow Flemish documentary producers. Flanders Doc unites creative forces in order to enhance the level of performance, professionalism and globalisation of the Flemish documentary industry. Off World is also an active EDN member.



FILMOGRAPHY OFF WORLD

2013 // IN PRODUCTION

RÊVE KAKUDJI, a film by Ibbe Daniëls & Koen Vidal *in coproduction with VRT-Canvas, supported by Flanders Film Fund, Media+ program of the European Union, le centre du cinema de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, DG-D the Belgian Development Cooperation, in coproduction with VRT-Canvas & Casa Kafka Pictures. Prebuy by RSF.*

Serge Kakudji is a twenty-year-old Congolese counter tenor who fell in love with opera as a young boy, listening to cassette tapes of opera recordings in his room in Lubumbashi. He later travelled to Europe to achieve his dream of becoming a top opera singer. Although Serge's artistic ambitions are pure and uncomplicated, the reactions among his environment and audiences are often ambiguous and divided. While some people respect and acknowledge his artistic vocation, others see him as an exotic oddity, or complain that that his African timbre jars with classical opera.

Serge refuses to be discouraged by any of this. On the contrary, he wants to hold up a mirror to Western culture and confront it with its underlying beliefs. He also wants to use his story and experiences in the west to bring opera to Congo. Together with his countrymen and women, he wants to found a Congolese opera tradition based on African stories that will inspire people to follow their dreams..

1 x '63 | total budget: 383.255 € | release: april 2013 | selected at Eurodoc 2011



DESERT CANTOS, a film by Sofie Benoot *in co-production with Zeppers Film (NL), supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund, Media+ program of the European Union, the Netherlands Film Fund and the Belgian federal government Tax Shelter.*

Desert Cantos is a documentary western. In this film, the western film genre is analysed to portray modern day America in a relevant and intriguing manner. It is a tale of a country on the verge of history and current events, of myth and reality.

1 x '120 | total budget: 318.778 € | release: july 2013



RED STAR LINE, a film by Daniel Cattier & Fabio Wuytack in coproduction with Eklektik, Casa Kafka Pictures, VRT-Canvas and RTBF, with support from VAF-Media Fund, le centre du cinéma de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles et de Voo, Wallimage-Bruxellimage, the RSL museum.

Between 1873 and 1934, the Belgian-American shipping company Red Star Line transported 2.7 million migrants from Antwerp to New York. What makes the Red Star Line unique in the history of shipping European migrants to America is that the majority of its passengers were Eastern Europeans, amongst whom many Jewish people. In such a context, Antwerp became the most important transit city in Europe. By using the story of the Red Star Line as a narrative vessel, this documentary will use a mosaic of human destinies to explain why migrants left their European homes behind, detailing their journey to Antwerp, their trip across the ocean and how they dealt with their new life in America. The Red Star Line project will deconstruct the past, to better understand the present.

1 x '90 & 3 x '52 | total budget: 851.622 € | release: September 2013



LOST IN TIME, a film by Marc Schmidt, in co-production with seriousFilm, with support from the Flanders Audiovisual Fund and the Netherlands Film Fund.

How can a human being experience time when the contact with the outsider world is fading away? An experimental documentary on isolation at old age.

1 x '20 || total budget: 122.364 € | release: end 2013



YES WE CATCH! a film by Cédric Bourgeois & Xavier Séron in co-production with Novak Prod and RTBF, with the support from the Flanders Audiovisual Fund, le centre du cinéma de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles et de Voo, and le Centre Audiovisuel de Bruxelles. Prebuy by VRT-Canvas.

A group of trainee wrestlers spurred on by the energy of Salvatore Bellomo (age 60) trains relentlessly in the back room of a café in the Borinage district (former mining region in Belgium). Tarzan, the Gigolo, Andynamite, Priscilla, La Rage, Eddie Dark... they all dream of becoming professional wrestlers, like their teacher. Salvatore fought with top wrestlers for more than 30 years, particularly within the prestigious WWF. Today, he has decided to bring his students to the U.S to follow the traces of his past. Waiting for the big day, they live out their passion together, sometimes taking foolish risks to satisfy the local audience and lay out their future.

1 x '52 | total budget: 196.458 € | release: july 2013



THE AGE OF DEATH a film by Christopher Yates & Benjamin Colaux in coproduction with Playtime Films, supported by le centre du cinéma de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles et de VOO, le WIP, Media+ program of the European Union and the Flanders Audiovisual Fund.

"The Age of death" follows five Potosí miners, ages 21 to 54, through the ghosts and legends that haunt them, revealing the fragility of man and his surroundings. These men burrow every day through hellish mines, abandoning the majestic landscape of the Bolivian Andes for the mine's dark confinement. Their identities fade as they enter this obscure world full of history and ghosts. By taking time to observe the physical details and the tools that make mining work so palpable, we journey into a past handed down along generations of miners through the continuous repetition of a single physical gesture. This film gets underneath the skin. It is a sensory journey through fears, dreams, legends and indigenous superstitions as they come up against the reality of daily life.

1 x '70 | total budget: 301.605 € | release: end 2013



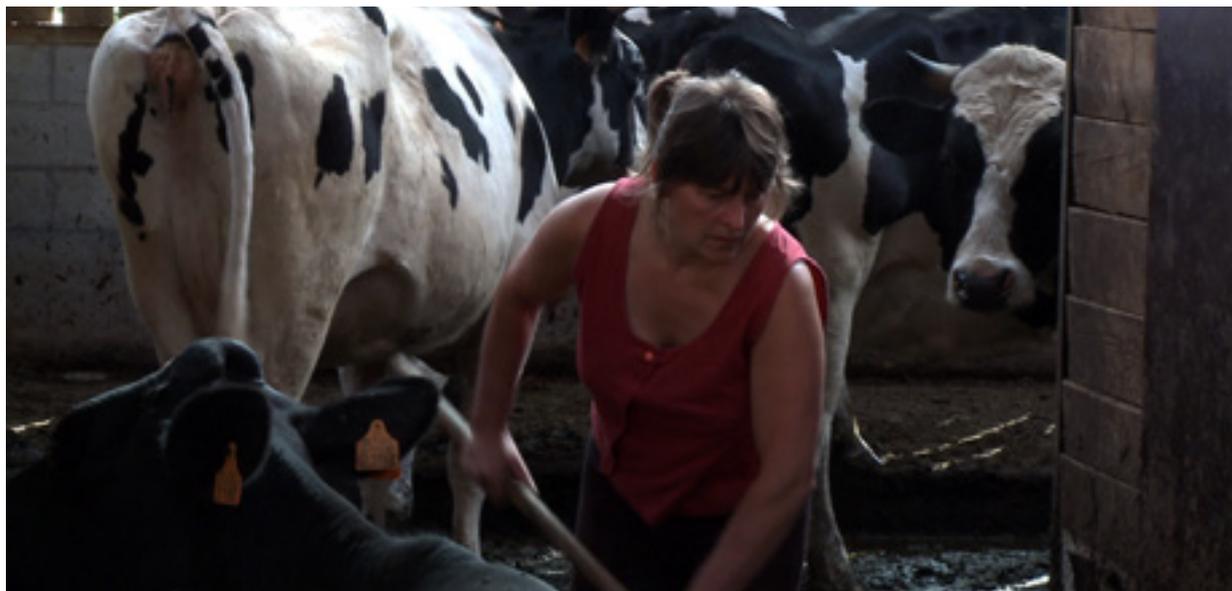
RELEASED // 2012

LA TERRE AMOUREUSE, a film by Manu Bonmariage *in coproduction with Iota productions, RTBF. supported by le Centre du cinema de la communauté française de la Belgique, Media+ program of the European Union and Flanders Audiovisual Fund. Prebuy by VRT-Canvas.*

Things are not going well in our agricultural industry. This was once the engine that fed our society, and today an increasing number of farms are disappearing due to industrialisation and globalisation. In our country just 3% of the population still work as farmers. 3% of the population who have to feed the remaining 97%.

Four stories of farmers seen from the angle of their passion for their beloved countryside and the passion of these farmers for the very badly needed love of a woman. Because farming life is above all a family affair, where men and women survive together. Fields, like women, need to be sown when they are fertile. Is it possible to have the same passion for the land as for a woman? We go on a journey through all the seasons throughout a whole year in search of the woman behind the farmer and we ask whether a farmer can work his fields without the love of his wife.

1 x '70 & 1 x '63 || total budget: 220.525 € | world premiere at IFF Namur October 2012



REINHOUD, MY SCULPTOR, a film by Blaise D'Haese *in coproduction with VRT-Canvas et RTBF.*

Blaise D'haese, the director of this film, lost his father, the sculptor Reinhoud in 2007. He filmed his father during the last two years of his life.

Blaise feels a void in his life. Reinhoud, although he was a very public man and member of the Cobra movement, never spoke about his painful past family life, nor about the ambiguous relationship he had with his native country Belgium, which he left at the age of 30. When Blaise was born, his father was already old. Blaise searches through all the interviews and numerous archive photos and videos to get to know his father better and understand his work.

1 x '55 || total budget: 91.680 € | release: spring 2013



THE ONLY SON, a film by Simonka de Jong, in co-production with IDtv-docs, De Dutch Buddhist Broadcast company, with support from the Dutch film Fund, The Dutch Media-fund, the Dutch coBo-Fund, the Flanders Audiovisual Fund.

The balance within a Tibetan family spread over several continents comes under strain when son Pema is forced to marry a girl from his native village.

1 x '70 || total budget: 450.123 € | world premiere: IDFA 2012



THE BOY IS GONE, a film by Christoph Bohn in coproduction with Simple Production, VRT-Canvas, RTBF, BRF (BE) and Serious Film (NL). Supported by le Centre du cinema de la communauté française de Belgique, Dutch Film Fund and Flanders Audiovisual Fund.

Christoph Bohn grew up during the sixties in Kortrijk a small Flemish town. However, German was the language spoken at home rather than Flemish. Christoph's father originated from Eupen, in the German speaking part of Belgium. These 'German-Belgian', roots made his youth anything but easy: he was the 'kraut's' kid.

One day, Christoph discovered something which turned his entire world upside down: an old photograph of his father as a fourteen year old in a German uniform, complete with a swastika arm band. They never talked about it. His father died in 2001, taking to his grave all his secrets. Today Christoph Bohn returns to Eupen to investigate and disentangle his father's true story and the history of the German speaking region. Using fascinating testimonies, unseen archive material and shockingly animated scenes, the web of this little known piece of history is unravelled in a riveting manner.

1 x '55 || total budget: 299.233 € | release: world premiere at Docville 2012



RELEASED // 2011

LITTLE HEAVEN, a film by Lieven Corthouts *in coproduction with Lichtpunt, (BE), supported by the Belgian Development Cooperation and Flanders Audiovisual Fund. (Budget:166.646)*

This is the harrowing tale of an extraordinary orphanage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city. On their thirteenth birthday, children in this particular orphanage are told that they were born with HIV. It is a hard and confronting story, but also a hopeful one thanks to children's and their caretakers' zest for life.

1 x 70 & 1 x 52 World premiere at IDFA (International Documentary Festival Amsterdam) Netherlands, 2011 Special mention at Docville, Leuven, Belgium, 2012 | Best film award at Miradasdoc 2012 | audience award Anû-rû âboro, New Zealand, 2012 | Official selection Movies That Matter, Den Haag, Netherlands, 2012 Official selection Opendoek festival, Turnhout, Belgium, 2012 Official selection Planete +Doc Film Festival, Warsaw & Wroclaw, Poland, 2012 Official selection Human Rights Watch Film Festival, London (UK) & New York (USA), 2012 Official selection Addis Film Festival, Ethiopia, 2012 Official selection Seoul Human Rights Film Festival, South-Korea, 2012 Official selection L'Alternativa Festival de Cinema Independent de Barcelona, Spain, 2012 Official selection Filmfestival Oostende, Belgium, 2012 Official selection Anthropological Film Festival, Tel Aviv, 2012 Official selection Festroia International Film Festival, Spain, 2012 Official selection Anû-rû âboro, New Zealand, 2012 Sold to RAI (Italy), Channel 8 (Israel) Theatrical distributed in Belgium during the Vlaamse Documentaireweken and in the US and Canada by Human Right Watch.



THE LAST PASSAGE, a film by Lurre Telleria & Enara Goikoetxea *in coproduction with RTBF (BE), Moztu Filmak, ETB (ESP) and Amo Film, France Télévisions (FR), supported by Diputacion Foral de Gipuzkoa – Euskara, the Basque Government, Diputación Foral de Guipuzcoa (Human Rights), ICAA, GFA - Cultural Department Media+ program of the European Union, Région Aquitaine, the Belgian federal government Tax Shelter and Flanders Audiovisual Fund. Prebuy by VRT-Canvas.*

The Last Passage revisits one fateful night in a farmhouse in the Pyrenees, when six strangers from five different countries were arrested. Each person's story weaves together to show the wider picture of the hundreds of ordinary people who formed a vast escape network across Europe during WWII.

1 x '70 || total budget: 689.382 € | World premiere at the San Sebastian Film Festival 2011



RELEASED // 2010

BLACK HEART, WHITE MAN (KONGO), a film by Samuel Tilman *in coproduction with Eklektik (BE), RTBF, ARTE, VRT-CANVAS. Supported by Wallimage, le Centre du cinema de la communauté française de Belgique, and Flanders Audiovisual Fund.*

An ambitious and original project about one of the most turbulent African countries: Congo. This film is completely edited from original archive footage and new animation sequences.

Broadcasted by RTBF (Belgium/Wallonia) VRT-Canvas (Belgium/Flanders), ARTE (France), Planète (France), Ceska TV (Czech Republic) TV3 (Spain/Catalunia) LTV (Letvia) RSI (Swiss/ Italian region)

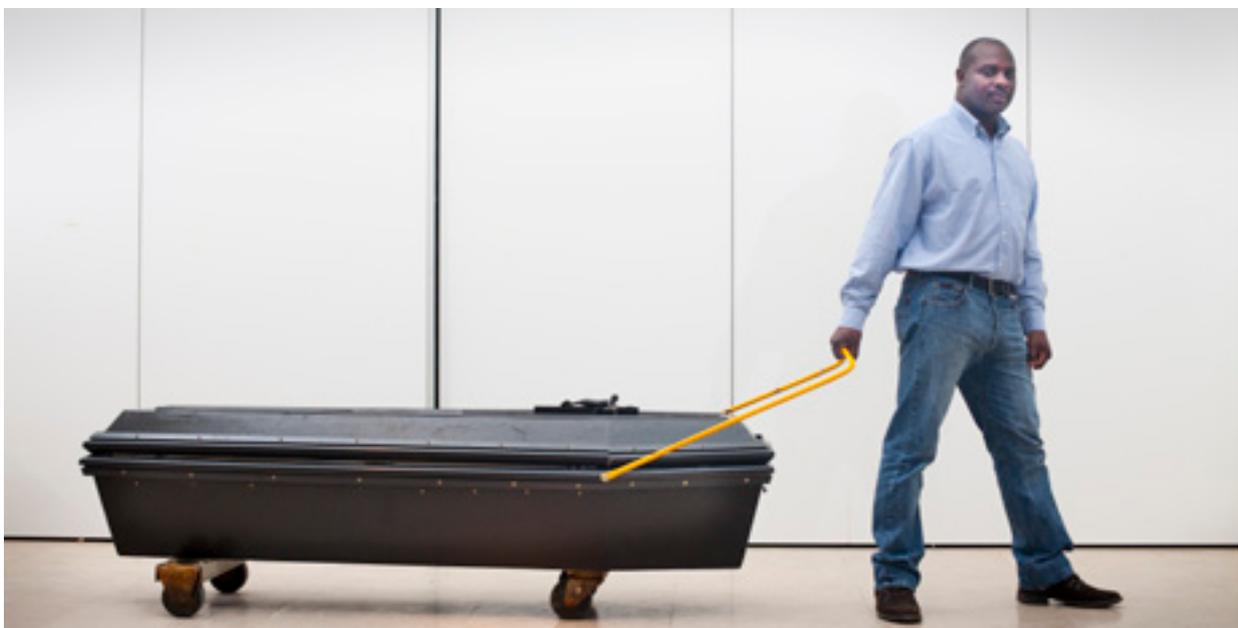
3 x '52 & 1 x '90 | total budget: 1.326.615 €



HOME & AWAY, a film by Ann Van de Vyvere *in coproduction with Globe Aroma, the Kaaithheater, Supported by Koning Boudewijn stichting. ('75)*

A documentary film about residing, home, privacy and precious objects. Which object are you always taking with you when you're constantly on the road or homeless? The film examines the relationship between human beings and objects, and more specific form the point of view of homeless people, expats, refugees, adventurers, and their most precious possession.

1 x '75 | total budget: 118.895 €



LEAVING MANDELA PARK, a film by Saskia Vredeveld in coproduction with Zeppers Film & TV, IKON, Lichtpunt. Supported by Dutch Film Fund, Cobo-fund, Flanders Audiovisual Fund.

a documentary about children in the South-African townships with a special drive to escape, however briefly, the drabness of everyday reality. Their dreams do not stand on their own. They are a metaphor for the hopeful future of a country trying to drag itself up from a mire of poverty and violence.

Nominated best documentary film at the Dutch Film Festival (Gouden Kalf), official selection IDFA. Audience Award Russian Antropological Film Festival (RAFF) Jekaterinenburg, official selection DOCSDF International Film Festival (Mexico) Teatrical distribution by Cinema delicatessen

1 x '70 & 1 x '50 | total budget: 424.282 €



LA ROYALE HARMONIE, a film by Manu Bonmariage in coproduction with RTBF, supported by le Centre du cinema de la communauté française de la Belgique, and Flanders Audiovisual Fund.('55)

Is Belgium a sick country? Manu Bonmariage puts these questions to a host of political figureheads, in the aim of drawing out their personal comments on the Belgian political dead-end that has made headlines around the world for months.

1 x '55 | total budget: 154.606 €



THE PROMISED LAND, (LA TERRE PROMISE) a film by Luckas Vander Taelen and Pascal Verbeken *in coproduction with Canvas and RTBF. Supported by le Centre du cinema de la communauté française de la Belgique, and Flanders Audiovisual Fund.*

A historical road movie about the Flemish immigrants in the Walloon part of Belgium. Witnesses tell us the stories of the Flemish families that migrated from poverty-stricken parts of Flanders to the Walloon side during its industrial heyday. Now, this region is one of the poorest in Western Europe, whereas Flanders is one of the richest.

1 x '55 & 3 x '50 | total budget: 300.419 €



RELEASED //2009

GHISLAIN LIBART, THE LUMBERMAN, a film by Manu Riche, *in coproduction with Canvas and Simple production. Supported by le Centre du cinema de la communauté française de la Belgique, and Flanders Audiovisual Fund. (FROM THE DOCU SERIES HOGE BOMEN)*

Ghislain Libart is a modest lumberman from the Belgian Ardennes, who became world player in international wood trading. European cut trees are transported to Egypt, to make 'neo-antique' furniture for the Chinese market. A humble woodcutter who comes to symbolize economic globalization.

LOOKING FOR DRAGONE, a film by Manu Bonmariage *in coproduction with Canvas and RTBF, supported by the Flanders Audiovisual Fund. (FROM THE DOCU SERIES HOGE BOMEN)*

The story of Franco Dragone, who put his small Belgian town of La Louvière on the world map by becoming the world's most famous big show art director... **Official sélection World Film festival, Montreal, 2009**

PAUL DUJARDIN, THE LONG MARCH, a film by Manu Riche *in coproduction with Canvas and Arte Belgium, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund. (FROM THE DOCU SERIES HOGE BOMEN)*

Paul Dujardin is the general director of the Belgian Institute of Fine Arts (Bozar). Dujardin introduces the political and cultural stakes that lie beyond the art itself. Even the art world has given in to the politics of globalization. Paul Dujardin plays the field in great style, using his astute and refined understanding of the use of art to influence cultural and political policy-making both at home and abroad. This takes Dujardin all the way to the Forbidden City, the secret of modern fine arts...

MONSEIGNEUR LÉONARD, a film by Mieke Struyve *in coproduction with Canvas, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund. (FROM THE DOCU SERIES HOGE BOMEN)*

On Bishop André-Mutien Léonard's stance on the confrontation taking place between the conservative and progressive wing of the Catholic church.

GLENN AUDENAERT, a film by Steve Thielemans *in coproduction with Canvas, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund. (FROM THE DOCU SERIES HOGE BOMEN)*

After many scandals that shook the Belgian political and judiciary system in the nineties, Glenn Audenaert became the new chief of the federal police. A portrait of this eccentric policeman and his colossal responsibilities.

ARNE QUINZE, CREATOR OF ATMOSPHERE, a film by Tim De Keersmaecker, *in coproduction with Canvas, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund. (FROM THE DOCU SERIES HOGE BOMEN)*

Arne Quinze, a rising star of art and design, and his relationship with Barbara Becker, have propelled him to international celebrity. Besides focusing on Arne Quinze's life and work, this film also mirrors the value of modern art, and the construction of an artist in the world of art, design, money, business, and glamour... Art can be very lucrative, and many businessmen look to invest in young artists in hope of a potential goldmine...

RELEASED // 2008

MY FUTURE, a film by Lieven Corthouts *in coproduction with Lichtpunt, supported by the Belgian Development Cooperation and Flanders Audiovisual Fund. ('50)*

Hagere Selam, a small village in the North of Ethiopia. A seventeen year-old girl has to choose between leaving her village to attend high school in the big city, or staying, get married and having children like the other girls in her village.

FIRST AWARD BEST DEBUTE FILM, Miradasdoc (2009), Official selection New York International Independent Film & Video Festival 2009), Docville Leuven Belgium (2009), Trois continents Film festival, Nantes, France, (2009), Belgrade international short and documentary film festival, (2009), international film festival of Huesca, Spain (2009), international short and documentary film festival, Edic Doc, Edinburgh, UK, (2010), Ethiopian film festival, Addis Abeba, (2010). Broadcasted by ARTE (France, Germany), TV3 (Spain), CIRTEF/TV5 MONDE (Conseil International des Radios-Télévisions d'Expression Française), TVI24 (Portugal)



RELEASED // 2007

BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH, a film by Frank van den Engel and Masha Novikova *in coproduction with Zeppers Film & TV, IKON, VAF. Supported by MediaFund and Flanders Audiovisual Fund.*(‘50)

On the long journey of many months along the ancient Silk Road from Europe to China, the circus was the only entertainment along the way. In Uzbekistan, currently under dictatorship, the circus tradition is thriving, just as it was in the days of Genghis Khan, and the circus acts have changed little. Two circus artists must choose between continuing the old circus tradition and political involvement. Their choices have a serious effect on their lifelong friendship.

World premiere Rotterdam Film Festival (Netherlands), Official selection Tribeca International Film Festival(New York, USA) Golden Apricot (Armeria) Melbourne International Film Festival (Australia) Louis Vuitton Hawaii International Film Festival (USA) Vancouver International Film Festival (Canada) Sevilla Festival de Cine (Spain), 1001 Belgesel Film Festival (Turkey) Forumdoc.bh, (Brazil), Watch Docs Festival (Poland), One World IFF (Czech Republic) FIAAP International Film Festival of Performing Arts - International Jury | Documentary Prize of the Official Selection University Jury | Documentary Priz (Portugal), Taiwan International Documentary Festival (Taiwan), Document 6 International Human Rights Documentary (US)



RELEASED // 2006

JOHAN VERMEERSCH – THE PRESIDENT, a film by Manu Riche *in coproduction with Canvas, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund.*

Johan Vermeersch is manager and president of football club Brussels. After his career as a football player for RWDM (the former name of Brussels FC), he became one of the most successfully real estate developers in Brussels. Today, he succeeds bringing FC Brussels into the first division. This film follows Vermeersch and his club during their first and difficult year in the Belgian first division.

PANAMAJUMBO, a film by Elise Nys *in coproduction with Canvas, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund.*

About the micro cosmos of a Flemish entrepreneur family, lead by an ambitious businesswoman who married the famous artist Panamarenko, whose art is cleverly put to use to sell the family products.

FERNAND HUTS – THE MARCHAND, a film by Manu Riche *in coproduction with Canvas, Supported by the Flanders Audiovisual Fund.*

Fernand Huts and his wife Karine form are one of the most successful business couples in the city of Antwerp. They open the door into the heart of the Antwerp port and its economy. Besides their business, they are also notorious art collectors. In many ways, they are a Renaissance couple of the 21th century.

4 ELEMENTS, a film by Jiska Rickels a *Fu Works* production in coproduction with NPS, Dutch Film Fund, YLE and Canvas. ('90)

A poetic visual essay about man's uneasy relationship with fire, water, earth and air, as seen through the experiences of fire-fighters in Siberia, king crab fisherman on the Bering Sea in Alaska, German mineworkers and Russian cosmonauts preparing a launch to the international space station. **Grand prix jury award Trento Film Festival, 2008 (Italy) official opening film IDFA, Amsterdam, 2006 (The Netherlands), Best Photography award Chicago International Film Festival, 2007 (USA), DDG Award Nederland (Dutch Directors Guild), Christal Film Holland Film Festival, 2007 (The Netherlands), Special Mention International Environmental Film Festival Ecocinema, 2008 (Greece), official sélections: Femina Film Festival, Rio de Janeiro, 2007, Brazil / Film Festival Athene, 2007, Greece / Mar Del Plata Film Fest, 2007, Brazil / Seattle International Film Festival, 2007, Etats-Unies / Festival International de Ciné en Guadalajara, 2007, Mexico / International Festival of New Film Split, 2007, Croatia / Architectuur Film Festival Rotterdam, 2007, The Netherlands / Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, 2007, Czech Republic / B-side Festival Genius Hot Doc's, 2007, Canada / Open Doek Festival Turnhout, 2007, Belgium / Madcat Women's International Film Festival, 2007, Californie, USA International Environmental Film Festival Ecocinema, 2008 / Big Sky Documentary Festival, Missoula, 2008, Montana USA / Rhodos International Films and Visual Arts Festival, Rhodos, 2007, Greece / Talinn Black Nights Film Festival, Talinn, 2007, Estonie / Iran International Documentary Film Festival, Teheran, 2007, Iran / Film Festival of Bangkok, 2007, Thailand**



RELEASED // 2005

STEVE STEVAERT – THE POLITICIAN, a film by Manu Riche in coproduction with Canvas, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund.

The portrait of one of Belgium's current key politicians. Nowadays, politics have become a media reality, a story with good and bad actors. Steve Stevaert is the most eloquent phenomenon amongst them.

THE HORSE RACE, a film by Mieke Struyve in coproduction with Canvas, supported by Flanders Audiovisual Fund.

The Horse Race depicts a festival at the annual horse races in Western Flanders that exceeds folklore and, instead, becomes a story of tradition, old-fashioned social classes, and friendship.