



**The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD) proudly presents Oscar winning Dutch movie “Karakter” on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2006**



\*) **Location:** Damascus, East Mezzeh, Farabi Street 85 (close to the Greek Embassy)

\*) **Time:** Evening starts at 19:45 hours!

\*) **Language:** Dutch, with Arabic Subtitles!

**Karakter.** Set in the city of Rotterdam in the 20s, this continuously intriguing movie tells the story of two strong and tortured characters (father and son) whose love for each other emerges only through conflict and competition. Young law clerk Jacob Willem Katadreuffe finances his studies with money lent from the usher and rack-renter Dreverhaven, who is widely hated by the poor in Rotterdam because of his hard business practices. Unaware of the fact that Dreverhaven is in fact his father, Katadreuffe is confronted with hard and peculiar character building efforts of Dreverhaven, like attempts to bankrupt him. Katadreuffe however does strike back and takes Dreverhaven to court. After continuously growing conflict, young Katadreuffe finally finds himself in the position of a murder suspect. Apart from powerful psychological drama, the film ‘Karakter’ paints a very clear and marvellously detailed picture of the interbellum time period in Holland, with all its social tensions.





**Filmdirector: Mike van Diem.** Former student of Dutch language & literature, Mike van Diem (1959) started to develop his directorial talent in the student theater by staging classic plays like *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *Bride in the Morning*. A movie buff since his early teens, he quit university to work as a film critic before enrolling at The Dutch Film and Television Academy in 1987. He graduated after writing and directing the 45-minute psychological thriller “Alaska” the first student film to ever win a Golden Calf at the Netherlands Film Festival. Before working on ‘Karakter’, Van Diem directed a prestigious Dutch lawyers’ series for tv.

**Prizes for ‘Karakter’ (selection).** Oscar (Academy Awards, 1998) for the best foreign language film; Golden Kalf (1997) at the Netherlands Film Festival; Grand Prix and Best Actor Awards at the Paris Film Festival (1998); AFI Fest Grand Jury Prize (1997).



**Free Entrance.** Entrance at NIASD is free. We kindly ask you to contact our assistant to tell us on which day and with how many persons you will come: phone. 61249790, email: [assistant@niasd.org](mailto:assistant@niasd.org).

