

## **Curriculum Vitae ROLF ORTHEL**

1936 The Hague, The Netherlands. Gymnasium B (1954); IDHEC Paris, editing (1958-1960) (Institut Des Hautes Etudes Cinematographiques). Assistant-director (1961-1971, intermittent) of Bert Haanstra. From 1966 on he works as a filmmaker, director, producer, documentary teacher.

Direction and/or production of a great number of documentary films for a.o. the Dutch Government Information Service (RVD) / the Astma Fund / the Red Cross / the Ministry of Cultural Affairs / Television broadcasting companies as IKON, NPS, VARA, VPRO, NCRV etc.

Member of the Dutch Arts Council, sections film, experiments and general board (1973-1985). Member of the board of the Production Fund for Dutch Feature Films (1980-1985). Co-founder and member of the board of the Dutch Film Fund (1983-1984).

Documentary teacher Dutch Film Academy Amsterdam (NFTA) (1974-1975 and 1987-1998). Deputy-director (1987-1991) and interim-director (1991) NFTA.

Boardmember and co-organiser of the Visions and Triangle Workshops of the association of European film schools GEECT (1993-2002).

Chairman of the scriptwriting training programme SOURCES2, supported by MEDIA (1996 -). Documentary teacher at the Filmschool in Vienna (intermittent) (1999 -).

### **Documentary filmmaker** (direction and production)

His most well-known films are:

- SHADOW OF A DOUBT (Een Schijn van Twijfel). About the inmates and SS people from concentration camps. Grand Prix, Prize of NRWestfalen and two mentions in Oberhausen, Prizes in Grenoble, Teheran. (1975)
- DR. EDUARD WIRTHS, STANDORTARZT AUSCHWITZ . Prize of the town of Florence, Second Prize Prix d'Italia. (1976)
- ANTARCTICA, A TICKET TO ETERNITY. An essay on travel to Antarctica and changes in the notion of 'adventure'; in coöperation with the British Antarctic Survey. (1996)
- BLOIS - COULEUR LOCALE. (co-production with IKON Television). A feature length documentary about the making of 33 windows by dutch artist Jan Dibbets for the cathedral in Blois, and 26 short stories about the inhabitants of this French town. (2001)
- ENTERING GERMANY. A documentary on the thoughts of Ab van Dien, who survived WW2 as a jew in hiding, and about his changing attitude towards the Germans.
- BABEL 'YOU MUST KNOW EVERYTHING' from the series 'Cinéma Invisible', about the life and work of the Russian writer Isaac Babel (1894 - 1940).

**Producer of appr. 70 documentaries** on a great variety of subjects, from historical to social ones. A selection:

- DONNA, Yvonne Scholten. Women's lives in the feminist movement in Italy. (1978)
- THE ARCHIVES (Het Archief) (1979) and BIGTOWN (Grootstad) (1980), on relief org. ;
- THE THEATRE OF MEMORY (Theater van het Geheugen). Berlin refugees in Holland (1981);
- THE GREEN CLOUD (Een wolk van Groen). Portrait of the Dutch weekly 'De Groene Amsterdammer' and its readers (1990). All films directed by Kees Hin.
- THE MOUNTAIN (De Berg) Gerrard Verhage. The history of five old communists, that remained faithful to the party, or lost their faith or were thrown out. (1981)

- DZIKOW STARY, Hans Fels. The story of a Jewish family spread over the world, originating from this little village in Poland. (1984)
- PACIFIC, PARADISE IN PAIN, Otto Schuurman. The economical, social and cultural developments in that area as seen from five small islands. (1985)
- PART TIME GOD by Paul Cohen. A computer-quest for the meaning of life. (1991/92)
- LOST & FOUND, THE JOURNEY OF THE ARK , Marije Meerman. A group of dutch protestant aid workers and an orthodox Jew from Amsterdam battle to recover an Aron Hakodesh (Holy Ark) which was found in the attic of a church in Transsylvania. (1998)
- OTHER THOUGHTS 3 (1997), LUZ Y SOMBRA (1998), SHANGHAI RUMBA FROM CUBA (2002) Short films by artist-filmmaker Henri Plaat.

**Producer of feature films.** A selection:

- ANITA, by Rassoul Labuchin, about childrens lives in a Haitian village. (1982)
- TURKISH VIDEO (Turkse Video), by Otakar Votocek. Golden Kalf for the best short feature, First prize at the Tampere Filmfestival and the French Filmprize (Mention de Qualité) and the Grand Prix du court métrage in Vénissieux France. (1985)
- SECOND WIND (Afzien) by Gerrard Verhage. Six friends in their early thirties; a film about self-hate, the love for mothers, and the 'glorification' of nuclear war. (1986)
- MINDSHADOWS (Hersenschimmen) a Dutch-Canadian coproduction directed by Heddy Honigmann, based on the bestseller by J. Bernlef. A man slowly loses his memory but fights to keep the memories that connect him to his life . Various prizes. (1987)
- YOUR OPINION PLEASE (Uw Mening Graag) directed by Heddy Honigmann. Short film about how a young woman puts up her own sex-appeal for trial. Best Actress Dutch Film Festival. (1988)
- CROCODILES IN AMSTERDAM (Krokodillen in Amsterdam) directed by Annette Apon. A comedy about an unlikely friendship between two girls. (1989)
- SHADOWLAND (Het Schaduwrijk) directed by Kees Hin. A lighthearted yet melancholic fairy tale about a girl who tries to rediscover her lost youth. (1992)
- BECK, THE LOCKED ROOM (Beck, De Gesloten Kamer) Dutch-Belgium co-production, by Jacob Bijl, based on the novel 'The Locked Room' by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö. Foremost the portrait of chief inspector Martin Beck, in a complex police-drama. (1993)
- BELLE VAN ZUYLEN (co-production with SNG Film) by Digna Sinke. (1993)
- A SILENT TRAVELLER by Ibrahim Selman. A Kurdish family story. (1994)
- THE COMPLI-MEN by Truus Melissen. Six short films for children. (1994)
- CINÉMA INVISIBLE - THE BOOK (2005) by Kees Hin, based upon the book "Anthologie du Cinéma Invisible". (2005)