

A BIND PRODUCTION IN COPRODUCTION
WITH OSTLICHT & VPRO

MY EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER WITH TESS

A FILM BY
STEVEN WOUTERLOOD

BASED ON THE BOOK "MIJN DILZWEDER TAPPE WIEK MET TESS" BY ANNA WOLFF

CASTING BY SAL KRIDONENBERG COSTUME DESIGNER FLORIAN LEGTERS EDITOR CLAUDIA GOETZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARGRIET PROCEE PRODUCED BY JOS TEN KLOOSTER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARTHA MOJET MARINA WILIN
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PRODUCED BY JORAM WILLINK PRODUCED BY PIET-HARM STERK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARCEL LENZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GUIDO SCHWAB EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JORAM WILLINK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LAURA VAN DIJK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN WOUTERLOOD

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FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- Special Jury Mention' from the ,Berlinale Generation Kplus'; 2019
- Audience Award at the ,Kino Kino - Festival for Young Audiences; 2019
- NYICFF's 2019 Grand Prize Audience Award for Feature Film.



SHORT SYNOPSIS

Afraid of being left alone as the youngest of the family, Sam begins his own made up 'aloneness' training during his holiday on the Dutch Island Terschelling. But by meeting the elusive Tess, who carries a big secret, he is drawn into an adventure that makes him realize that you should cherish your family instead of fleeing. Sam makes a drastic decision that puts his special friendship with Tess at risk and will change Tess' life forever.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Sam (11), an engaging boy who is smart and small for his age, is spending his summer holiday on the island Terschelling together with his father, mother and brother Jorre. Sam's holiday has never started so strange, because already on the first day his mother is lying in bed with migraine and Jorre breaks his leg. Jorre is blaming Sam, because he dug the pit Jorre fell into. But according to their father, it is just an unfortunate coincidence and they must go to the doctor immediately.

This is how Sam meets the self-willed Tess (11), the daughter of the doctor's assistant. Sam becomes fascinated by this lively girl, who just seems to have the same wonderful view of the world like himself. Sam often does not feel understood by his parents, and certainly not by Jorre, but with Tess everything is different. He soon finds out that Tess is working on a mysterious mission. Sam does not know exactly what she is planning, but it is obvious that she needs his help.

During the sunny days and the remarkable encounters that follow, Sam creates a special bond with Tess. Moreover, he finds out that he is in love with her. When he returns home to the cottage, he does not want to tell his parents and brother. In addition, Sam has something else that he prefers to keep for himself; his self-conceived "aloneness training". Recently the thought of death - and especially the fact that he will be left alone as the youngest - is getting stronger and stronger. That is why he gives himself the assignment to be alone - between the moments with his family and with Tess. Every day a little longer. At first, this is easy for him but it gets harder as he increasingly starts to appreciate the moments with his family. Also, the encounters with Tess become very important to him.

In the meantime, Tess continues to involve him in her wondrous/ mysterious plan, but every time he comes too close, she pushes him away. Sam is going crazy about it. Until he finally discovers what Tess is up to; she wants to get in touch with her father, whom she never met. Her father Hugo does not know that he has a daughter. Tess found out about him and lured him and his girlfriend to the island. During this all-deciding week, she must decide whether she wants him as a father, without her mother knowing. And Sam has to help her to get as close to him as possible and see if Tess wants to make herself known as his daughter.

But then everything goes wrong. During an emotional crisis, Tess decides that she no longer wants a father. Again, she turns her back on Sam and it seems to break their bond for good. That hurts Sam a lot. Once more, he decides to withdraw to his aloneness training which results in the most fearful moment of his life. He gets stuck in the mudflats while the water rises very quickly. At the last second, he is rescued by the old beachcomber of the island. After he recovers, Sam gains new insights into ideas about death, but especially about life while talking to the old man.

On the second last day of his holiday, Sam takes fate into his own hands. Now that he recognizes the value of family more than ever, he decides to reveal Tess' big secret, contrary to her will. Just before Tess' father is leaving the island, Sam tells him the truth. For a moment Sam feels that he has really gone too far and that he will lose Tess forever. In the end though, everything turns out better than he could have ever imagined. Even though he did his best at being alone during this bizarre week, he unintentionally brought everyone closer together. Tess has finally met her father. And Sam got Tess. Everything that Sam has experienced in this adventurous holiday taught him to fully embrace life from now on.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Everything still seemed so simple when I was young. However, the older I got, the more I discovered that the world was more complicated than I had originally thought. Gradually, as it happens to everybody sooner or later, I was confronted with the 'more serious' things in life. I came to discover that life is transitory and that even loving relationships that you think will last forever do not always stand the test of time. And that things sometimes turn out very differently from how you expected. When I was in my twenties, I lost my mother, which was another hard confirmation that nothing in life is certain. However, it also made me realize how resilient I actually am, and this drastic event led me to start living my life even more intensely.

Three years ago, when I first read the book MY PARTICULARLY PECULIAR WEEK WITH TESS by Anna Woltz, I knew immediately that this was the story for my first feature film. I find it to be a heart-warming narrative with a wonderful mix of excitement, emotion and humour. It's no surprise that it is a book that has many avid readers in many countries. From all kinds of perspectives, the story is close to my heart and I recognise a lot of myself in Sam, the 10-year old main character. It was a real challenge to translate the book into a film script and, even more, to make the story my own. I believe that we have succeeded – mostly through the brilliant work of scriptwriter Laura van Dijk - in writing a layered and accessible film script. I believe that the film's different levels will appeal to a wide audience, to young and old alike. And to both boys and girls.

The story is a realistic one, with characters that are sometimes a little unreal but that never turn into caricatures. I wanted to create very human characters; multi-faceted individuals that you learn to love and identify with. Almost all the characters are a bit wayward. That was already the case in the book but we have accentuated this even more here and there. We as human beings all have our own crazy traits, and I think, it is wonderful and important to use this film to show that this is actually

a nice thing which also makes each person unique. It is actually completely normal to be strange.

In my films, I strive for a certain authenticity, a feeling of originality, and as far as possible, try to show the way a child looks at/perceives the world. I also want to show the magnificence of the landscape and to let people feel that Sam is part of a greater whole. At some point we will float in the air above him to observe him wandering across the island. Then again, we will return to the ground and the beauty of nature and in a close-up understand how he perceives the little things.”

(Steven Wouterlood)



PRODUCER'S NOTE

"For years now, we have enjoyed a close and very pleasant working relationship with director Steven Wouterlood, a partnership that has already led to a number of great films such as the virtual reality film SUPERSTAR VR (premiere Cinekid, IDFA, official selection Paris Courts Devant) and the two films for young people ANYTHING GOES (2014) and KING'S DAY (2015). These last two films went on an impressive world tour and have won prestigious awards. These included the International Emmy ® Kids Award, the TIFF Kids Award (twice), the Cinekid Award, and many more.

Steven introduced us to the book MY PARTICULARLY PECULIAR WEEK WITH TESS by Anna Woltz. It is an intelligent and multi-layered story that corresponds with the ambitions of both Steven and BIND. We immediately realized that this is the perfect story for Steven's debut feature film. Sam, the principal character, learns about the value of family and friendship, and the film also covers such themes as 'loss' and 'loneliness'. Striking the right balance between these themes makes this film a tale with relevance; it also has a light tone that makes it very suitable as a family film.

It was a logical step to ask screenwriter Laura van Dijk to join this project. She has a special talent for creating authentic and clear-cut characters that give the film rich colours. We have all very much fallen in love with these wayward characters. During the film's development, we were repeatedly surprised by the cheerful, funny and sensitive scenes that she has created."

(Joram Willink)



DIRECTOR STEVEN WOUTERLOOD

Steven Wouterlood was born in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in 1984. In 2013, he directed ANYTHING GOES (ALLES MAG), a short film for children's television, which won an International Emmy® Kids Award in New York and a TIFF Kids Award in Toronto amongst many other awards and nominations worldwide.

The TIFF Kids Award has been also awarded to his short film KING'S DAY (KONINGSDAG) in 2016, followed by several other awards, including the Jury Award of Chicago Int. Children Film Festival. His TV series REMI, NOBODY'S BOY (ALLEEN OP DE WERELD), based on the renowned novel by Hector Malot, was nominated for an Emmy® Kids Award in 2018. MY EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER WITH TESS (MIJN BIJZONDER RARE WEEK MET TESS) is his first feature film.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2016 NOBODY'S BOY (ALLEEN OP DE WERELD) – TV series (7 episodes)

produced by Lemming Film / VPRO

Awards: Zilveren Krulstaart for Best Screenplay

nominated for Emmy ® Kids Award (category TV Movie/Mini series), Cinekid Kinderkast Jury Award, two Dutch TV Beelden

2016 SUPERSTAR VR – VR film, 12'

produced by BIND in coproduction with Purple Pill / VPRO

Writer: Steven Wouterlood

2015 KING'S DAY (KONINGSDAG) – short film, 25'

produced by BIND in coproduction with NTR

Awards: TIFF Kids Toronto (Jury Award – Best Short Film), Chicago Int. Children Film Festival (Jury Award), Ajyal Youth Film Festival Qatar (Jury award), Olympia Film Festival Greece (Best Short Film), Smile Int. Film Festival Delhi (Best Short Film)

2013 ANYTHING GOES (ALLES MAG) - short film, 22'

produced by BIND in coproduction with VPRO

Awards: Emmy® Kids Award 2015 (category TV Movies/Mini-series), TIFF Kids Toronto (Best Short Film), Short Film Festival Oberhausen (Best Children Film), Kinder Film Festival Tokyo (Best Short Film), Olympia Film Festival Greece (Best Short Film), Cinekid Kinderkast Jury Award

nominated for Dutch Golden Calf (Best Short Film), Cinekid Audience Award

2013 THE GIRL ACROSS THE STREET - short film, 08'

produced by Family Affair Films

Awards: CLUJ Film Festival Romania (Best Short Film)

2007 LOOSE (LOS) - short film/graduation film, 20'

Produced by Suze Ruyten / Utrecht School of the Arts

Awards: Talent & Pro Award (Best Graduation Film) at the Dutch Film Festival



ABOUT THE CAST

SONNY VAN UTTEREN

Without any experience Sonny decided to sign up to audition for the Musical Ciske de Rat in 2016, which eventually gave him an ensemble role in the De La Mar Theater in Amsterdam where he performed 24 times. He then took dance and performing lessons at the NKT, the Dutch Children's Theater in Purmerend, followed by an invitation to Toneelgroep Amsterdam (ITA), where he became part of Oedipus Jr. in the spring of 2018.

Alongside his theatre and musical engagements, Sonny works as a dubbing actor at Creative Sounds. His works include HILDA, SHIMMER AND SHINE and LLAMA LLAMA, children's television series as well as feature films such as LOUIS AND THE ALIENS, AT EYE LEVEL and Mariah Carey's ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU.

The talented 14-year-old plays the leading role in Steven Wouterlood's first feature film MY EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER WITH TESS that will be screened in the Generation section of Berlin International Film Festival 2019. Directly after its World Premiere, the film will celebrate its US premiere at the New York International Children's Film Festival 2019. The US domestic theatrical release is scheduled for autumn 2019.

Sonny is currently rehearsing for the leading role in the musical HET KOEKOEKSJONG of the Dutch children's theatre.

JOSEPHINE ARENDSSEN

Josephine Arendsen, who was born in Culemborg in 2005, started to work as an actress in 2012 with the traveling theatre company Positief Coachen, where she still plays the role of "Anne" and "Lotte". Since then, she has played several leading roles in various musicals including the annual musicals "Ten in the air" and "O dy Zeeën" by RTL Talent Academy (2015 and 2016). Josephine participated in the performance "Beauty and the Beast" at Maas Theater and Dance in 2017 and was on stage as "Holly Jolly Kid" at the opening of the national Christmas season "It's Christmas time 2018".

In 2015, she played Isa in the Emmy ® Kids Award awarded children's television series KASPER EN DE KERSTENGELEN, directed by Aniëlle Webster. In 2016, she again worked with Webster and played the leading role in the episode "the operation" of the children's TV series 'ENG'.

In 2019, she made her film debut in the lead role of Tess in the family film MY EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER WITH TESS directed by Steven Wouterlood.

Josephine attends the art school IVKO in Amsterdam. She also follows the musical and dance preparatory program at Broadway Talents under the guidance of Barrie Stevens.



PRODUCER JORAM WILLINK

Joram Willink (1975) graduated bachelor in Management of the Arts in 2000 and immediately started to work at production company Theorema Films, becoming producer on several shorts and feature films. His first feature as a producer was SHOUF SHOUF HABIBI! (HUSH HUSH BABY), which became a Dutch box-office surprise of 2004, famous for its light comic approach to the European integration topic. The film was selected for Panorama Berlinale 2004 and later on sold to over 40 countries. For Theorema Films, he also produced two other feature films, amongst them THE PREACHER about the well-known Dutch gangster Klaas Bruinsma, a co-production with Luxemburg and the UK. He produced 6 short films in the 'NTR Kort' scheme from the Netherlands Filmfund and broadcaster NTR. The short TARRY was nominated for Best Short at Berlinale 2002 and won the Golden Calf (Dutch Academy Award). The short GREAT! won the Silver Bear at Berlinale 2004.

Joram has participated twice at Berlinale Talents (2004 & 2018), Production Value and twice at the Binger Filmlab as creative producer. Joram did the EAVE producers training in 2016 and is a member of EAVE network. He became a member of the EMMY ® jury of 2015 and 2016 after winning an EMMY ® award himself in 2015.

An extensive trip around the world in 2006 gave Joram new insights and energy to start his own production company BIND in 2007, a collaboration with Piet-Harm Sterk, to focus on making contemporary films with relevance and to inspire social change – entertaining movies, which personally affect the viewer, open eyes and remain lodged in the memory.

PRODUCTION COMPANY BIND

BIND's objective is to tell striking, unique stories that move and inspire, that open eyes and take root. BIND develops and produces films as a powerful way to portray contemporary topics in an intriguing or surprising manner. Our aim is to create an effective connection between engaged filmmakers and their audience.

BIND productions are screened worldwide at film festivals and our trophy case is filled with fantastic, honourable awards, including an International Emmy ® Kids Award, an Emmy ® nomination, the Prix Jeunesse, two TIFF Kids Award for Best Short Film, three European Best Event Awards, the Cinekid Kinderkast Jury Prize, SXSW nomination, Rockie Award nomination, Tiger Award nomination, Best feature Award at Worldfest Houston and several Golden Calfs (Dutch academy awards) amongst them, the Golden Calf for Best Film.



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY BIND

2018 NOTHING TO DECLARE – live action short film

Directed by Hetty de Kruijf

Netherlands entry for the Academy Awards® in the *Live Action Short Film* Category

2017 JUNGLE – feature film (TV), 50'

Directed by Hetty de Kruijf

Awards: Golden Calf (Best Actor in TV drama), Winner of Dutch Screenwriters Guild Award

Nominated for Prix Europe 2018, BANFF Worldmedia Rockie Award 2018, Golden Calf (Best TV drama)

2016 SUPERSTAR VR – VR film, 12'

Directed by Steven Wouterlood

World Premiere at Cinekid 2016, official selection IDFA 2016, competition Netherlands FilmFest, part of exposition 'Let's You Tube' in museum of Sound & Vision

2016 GAMECHANGER - short film, 10'

Directed by Christian van Duuren

Nominated for SXSW 2017 Grand Jury award, LA Shorts competition Los Angeles 2017, Official competition Go Short, Nijmegen

2015 KING'S DAY (KONINGSDAG) - short film, 08'

Awards: TIFF Kids International Film Festival 2016 (Jury Award), Chicago Int. Children's Film Festival (Jury Award, Ajyal Youth Film Festival in Qatar (Best short film),

(Opening film Cinekid 2015, official competition International Emmy® Kids Award 2017. Winner of best short film Ajyal Youth Film Festival in Qatar, (Doha Film Institute), Winner Olympia Int. Film Festival, Greece.

2015 SON OF MINE (GLUCKAUF) - feature film, 102'

Directed by Remy van Heugten

Awards: 4 Golden Calf's (Best Film, Best Direction, Best Script, Best Camera), Best Screenplay Award at Brussels IFF 2015, Grand Award at World Première Festival 2015, Honorable Mention at Galway Film Fleadh

Nominated for 6 Golden Calf's, Tiger Award at IFFR 2015, Grand Newcomer Award Manheim-Heidelberg 2015

2015 A GOOD LIFE – TV movie, 50'

Directed by Aaron Rookus

Awards: Golden Calf (Best Actress TV-drama Arianne Schluter), Golden TV Statue (Best Actress)

Nominated for Golden Calf (TV-drama), official competition for International Emmy Award 2017

2014 ANYTHING GOES – short film, 25'

Directed by Steven Wouterlood

Awards: International Emmy® Kids Award 2015, Toronto Int. Film Festival (Jury Award for Best Short), Cinekid Kinderkast, Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage (Children Film Award), Tokyo Kinder Film Festival (Best Children Short Film)

BASED ON THE BOOK BY ANNA WOLTZ

Anna Woltz (b. London, 29 December 1981) is a Dutch writer. She has written twenty-one books for young readers. Some of her books are adventurous stories for ten-year-olds, others are challenging young adult novels. Her books have been translated into thirteen languages (English, German, French, Slovenian, Serbian, Polish, Latvian, Estonian, Norwegian, Danish, Hungarian, Japanese and Taiwanese) and have won many prizes.

Woltz's books are loved by both children and adults. Children enjoy the exciting, funny and sometimes crazy adventures and the lovable characters. Adults have praised Woltz for her beautiful language, psychological depth and fresh, humorous narrative voice.

Themes that are particularly close to Woltz's heart are family relationships, growing up and the question all people have to face sooner or later: how am I going to do this – this amazing and complicated thing called life? Quite a few of her books are about young characters who discover their parents are no different from all other human beings: sometimes they make mistakes and sometimes they have no clue what to do. Part of growing up is about accepting this.

[\(https://annawoltz.nl/english/\)](https://annawoltz.nl/english/)



Children's film Co-Development Fund between Netherlands Film Fund and MDM

In 2015, The Netherlands Film Fund and Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (MDM) established a scheme to support script development of original children's and youth film projects. The scheme aims to stimulate co-production of children's film between the Netherlands and Germany, starting in the initial development phase, in line with the existing and ongoing joint efforts to enhance co-operation, exchange knowledge and increase the quality of children's and youth films.

MY EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER WITH TESS is the first film coming out of this collaboration.

www.filmfund.nl

CAST

Sam	Sonny van Utteren
Tess	Josephine Arendsen
Jore	Julian Ras
Father Sam	Tjebbo Gerritsma
Mother Sam	Suzan Boogaerdt
Hugo	Johannes Kienast
Elise	Terence Schreurs
Mother Tess	Jennifer Hoffman
Girl at fish stall	Lizzy van Vleuten
Hille	Hans Dagelet
Sill	Guido Pollemans

CREW

Directed by	Steven Wouterlood
Written by	Laura van Dijk
Based on the book by	Anna Woltz
Creative Producer	Joram Willink
Producers	Joram Willink, Piet-Harm Sterk
Co-Producers	Marcel Lenz (Ostlicht Filmproduktion), Guido Schwab (Ostlicht Filmproduktion), Anna van der Staak (VPRO)
Director of Photography	Sal Kroonenberg

Edited by Christine Houbiers
Production Designer Florian Legters
Music by Franziska Henke
Make-up Design Claudia Goetz
Casting Martha Mojet, Marina Wijn
A production by BIND
In Co-production with Ostlicht Filmproduktion and VPRO
Realized with support from Netherlands Film Fund, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, Netherlands Film Production Incentive, CoBO and Creative Europe





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