

PAL AV - motion pictures presents

a short film by HIBA VINK

Ode i Ober

featuring **JOOP KEESMAAT** and Mo Marcus † Margriet Middel † Roelant Radier † Nelleke Zitman
Hunter Bussemaker † Stefanie Stokmans † Karel van Laere † Ellie Zomer † Stephan Evenblij † Arjen Lubach
Chantal Hompe † Roos Hoogland † Habi Vonk † Dion Vincken † Sabine van Boven † Bente van Grol † Peter Blank
d.o.p. Wouter Westendorp † 1st a.d. Marijn Braad † art direction Koert Scholman † light Erik de Wildt
sound Cees van der Knaap † editor Annelies van Woerden † music Frank Wienk † sound design Alex Tugushin
production manager Saskia van der Tas † post production Dany Delvoie † additional production NSG Works



Pal AV - motion pictures



presents

a Jos van der Pal production

of a short film by

Hiba Vink

de ber

('Awaiterpraise')

featuring

Joop Keesmaat as 'the waiter'



Joop Keesmaat, the 2006 winner of the prestigious Louis d'Or award, stars in Hiba Vink's short fiction film 'Ode Ober' ('Awaiterpraise').

SYNOPSIS - short

Meet the waiter, eternally supplying perfect strangers with food and drinks. His murmured maelstrom of acute observations reveals an acquired omniscience regarding his clients' preferences and character traits. On an otherwise ordinary day, something makes him ponder the concept of life beyond the doors of the restaurant. 'Ode Ober' ('Awaiterpraise') offers a glimpse of the neigh mystical universe of those who wait.

SYNOPSIS - long

The restaurant is ready to receive the evening guests, but the candles haven't been lit yet and the head waiter is still chewing away on his own meal. He is contemplating the usual list of clients that have reserved their tables, when suddenly an unknown young woman appears in the door opening.

Without further ado, the young woman and some of her friends are guided to their table by one of the waiter's colleagues. The restaurant is in full swing now and the head waiter is - quite literally - in more than one place at the same time.

The group of friends, as well as a quarreling couple and a celebrating family with an overly loud father, are being mentally dissected by the waiter, while at the same time he caters to their every whim. The other servants on their part can't seem to fathom their much older colleague, who practices his trade as if it were some higher form of art. At some point during the evening 'though, a row at the family's table catches him off guard. How about quitting his job? What's there to keep him from walking out the door.. like right now? And what's this thing with the unknown young woman?

CREDIT LIST

Pal AV – motion pictures
presents
a Hiba Vink film
with Joop Keesmaat



Written and directed by
Production
Director of Photography
Sound
Editing
Music

Hiba Vink
Jos van der Pal
Wouter Westendorp
Cees van der Knaap
Annelies van Woerden
Frank Wienk



'Espresso woman'
Unhappy couple

Lovers

Stumbling woman
Chef de cuisine
Cook
Dish washer
Waitresses' boyfriends

Waiter
Waitresses

Father
Mother
Son
Daughter
Boyfriend
Grandmother
Busybody
'Duvel man'
Woman with earrings
Pregnant woman

Joop Keesmaat
Mo Marcus
Margriet Middel
Roelant Radier
Nelleke Zitman
Hunter Bussemaker
Stefanie Stokmans
Karel van Laere
Ellie Zomer
Stephan Evenblij
Arjen Lubach
Chantal Hompe
Roos Hoogland

Habi Vonk
Dion Vincken
Sabine van Boven
Bente van Grol
Peter Blank
Saskia van der Tas
Pieter Grandiek
Niels Rijn
Ben de Niet
Dave van Manen
Robert-Jan Vernooij



Production manager
Production support
1st AD
Set assistant
2nd AD & post production
co-ordinator
Continuity
Casting advice
Gaffer
Lighting technicians

Focus pullers

Saskia van der Tas
NSG Works
Marijn Braad
Lennart Barewijk

Dany Delvoie
Wikje van Ritbergen
Edith Hazelebach
Erik de Wildt
Alexander Colson
Bram van Woudenberg
Carline Hansen
Patrick Dekker
Niels Roosendaal
Jorrit Huisman

Grip	Bart Blankenzee
Art director	Koert Scholman
Props	Wouter van de Wetering
Set dressers	Daan Kmiecik
	Julien van Collem
	Rijkhart Mees
Costume design	Roxane Delvoie
Dress woman	Verity Leake
Make-up	Casandra Hernandez
	Joyce de Wit
	Sanne Oud
Catering	Josine ten Cate
Production assistants	Joël Duinkerke
	Gelske Mout
Sound design	Alex Tugushin
Color grading	David van Tetering
Title design	Miguel Visser
Laboratory	Color by De Jonghe
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	Mr. & Mrs. Schoos
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	Kodak
	The Postoffice
	Duis Transport, Harry Duis
	Arjen Slings
	Arnold Eveleens
	Café-restaurant Schlemmer
	Gert-Jan Zuurmond
	Granny Tilly Vink-Ruys
	Jolijn de Jong
	Mees
	Nicolet van der Hulst
	Surya Spadafina
	Wallie Pollé
	Wiebren Bergsma
	Wouter Jansen
Sponsors of NSG Works	Annetje Huizinga
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	Lucy Zijderwijk
	Manon Snelder and Mike Hardenberg
	Verity Leake
	Vojacek Wijnen, Maastricht
	Wendy Slingenberg
	Hiba Vink / Pal AV



Hiba Vink: Director, Writer

'Ode Ober' director Hiba Vink was born in 1977 as granddaughter to famed Dutch stage actor Cor Ruys. From 1996-1998 she studied Theatre, Film and Television Sciences at the university of Utrecht and from 2000-2004 Photographic Design at the Royal Academy of Visual Arts in The Hague.

From December 2005 thru February 2006 she worked as assistant director to Karim Traïdia ('La fiancée polonaise', 1998) during his work on the theatre production 'Vuur!'. From December 2004 until today she teaches film history and film theory at the Royal Academy for Visual Arts at The Hague.

2005, 'Ish', 9 minutes

2008, 'Ode Ober', 9 minutes 16 seconds



Joop Keesmaat: Lead Actor

Actor Joop Keesmaat, the 2006 winner of the prestigious Dutch Louis d'Or award, plays the lead role in Hiba Vink's 'Ode Ober' ('Awaiterpraise'). Keesmaat's stage career is spanning more than four decades. Next to roles in 'Angels in America', 'MacBeth' and 'Anna Karenina', it includes such socially engaged highlights as 'The Others', about the persecution of gays during World War II, Peter Handke's 'Publikumsbeschimpfung' and lately 'Hersenschimmen' ('Phantasmagoria'), in which he subtly portrayed a dementing civil servant.



Wouter Westendorp: Director of Photography

From 1996 to 1997 director of photography Wouter Westendorp started learning the tricks of his trade during camera classes at the 'Long Kloof & Six Street' studios in Capetown, South Africa. After refining his craftsmanship in London and The Hague, Westendorp made a portrait of legendary photographer Anton Corbijn and went on to work in Montserrat and Bhutan as camera assistant on the soccer documentary 'The Other Final'. He was then hired as camera operator for parts 4 and 5 of Eddy Terstal's 'Sekstet'. His work as a director of photography includes several music videos for producers Keller & Corbijn, as well as commercials for Heineken, Ikea, Menzis and the mini-documentary 'Nike Football'.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Chat on the internet (08-26-'04):
'Went into town for a wonderful meal. The waiter performed admirably, the table was laid nicely and dinner was served in time. In addition, the waiter took the time for a casual chat, so I offered him the choice of either a tip or an ode. He preferred the tip'.*



There's a wide array of visual beauty, paired to some measure of absurdity in the waiter's universe. If one were to secretly film a waiter's work from atop, the result would no doubt reveal a beautiful choreography. It's no co-incidence that along with dancers - and perhaps construction workers - waiters are among those most vulnerable to knee, back, wrist or ankle injury. Their art is one of non-verbal communication, gestures, mimicry. The light touching of shoulders during serving and recovering the plates. The improvised beauty of the occasional juggling act with dishes and glasses; the fleeting tension in the customer's demeanor, during such moments. Then he shifts focus to the next table, our waiter. Mentally checking the list of things to do, one by one. Another evening's worth of mileage on legs and feet.

But I forgot to mention how it all begins. The serene quiet of a restaurant in stasis. That sublime peace just before opening hours which inevitably ends with the moment of putting on the apron, the ceremonious gathering of pen and notebook: the humble prerequisites for a waiter's work.

Ah, the waiter. A serving-hatch incarnate. An attention giver at the pinnacle of his art. A listener, like a crisp new towel capable of wiping off in stead of absorbing. And so it should be, since the work itself requires his uncompromised access to a treasure chest of observational skills; where next to remnants of countless stories and anecdotes, lies a compass that forever tells him where he stands. Which enables him to state with authority and charisma that his guests will be safe here, for the evening.

His profession is an ancient one, the waiter's. One with its very own trade secret. An outdated trade secret, no longer recognized as such. Snowed under and quite possibly forever lost if it wouldn't have been for our cinematic ode.

I wonder if the penultimate waiter himself is aware that his stance bears testimony to an immeasurable wisdom. I herewith propose to characterize this waiter as an archetypical figure with the potential for something which many of us long to retrieve.

For in today's society - drenched to its very fiber in individuality - we need them like never before, the subservient ones. And sure enough, a waiter is no individualist. A waiter is silent, he observes and through his actions provides the wretched rest of us with desired necessities: food and drink and his talent for being ignored. Behold the waiter's eternal dance of modesty and courteousness.

Production details

Date of Completion

January 2008

Country of Production

the Netherlands

Shooting phase

August 2007

Production Budget

U\$ 40,000

Fund Source

Thuiskopiefonds, Pal AV - motion pictures,
NSG Works, crew, sponsors

Technical data

Shooting formats

Super 16mm film

Preview formats

DVD, PAL, area code: 0

Exhibition formats

35mm film

Digital Betacam, PAL

Betacam SP

Specifications

Exact runtime 00 hr : 09 min : 16 sec

Total reels 1

Print length 265 meters

Print details 25 fps, Color, Stereo

Aspect Ratio 1.78 (16:9 anamorphic)

Acknowledgements

Title logos designed by Miguel Visser

Still photography by Surya Spadafina

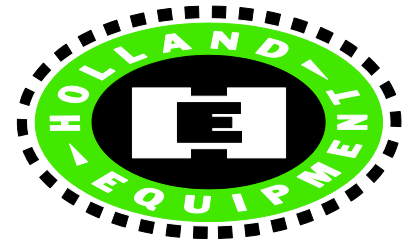
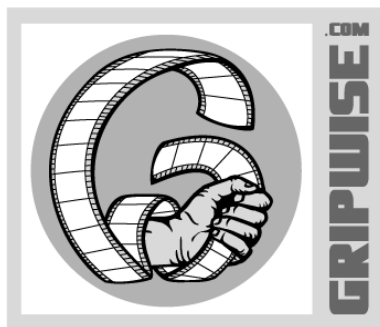
Set photography by Wikje van Ritbergen

Portrait of the director by Narayana Sewnandan

Portrait of Mr. Keesmaat by Hiba Vink

Action photograph of Mr. Westendorp by Surya Spadafina

This film would not have been possible without the generous contributions of



Annetje Huizinga Café Sjik Catelijne Heydendael Mr. R. Merks
Edwin & Hélène Delvoie Boudewijn & Francine Snelder Gerrie Dijkwel
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