

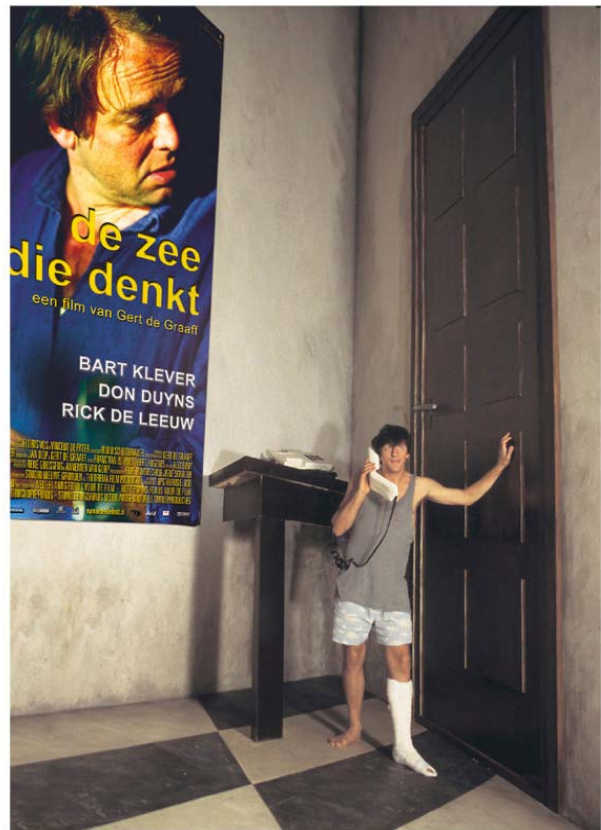


The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD) proudly presents Dutch feature film “De zee die denkt” - the 25th and 26th of October, 2006

Damascus, East Mezzeh, Farabi Street 85
(close to the Greek Embassy)

Evening starts at 19:45 hours.

Dutch language – Arabic Subtitles.



De zee die denkt (The Sea That Thinks). This is a film brimming with twists and turns and new angles. It focuses on Bart, a scriptwriter who is writing the script for this film. In the film, Bart himself plays the scriptwriter writing the script of “the sea that thinks”. He types what he does and does what he types. In his film, he finds the answer to the urgent question: how do we become happy? He uses stunning examples to show us that our world is only to be found in our consciousness. What is real and what is illusion? Do we believe in our dream world while we dream? Do we believe in the reality of film while we see it? In a game filled with optical illusions and continually changing points of view, the surprised viewers gradually find out they are looking at themselves: how do I observe? What do I assume to be true? What do I think I see? What do I think I am? Film director Gert de Graaff: I think the question “what's it all about?” is always the wrong question. A question like that results from all those Hollywood movies in which film is often only a spoon used to feed the story to the viewer. Don't tell them, show them! If it could be done with words, it would be a lot cheaper and simpler to put it down on paper and publish it. “The sea that thinks” has something to say in images. *Don't read this; go and watch it, the film is primarily an experience!* My film does however show a story with a beginning and an end, because I certainly didn't want to make an experimental film. My film anticipates experiences the viewer will have while watching. The viewer keeps falling for it. He is deceived and taken for a ride. And I hope and expect him to enjoy it. Myself, I always think that is exciting and humorous. Not really knowing what you are watching. Is it a documentary? Is it fiction? Or is it real? How do I know for sure that what I see is true? *Don't click here!!!*



Filmdirector: Gert de Graaff. Gert de Graaff (1957) finished his studies at the Dutch Film and Television Academy in 1987 (cum laude) and worked as an editor for the Dutch Television Services since then. In his spare time he worked, for thirteen years, on “The Sea that Thinks”.

Prizes for 'De zee die denkt'. Jorens Ivens Award (IDFA, The Netherlands 2000); Don Quijote Plaque Special Mention, and the Golden Key Award for Best Cinematography (Art Film Festival Trenclanske Teplice, Slovakia 2001); Experimental Feature Award (Daghlonega International Film Festival, USA 2001); Grand Prize Best Experimental Feature (Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA 200) Best First Feature Film Award based on Originality & Experimentation (Wine Country International Film Award, USA, 2001) Nomination for the European Discovery of the Year Award, at the European Film Awards (European Film Academy 2001).

Quotes. "Extremely cleverly cut film" (het Parool); "Beautiful exercise in creating images" (NRC Handelsblad); "A plea for an open mind" (de Volkskrant); "Intriguing film about itself, full of double entendres and beautifully visualised illusions" (de Telegraaf); "Memorable and confusing images, in the best possible way" (Trouw).

Free Entrance. Entrance at NIASD is free. We kindly ask you however to call or email our assistant before and tell us on which day and with how many persons you come: 61249790, assistant@niasd.org

