

45th International Film Festival Rotterdam

27 January – 7 February 2016

PRESS RELEASE

Rotterdam, 21 December 2015

IFFR presents: This Is Where Reconstruction Starts

Film talent inspired by post-war reconstruction

The theme for the city of Rotterdam in 2016 is *Rotterdam Celebrates the City!* Inspired by 75 years of reconstruction, we will be celebrating the city we know today and looking to the future. As part of this programme, International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) presents the project *This Is Where Reconstruction Starts*. Six young, leading international filmmakers were asked to make a short fiction or creative essay film around themes concerning reconstruction. These films will première during IFFR 2016.

Specially for *Rotterdam Celebrates the City!* IFFR selected six young film talents who have made a promising start to their careers in the international circuit in recent years. Each of them has made a short film that takes the theme of post-war reconstruction as its inspiration.

“This is an extremely topical theme. In a society that is constantly in flux, it is important that we take a good look at ourselves, how we treat others and how we can build a society together. These projects bring together ideas that concern reconstruction in surprising ways; the ability of cities and people to constantly renew,” according to IFFR festival director Bero Beyer.

The starting point for the short films is Rotterdam as a crossroads for many different cultures. Four international filmmakers will each tell a story of (young) people about to complete one phase of their lives and embark upon a new one in Rotterdam. The following filmmakers have boarded the project: Daniel Aragão from Brazil (**I Swear I'll Leave This Town**); Ying Liang from China (**When Night Falls**); Mira Fornay from Slovakia (**My Dog Killer**); Yassine El Idrissi from Morocco (**The Iranian Film**).

Two Dutch filmmakers, Guido van Driel (**The Resurrection of a Bastard**) and Aboozar Amini (**KabulTehranKabul**), will both make films from the opposite perspective, starting at the moment of arrival of people who have left their homes to start anew somewhere else – and help shape the future of that city.

This is Where Reconstruction Starts is produced by IFFR in coproduction with Smarthouse Films and in cooperation with Warnier_Posta and Haghefilm.

(End of press release)

Note for the editors, not for publication:

For further information, images and/or requests for an interview with one or more of the filmmakers, contact IFFR Press Office, Maria Lam/Laura Talsma press@iffr.com, +31 (0) 10 890 90 90, +31 (0)6 30 44 44 29.

For further information and/or images of *Rotterdam Celebrates the City!*, contact Ingrid Adriaanse, press officer: ingrid@rotterdamfestivals.nl, +31 (0)6 45 81 08 95.

For four decades, IFFR has proudly developed and presented auteur cinema by helping filmmakers reach the broadest possible audiences. The festival is known around the world for its individual, innovative programming, with particular attention to talented new filmmakers. Quality films from all over the world are presented in Rotterdam to a large, international audience with the aim of inspiring and broadening horizons.

IFFR is one of the biggest cultural events in the Netherlands, and one of the biggest audience-oriented film festivals in the world. The 45th IFFR will take place from Wednesday, 27 January to Sunday 7 February 2016. For twelve days, the latest feature films, documentaries, short films, exhibitions, performances, talkshows and debates make Rotterdam an exciting, global capital city of film. Official ticket sales start on Friday 22 January. For more information, see IFFR.com

About Rotterdam Celebrates the City!

In 2015/2016, Rotterdam celebrates 75 years of reconstruction with a cultural programme: *Rotterdam Celebrates the City!* Taking post-war reconstruction as a source of inspiration, this celebration will present an ode to the old city, celebrate the new city and build for the city of the future. Set against the backdrop of the architectural icons that have put Rotterdam on the international map, the programme will now focus on the city's people and exceptional culture. The programme will bring together a collection of stories of people who made the city what is, who are still making it now and who will make it in the future. A city that continues to create itself anew. These stories form the core of the programming and the common thread running through an exceptional set of signposts through the city. The programme runs until 31 July 2016. Keep up to date with developments at www.rotterdamviert.destad.nl.

About Smarthouse Films

Smarthouse Films produces feature films, documentaries and commercials, always with an international focus. The experimental film **The Common Sense** by Canadian artist Melanie Gilligan was coproduced in 2014 and screened at De Appel, De Hallen and Casco. The Short Films **Onderstroom** (2012, Gouden Calf Competition) and **Nog tien minuten** (2014, winner Cannes Short Film Festival) were both released in cinemas. **Sea Gypsies**, the first documentary of Smarthouse Films, is in the postproduction phase and beginning next year the filming of the road movie **La Holandesa** will start in Chili. Smarthouse Films is founded by Danielle Guirguis, who previously produced **Spijt, Razend** and **De groeten van Mike**, and was involved in the production of **Komt een vrouw bij de dokter, De gelukkige huisvrouw** and **Zwartboek**. More information, www.smarthousefilms.nl.