

ONGELETTERD - ILLITERATE

LOGLINE

ONGELETTERD (Illiterate) provides a striking picture of the limited world of Anneke, a young woman who can hardly read. Bravely and brimming with emotions she tackles the task of learning to read and write. An irreversible sense of pride and liberation takes over and she can embark on a new future.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Anneke, a young woman, worries about her low level of literacy that limits her ability to function normally in every way: at work, in relationships and coping with household expenditure. Bravely and brimming with emotion she tackles the task of escaping from this straitjacket. She takes evening classes to learn to read and write better. An irreversible sense of pride and liberation takes over and she can embark on a new future.

SYNOPSIS

Anneke (29) had difficulty keeping up at school. After playing truant a lot, she left school prematurely. Since then she has wrestled with her low level of literacy: her reading, writing and arithmetic are way below par.

Anneke earns her living in a local supermarket. Her boss Thea is demanding and interferes with all her simple tasks. At the same time, she encourages her to go back to school, to evening classes. Bravely and brimming with emotions Anneke tackles the task of learning to read and write. She was faced with many dictations, lots of homework and practical work. The safe surroundings of the classroom with her fellows and the teacher Willemijn make sure she perseveres.

With the aid of her job coach, Anneke successfully applies for a job at a large supermarket. For the first time in her life she writes a letter resigning from the old job all on her own; after letting her friend Abduhl correct it, she hands it to Thea with mixed feelings of pride and sadness.

Once she starts her new job, Anneke has to live up to all kinds of targets. Simultaneously cleaning, filling shelves and manning the check-out is hard for her.

At the same time, Anneke is having to clear her debts: her ex-boyfriend spent all their money on drugs. Once she is finally free of debt, her new future can finally start. She dreams of one day getting a driving licence, so that she can start a courier service. And in a way she would also love to have children. "But in another way I don't think I do, because my level is so low and I don't want to make my children function in society, because that's hard," she argues.

ONGELETTERD (Illiterate) provides a striking picture of the limited world of Anneke as an irreversible sense of pride and liberation takes over as she learns to read and write.

BACKGROUND

About a quarter of a million people in Holland cannot read or write. And a much larger group, about 1.5 million, has great difficulty reading and writing. These people with a low level of literacy function less well at work, at home and in society. The economic consequences of low literacy are enormous. Banishing it would save society half a billion euros.

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CREDITS

Directing & scenario Chris Westendorp
Camera Sal Kroonenberg
Editing Stefan Kamp
Sound editing Jan Willem van den Brink
Production Eline van Wees
NCRV Producer Yolande van der Blij
NCRV Commissioning editor Jelle Peter de Ruiter
Producer Memphis Film & Television / Cécile van Eijk & Sherman De Jesus

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

After studying communication, Chris Westendorp (1969) attended the Dutch Film and Television Academy. Her graduation film WESTWOOD LOVES YOU won a prize in 2001 at the Dutch Internet Film Festival. Together with Remco Packbiers, she made the documentary CAMPING DE MARS (2002). Recently she took part twice in the TV drama series ONE NIGHT STAND for new makers: She wrote the screenplay for ZOENEN OF SCHOPPEN (Kissing or Kicking, 2004) and was responsible for the script and directing of AFDWALEN (Roaming, 2006).