



oerdak

Poem in Progress



Oerdak – Poem in Progress is a portrait of the creation of a poem by poet Elmar Kuiper. The film is not only about the process of creation itself, but also about how Elmar relates to his bilingual background.

He grew up with the Friesian language, but is bilingual in his head.

Distribution
MEMPHIS FILM & TELEVISION
Maliebaan 24-26 3581 CP Utrecht The Netherlands
T. +31 30 233 20 23 F. +31 30 231 04 09
www.memphisfilm.net info@memphisfilm.net

Oerdak - Poem in Progress

Oerdak – Poem in Progress is an unusual 30-minute Friesian Dutch documentary about the promising Friesian-Dutch poet Elmar Kuiper.

The film is a portrait about the poet's approach. From the very first words through the audible commentary and self-reflection right up to the final completion of the Dutch-language poem and its public recitation.

The film is not only about the creative process in itself, but also about how Elmar comes to terms with his bilingual self. He grew up with Friesian, but is bilingual in his head. After several anthologies in the Friesian language, his first Dutch-language anthology appeared recently. The creative approach of Elmar Kuiper is typified by his cycle rides between the several places where he works. The film shows how the poet finds peace and inspiration in the Friesian landscape.

Oerdak – Poem in Progress is a cinematographic, and poetic documentary focusing on detail, rhythm and tranquillity. The viewer is given a unique opportunity to see the birth of a poem.

Pim Zwier (1970) was trained as a teacher in drawing and crafts and studied at the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam. Zwier worked for several initiatives for visual art in the public space and works as a filmmaker and visual artist.

Director Pim Zwier has made some beautiful and succesful films. His short documentary Bidcatcher won Best Documentary Award at the Finnish Tampere Film Festival 2008 and was nominated in the NPS New Arrivals Competition. The short documentary Jolanda 23 was nominated for the UIP Award during the International Film Festival Rotterdam and won the prize for best short documentary at the Lago Film Festival, Italy. His short film Sutrapeze premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2010.

Elmar Kuiper (1969) is a psychiatric nurse, visual artist and poet. He has published one collection of poems, Hertbyt (2004), which earned him a nomination for the Fedde Schurerprijs, a prize for Friesian debut writers. A selection of his Friesian poems appeared at the end of 2006 in Dutch translation, under the title Roep de rottweiler op!/Call the rottweiler! Last January the anthology Hechtzwaluwen/Clinging Swallows appeared. Hechtzwaluwen is nominated for this years C. Bunnigh prize, an award for best Dutch poetry debut.

Director Pim Zwier about Oerdak - Poem in Progress

My years of friendship with Elmar have made it possible to follow the development of his poetry from close by. The friendship also made it possible for me to get close to him with a camera and, as a result, to acquire a very special insight into the birth of a poem: into his choices and despair. The film also reflects the affection I feel for the Friesian language. I was not born there, but I did grow up in Friesland and it is a language that sounds familiar to me.

I have become a lover of Elmar's work in which association plays an important role. He combines words one never otherwise sees together, for instance "Hechtzwaluwen/Clinging Swallows", the title of his latest anthology, and these combinations seem at first sight ordinary and commonplace, but are in reality surprising and very rich. His poetry can give me the impression that a sentence has ended, but unexpectedly continues on the next line and takes a turn. If I start reading a poem, I don't know where it will take me, but on the way it evokes all kinds of associations and images. The associative power of Elmar's poetry evokes intense experiences and visual effects.

The film is my portrayal of the thoughts that Elmar turns into words. I use images to reflect the abstraction of the thought into a series of physical actions (writing, cycling, recitation), material aspects (texture of the poet's skin, the paper of the booklets and the drawings) and impressions of the direct surroundings in which they came about (the living room/study, the library in Leeuwarden and the Friesian landscape).

OERDAK/ Netherlands / 2010 / 30' / 16:9 / Dolby prologic / Dutch and Friesian spoken / Dutch or English subtitling

Credits

research, script & director Pim Zwier

camera Aage Hollander

camera assistant Dirk - Jan Kerkkamp

sound Menno Euwe

Marc Schmidt

grip Martijn Koot
poetry and monologue Elmar Kuiper
editor Riekje Ziengs

Pim Zwier

sound design & mix Klink, Paul Gies grading Jef Grosfeld

post production Loods, Lux & Lumen

translation Technicolor

Martin Cleaver Susan Massotty

still photography Aldwin van Krimpen

production assistent Irene de Mol
production Eline van Wees
commissioning editor Omrop Fryslân Thom Verheul
producers Sherman De Jesus

Cécile van Eijk

to Maya

With special thanks to Saskia Zeinstra, Brecht, Wieger en Fardau

Melvin van Eldik, Anne Feddema, Gonny Gaakeer, Sas Jepkema, Welmoed Kuiper, Grytsje Schaaf, Jetze de Vries, Maya Zack, Cam-a-lot, Debatcentrum De Bres Leeuwarden, Bibliotheek Leeuwarden, kaats association: Keatsferiening Húns-Leons

OERDAK – Poem in Progress
A Memphis Film & Television production

is produced with support from the Dutch Cultural Media Fund, province of Fryslân, Je Maintiendrai Fund and Douwe Kalma Stifting







a coproduction of

MEMPHIS FILM & TELEVISION en OMROP FRYSLÂN





www.memphisfilm.net

www.omropfryslan.nl

© MMIX Memphis Film & Television / Omrop Fryslän