



[The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus \(NIASD\)](#)  
[proudly presents the Dutch film “Leef!” - the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2006](#)



- Arabic subtitles
- Evening starts at 19:45
- Free tickets available at NIASD
- ‘Leef!’ won 4 Prizes at the Netherlands Film Festival (2005)

**Leef!** – Anna is a vital woman in her early forties with a busy existence. She has her own midwife practice, is married with Paul and has two young, adolescent daughters: Isabelle, who has a problem with her heart, and rebellious Robin, who is freely experimenting with life. Encouraged by her colleague Gregor, Anna takes up an old passion again: writing. By means of autobiographical sketches she tries to come to terms with her past. In particular the relation with her dominant, cold-hearted mother Sybille, once a renowned actrice, has prevented Anna to fully live her life. Her writings about her past, which she allows others to read, have much more effects on her life than she could have foreseen when she started writing. Something is set in motion which cannot be stopped anymore...

In this powerful film the life of a Dutch family in modern Holland is uncompromisingly laid bare, unfolding a web of extremely tensed relations, fights and personal escapes. The future of this family, and indeed the very sense of family life, seems to be put at stake. In spite of all harshness and appearances, however, ‘Leef!’ essentially is also a very moving



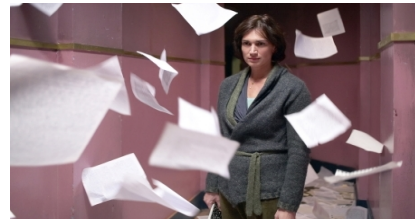
account of the personal struggles of these family members in a highly individualistic society, to come to terms with a family past, and, finally, to find each other again.

**Film director: Willem van de Sande Bakhuyzen.** Willem van de Sande Bakhuyzen, born in 1957, has studied law for three years, but abandoned his studies to dedicate himself to his passion: theatre. He made his acting debut in Dutch movie 'The Assault' (1986), the only Dutch movie ever to win both an Academy Award and a Golden Globe, but he decided that he preferred directing rather than acting. His directing debut came in 1990, with a TV series '12 cities, 13 accidents'. In total he directed 16 movies in his career. His film 'Touch' (2001) and his TV movie 'The Enclave' (2001) have been nominated for an Emmy Award. Willem

van de Sande Bakhuyzen had already been diagnosed with terminal cancer before 'Leef!' was shot. Co-director Mr. Jean van de Velde was attracted to replace him, if there would be a need for that. Willem van de Sande Bakhuyzen did manage to complete 'Leef!' by himself, but died one day before its première, on September 27, 2005. His very last film 'I embrace you with a thousand arms' was left unfinished.



**Prizes for 'Leef!'.** Golden Calf, Audience Award, Special Jury Prize and Youth Award at the Netherlands Film Festival (2005).



**Free tickets for 'Leef!'.** For our limited number of seats free tickets are available, to be picked up at NIASD (East Mezzeh, Farabi Street 85). Info: telephone: 61249790, e-mail: [assistant@niasd.org](mailto:assistant@niasd.org).

