

## Short biography

Esther Pardijs is a Dutch female documentary maker (51 years old) and a director of films for various institutions. She has more than 20 years of experience in directing, writing and researching documentaires, television formats (mostly human interest and science programs) and films for specific target groups. She often works for the Dutch public broadcaster NPO (she has worked for VPRO, HUMAN, NTR, KRO-NCRV, BNN-VARA), but also for foundations, NGO's and several museums.

For her latest documentary 'STRETCH!' she was awarded with a *Dutch Golden Calf Nomination* for best short documentary and with a *nomination* of the most prestigious price for *Journalism*, called '*De Tegel*'. The film had *the most number of viewers* in 2019. *TURN!* about her little son doing top gymnastics has triggered a huge discussion in The Netherlands. The film had an impact on several sport unions and on the government / ministry of sports.

Esther has filmed for various projects in Europe, America, Japan, Vietnam and Bangladesh. She has studied psychology, cultural anthropology and documentary photography. She also took courses in interactive storytelling, screenwriting for fiction and filming with a smart-phone. She usually films with a professional crew, but if necessary (because of the budget, or because of an intimate subject) she handles the camera herself. She is most happy and excited when she can dive into a (not necessarily easy) subject for a certain period of time and make that into an aesthetic narrative. She speaks Spanish and English well. Esther is also a teacher in documentary making at the Art-Academy in Utrecht. She lives in Utrecht with her husband and two sons.

## Filmography

### A selection of my work as a director:

- \* 2016-2019: *STRETCH!*, a 56 minutes documentary about her little son doing top gymnastics and the way full of spicy dilemma's in which she, other parents and trainers guide young talents, made for KRO-NCRV TV, *Dutch Golden Calf nomination* and *Dutch Journalistic Tegel*, almost a million viewers, huge impact in The Netherlands, especially on the KNGU (Dutch Gymnastics Community), the KNVB (Dutch Football Community) and the Dutch Government.
- \* 2020: two cinematographic documentaries called 'Deep Dark Blue' and 'Monopoly' - in development
- \* 2020: two editions of *Opstandelingen* (BNN Vara) about citizens involved in longterm struggles with local governments, 45 minutes each, documentary-style, with presenter/host Sophie Hilbrand.

- \* 2016-2018: several short portraits of people who are dealing with suicide issues, made for Foundation 113, the Dutch Suicide Prevention Centre.
- \* 2016-2017: *Science4Arts*, a 30 minutes co-production of NTR TV, NWO (Dutch Institute for Scientific Research), Rijks Museum, Van Gogh Museum and Stedelijk Museum about the newest scientific ways to analyse, conserve and reconstruct arts.
- \* 2014-2015: *The Perfect Human Being*, 6 episodes of each 50 minutes documentary about the enhancement of the human species. Where science and ethics meet. Made for HUMAN/VPRO TV, hosted by Bas Heijne a well known Dutch critic and columnist for NRC newspaper. The series raised a lot of questions and debat in daily newspapers.
- \* 2011-2013: *Labyrint*, several episodes of 25 minutes documentary about the newest scientific insights or techniques and what this means for society. Made for VPRO TV and NTR TV. Every week about 300.000 viewers.
- \* 2008-2014: worked on scientific programs: *De Kennis Van Nu*, *Pavlov* for NTR TV and *Nieuwslicht* for VARA TV, the music program *NTR Podium* for NTR TV, the human interest programs *Vrijheid*, *Gelijkheid en Broederschap* en *De Ombudsman* for VARA TV.
- \* 2008: *Water - too much, too dirty, too little*, a 50 minutes documentary about the growing problems on water in the world, permanently shown at the Dutch Water Museum
- \* 2006: *Nieuwsshow*, co-direction of a 50 minutes show made of archive-material only about the history of TV-news, permanently shown at The Dutch Institute of Sound and Vision
- \* 2005: *Icon & Inspiration*, a 50 minutes documentary about Dick Bruna, the artist who invented Miffy, permanently shown at Central Museum Utrecht
- \* 2004: *The Heat is On- better be prepared*, co-direction with Mark Verkerk, a 50 minutes documentary about the effects of climate change, *Golden Award* at *The New York Festival*, in the category Environmental Issues.
- \* 1998-2000: *Maria, Maria & Marta*, a 50 minutes musical coming-of-age-documentary about three Flamenco artists. Made for NPS TV and BRT TV (Belgium), official selection *Dutch Golden Calf* competition and selected for screening at *IDFA* (International Documentary Festival Amsterdam).

## Other

- \* 2019 - now: teacher at University of the Arts Utrecht - Film department (documentary making, when is an idea a good idea, research, concept, interview-techniques, director's vision, about impact)
- \* 2019 - now: teacher at University of Applied Sciences - Communication, Media and Design - teaching in creating visual content for commissioned clients.

## Languages

- \* English - very good
- \* Spanish - well / good