



HONDS

a film by JOSEFIEN VAN KOOTEN



DIRECTOR JOSEFIEN VAN KOOTEN CINEMATOGRAPHER DAVID SPAANS SOUND GERBEN KOKMEIJER, MARK THUR EDITING NICOLE HALOVÁ SOUND DESIGN WIEBE DE BOER POST PRODUCTION AMATOR TRANSLATION VIAN PAASHUIS TRANSLATION & SUBTITLING INVISION
COACH JOOST SELEN PRODUCTION ASSISTANT ANNA WITTE LINE PRODUCER TON VAN ZANTVOORT, ANNEROSE LANGEVELD CREATIVE PRODUCER TON VAN ZANTVOORT PRODUCTION COMPANY NEWTON FILM COMMISSIONING EDITOR KRO-NCRV JELLE PETER DE RUITER
PRODUCER DOCUMENTARIES KRO-NCRV YOLANDE VAN DER BLIJ PRODUCER ASSISTANT KRO-NCRV LEONIE VAN ZANTEN THE NETHERLANDS FILM FUND SUZANNE VAN VOORST, MIRIAM BAL, JOLIJN VAN REES, DORIJN VAN DE PAS COBO JEANINE HAGE, PETER VAN BEEK, CHRISTEL RIENKS
THIS FILM IS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF TELEDOC CAMPUS WITH THE SUPPORT FROM NPO, COBO, NPO FUND AND THE NETHERLANDS FILM FUND © 2020 newtonfilm.nl/honds



director: Josefien van Kooten

production: NEWTON film

contact producer: Ton van Zantvoort / info@newtonfilm.nl , 0031641039081

screener: <http://vimeo.com/newtonfilm/honds>

password: on request

trailer: <https://vimeo.com/newtonfilm/hondstrailer>

language: Dutch

subtitles: Dutch, English

length: 26 minutes

audio: 5.1 / stereo

format: DCP, h264

ISAN 0000-0005-B03C-0000-E-0000-0000-W

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12767080/>

premiere: 40th Dutch Film Festival in Golden Calf Competition | sept 26, 11:00 Kinepolis

Tv premiere: 25 October 23:00 KRO-NCRV NPO3

Logline:

During a dog training the tension between love, control and powerlessness becomes visible in the reflection between man and dog.



Click on the picture to download High resolution still

Synopsis

People that have problems with their dog come to dog whisperer Ron for help. Their dogs often cause many problems; they refuse to listen, show anxious behaviour, or are aggressive and bite. It seems not the dogs, but the owners themselves that need further training. In observing long shots we see how dog owners struggle with the complex relationship between man and animal. The love for our dogs often runs deep, but so does our wish (and necessity) to make them obey us; which might only be possible if we become more like a dog ourselves.



Director Josefien van Kooten (1984)



Filmography

- 2016 Documentary (25min): 'Good People' (co-director Anna Witte)
- 2014 Documentary (26 min): 'Polish for Beginners' (co-director Anna Witte)
- 2011 Documentary (27 min): 'All the Pretty Little Horses' (graduate film)

Biography

Josefien van Kooten started her study in the fine arts department of the St. Joost Academy of Breda in The Netherlands. After two years she switched to the film department and focused on the art of documentary making. Her work shows the free approach of an artist, but also the will to tell a story that is important to her, and the world. In her films Josefien always takes on a very unique and personal view with a deep connection to social matters. Her work shows a love for philosophy which, for her, is in the beauty of always seeing the duality in the world that never fits a ready made answer.

Biography

Josefien van Kooten started her study in the fine arts department of the St. Joost Academy of Breda in The Netherlands. After two years she switched to the film department and focused on the art of documentary making. Her work shows the free approach of an artist, but also the will to tell a story that is important to her, and the world. In her films Josefien always takes on a very unique and personal view with a deep connection to social matters. Her work shows a love for philosophy which, for her, is in the beauty of always seeing the duality in the world that never fits a ready made answer.

Directors Statement

Growing up, I always wanted a dog. To me, it felt like one of the greatest bonds to have. Three years ago I finally got my first dog: A terribly sweet but stubborn husky, who immediately became an important part of my life. As I started training with him, I saw myself standing on a field, giving commands like a waste of breath, and boiling with frustration. I was torn between the love I felt for this creature and my own impotence (and also unwillingness) to control him. Rather I wanted him to be free, let him just be the animal he is, but I also wanted him near as my friend and companion. It felt like two worlds colliding, the animal and the human world, but there was also a conflict between control and freedom. Here I found my inspiration for making 'HONDS'. The main theme I wanted to examine was the meaning and possibilities of control. During the writing and filming of 'HONDS' I myself was dealing with great uncertainties in life. Because of a previous illness my kidneys stopped working, and I either needed dialysis or have a transplant. This was caused by a recurring autoimmune disease that I've been dealing with since I was 19 years old. My illness always gave me a strong sense of 'not having control' and also made me reluctant in taking it. Strangely enough, I always felt much freedom during the moments in which I was so sick that I needed to hand over all control. Being very sick, lying in a hospital bed, having to surrender to the knowledge of the doctors; something that was completely out of my hands. The reflection between humans and dogs was an interesting starting point for me to further explore this topic of control. Dogs follow their instinct; they react without thinking or controlling their behaviour. They see, feel and act. We admire them for it and see them as free creatures. On the other hand they are the ones that need to adjust and live by our rules; in The Netherlands there are no dogs roaming free and they are solely restricted to being humans' best friend. Subsequently, we are their bosses. We love them, nurture them and take care of them and are responsible for them. Through long, observing shots I wanted to show the complicated relationship that arises between humans and dogs because of it. In seeing people struggle with their dogs, I want to show it is actually not the lack of control over the dog, but the powerlessness in people's own lives which becomes visible. To what extent can we develop the control what we are looking for? And do we actually need to? In 'HONDS' I hope to make it palpable that dogs live under our conditions, always needing to adjust to our world, but also show the arising question that maybe we, as humans, should actually adjust and become more dog-like to gain some of that control, and therefore freedom, that we are looking for.

Credits

Special thanks to Nikita & Chilli
Jozef & Scott
Sonja & Toby
Andrew, Emmelie & Rosa
Ron
Sharon
Loki

Director Josefien van Kooten

Cinematographer David Spaans
Sound Gerben Kokmeijer
Mark Thur
Editing Nicole Hálová

Sound design Wiebe de Boer
Post production Amator
Translation Vian Paashuis
Translation & subtitling Marion du Fossé

Directing & editing coach Joost Seelen
Production assistant Anna Witte
Line producer Ton van Zantvoort
Annerose Langeveld
Producer Ton van Zantvoort
Production company NEWTON film

Commissioning editor KRO-NCRV Jelle Peter de Ruiter
Producer documentaries KRO-NCRV Yolande van der Blij
Producer assistant KRO-NCRV Leonie van Zanten

The Netherlands Film Fund Suzanne van Voorst
Mirjam Bal
Jolijn van Rees
Dorien van de Pas

CoBO Jeanine Hage
Peter van Beek
Christel Rienks

Gerti, Alexandra & Mike, Clair, Renate, A. Graafmans
Fleur, Katja & Dimitri, Khloe, V.M. de Bruijn, fam. de
Bruyn
Colette, Lorraine, Getty, Lavendra, Denise Stopen
Lonneke, Lotte, Ben, Peter, D.T.M.J. van Laarhoven
Mark & Desiree, Leo, Karin, Irma, Tiny, Ger, Marie-
Charlotte,
A. Voerman, F.M. Vastbinder, fm. van der Heijden, Dirk,
Kim & Marij, Diana, Annemieke & Erik, Ellen, Lou Lou,
fam. van Mourik, Sacha, Anke, Nette, Mark, Roy &
Michelle,
Belinda, Wim & Els, Ruth, Veerle, Bas, Corry & Nick,
Thanks to Iris & Carina, Jolanda, I. Tyink

This film is made in the context of Teledoc Campus with the support from NPO, CoBO, NPO Fund
and the Netherlands Film Fund

© 2020 KRO-NCRV / NEWTON film

Click on the picture to download High resolution still



Download high resolution art work

Poster vertical (ENG)

https://newtonfilm.nl/HONDS-press/HONDS__ENG_Vertical.jpg

Flyer landscape (ENG)

https://newtonfilm.nl/HONDS-press/HONDS__ENG_Landscape.jpg

Square (ENG)

https://newtonfilm.nl/HONDS-press/HONDS__ENG_Landscape.jpg

HONDS - Still 03 (Nikita home) https://newtonfilm.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Honds_still_03.jpg

HONDS - Still 04 Chillii https://newtonfilm.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Honds_still_04.jpg

HONDS - Sonja and dogs https://newtonfilm.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Honds_still_07.jpg

HONDS - Jozef end https://newtonfilm.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Honds_still_08.jpg

