



Kulinarisches
Kino

Portrait *of a* Garden

Everything has its time.

a documentary by Rosie Stapel

PRESSKIT



logline

At a centuries-old Dutch estate, a gardener and an 85-year-old pruning master work passionately and painstakingly on perfecting the fruit trees and crops. An ode to the garden and gardeners. Sowing, potting, thinning, pruning and finally reaping. Accompanied by beautiful lute music by Jozef van Wissem.

synopsis

In a historical kitchen garden on a Dutch estate, the 85 year-old pruning master and the gardener tend to the espaliers. As they prune, the men chat about food, the weather, the world and they share their knowledge of horticulture. Surrounded by vegetable patches, citrus trees in the historical orangery, the orchard and lush grapevines we're swept along by their passion, dedication and knowledge that make up the essential ingredients of successfully maintaining a large vegetable garden. Fifteen years, they have spent working on the pear arbour. Will it finally close over this year?

Despite his old age, the pruning master is still inexhaustible and driven. As he worries about the loss of centuries of knowledge, the younger gardener makes a real effort of soaking up all this knowledge and passing it on.

Meanwhile the seasons go by. The gardening lady works the vegetable patches, the citrus trees leave their winter accommodation and we get to meet the Apple Blossom Beetle. The grand finale is in August with its seemingly never-ending harvest and its abundance of taste, colour and scent. As peace slowly returns to the natural world, it's business as usual for the gardener amid the falling leaves and the white frost on the branches. Everything has its time.





the garden and the gardeners

The garden in this film will entice every gardener, a vast area of bedding, greenhouses and an orchard, belonging to an old estate (orig. 1630) that had fallen in disrepair but has been restored. Together with new flower beds and beehives, this garden is a company managed with great devotion and patience, but most importantly with great knowledge of plants and trees.

Portrait of a garden shows the hardships that owner Daan van der Have and master-gardener Jan Freriks had to endure to keep the most beautiful and oldest kitchen garden of the Netherlands in prime condition. The director follows both men for four continuing seasons for what can only be described as one elongated pruning and harvesting turn on an area of 3.7 acre.

The growing of espalier fruit or grapes in antique greenhouses asks for as least as much perseverance and knowledge. Knowledge that has been passed through the generations.



director's notes

When I started filming in January 2013, the garden was still one big area yet to be discovered. My focus went almost immediately to the two men working in the garden, they might be able to give me greater insights into the workings of the garden. At that stage, I had little idea of how the film would develop, I didn't have a strategy, my research was going to be the film.

When you are in the garden your perception of time alters, nature has its own rhythm, it dictates and I wanted to show that in the film. The garden unfolded for me during the filming process. Jan Freriks, the old pruning master, the gardeners Daan and Kate and others made me realise that a large part of the garden's story takes place among them. The chemistry between Jan and Daan, the way they interact with each other, share their knowledge, their significant differences and the appreciation they have for one another, with the closing of the pear arbour that year as a symbol of their long-standing collaboration.

The garden would not exist without the people that work in it. I realized while looking at the interaction between humans and nature, we have a significant influence on nature.





the director

Rosie STAPEL (1971, Netherlands) studied woodworking and arts at the Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam and has been working for many years as a production designer, including for various films by Peter Greenaway. She teaches production design at the HKU University of the Arts Utrecht. *Portrait of a Garden* is her directorial debut.

Portrait of a Garden originally came forth from the desire to make a movie herself, as director, as cinematographer, as editor and producer. As a production designer Stapel used to work with big teams, but *Portrait of a Garden* became more of a solo adventure. For her the movie was personal, besides a journey through the secrets of a garden it was also a discovery voyage through the process of making a movie. But above all it is an experience that enhanced her passion for making movies even further.

For more info check website:
www.rosiestapel.com

no crew

The decision to make a movie without a crew was not just a practical one, but it was also made because she wanted to discover all aspects of making a movie. During the shoot and editing she asked for the assistance of several friends in the movie industry.

The music in *Portrait of a Garden*, is mainly done by lutenist Jozef van Wissem, the Dutch minimalist composer best known for his work on Jim Jarmusch's *Only Lovers Left Alive*. His music respites almost the same natural timeless rhythm as the garden and the two gardeners do.

Other music she used is of modern cellist Julia Kent, Bioboy and Purcell's 'Sweetness of Nature' performed by Deller Consort.

Although Stapel did the sound recording during the shoot, the mixage and foley she did with sound designer Henk-Jelle de Groot.





festival selections

- International Film Festival Rotterdam 2015
- Dutch Film Festival 2015
- Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam 2015
- 28# Festival Der Neue Heimatfilm 2015
- 66th Berlinale - Culinary Cinema 2016



Poster artwork by Martin Jarrie



information

Country of production: The Netherlands
Country of filming: The Netherlands
Date of completion: January 2015

Title: Portrait of a Garden
Original Title: Portret van een Tuin
Genre: Documentary
Film Language: Dutch
Subtitles: English
Duration: 98 min.
Shooting Format: Digital Video
Format: 2 D DCP 25fps
Colour
Ratio: 2.85:1
Surround 5.1

contact

rose is a rose is a film
Rochussenstraat 369 a
3023 DJ Rotterdam
The Netherlands

www.portraitofagarden.com
info@portraitofagarden.com

Rosie Stapel
rosiestapel@me.com
mobile: +31 6 28 40 84 01

Daan van der Have
daanvanderhave@me.com
mobile: +31 6 22 79 97 79

