

PRESSKIT / PERSMAP

CLUB ZEUS

A film by David Verbeek
(R U There, Shanghai Trance)

Internationaal Film Festival Rotterdam 2011
Geselecteerd voor Return of the Tiger



The Netherlands / China - 75 min. · 2011 · drama
<http://www.facebook.com/clubzeus>

Vanaf 7 april te zien in de Nederlandse filmtheaters

Voor meer informatie kunt u contact opnemen met:

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ACHTERGROND INFORMATIE (NL)

Club Zeus, de nieuwe film van de Nederlandse jonge regisseur David Verbeek, beleeft zijn première op het 40e International Film Festival Rotterdam (26 januari – 6 februari 2011). De film is geselecteerd voor het “Return of the Tiger” programma. David Verbeek regisseerde eerder de lange speelfilm *R U There*, die in 2010 in het prestigieuze ‘Un Certain Regard’ van het Filmfestival van Cannes in première ging. Ook regisseerde hij de film *Shanghai Trance*, waarmee hij genomineerd was voor een Tiger Award op het International Film Festival Rotterdam 2008. Het scenario werd eveneens door David Verbeek geschreven. Producent is Raymond van der Kaaij voor het Rotterdamse Revolver Media. In korte tijd is dit inmiddels David Verbeeks vierde film.

Club Zeus vertelt het verhaal van twee professionele hostboys in Shanghai. Deze jongens werken in een zogenaamde hostclub, waar iedere avond vrouwen komen die behoefte hebben aan gezelschap, aandacht, een gesprek, liefde. Hostboys zijn professionele hartendieners, wiens doel het is ervoor te zorgen dat de vrouwen blijven terugkomen en soms tienduizenden euro’s aan champagne en feesten uitgeven. Leonardo is één van deze hosts, een ingetogen jongen wiens dag begint als de nacht valt en eindigt als de zon weer opkomt. Leonardo verdient goed met het verkopen van aandacht, vriendschap en emotie en hij heeft een dagtaak aan het onderhouden van tientallen ‘relaties’ met vrouwen.

Op een dag staat Sly (27) voor zijn deur. Sly, ooit de best verkopende host, is teruggekomen om Leonardo ervan te overtuigen te stoppen met hosten. Maar de eigenaresse van de club laat haar jonge talent niet zomaar gaan en Sly besluit nog één keer als host te werken om zo Leonardo uit te kopen. Maar als Jade, een prachtige jonge vrouw die als hostess in een club elders in de stad werkt, op het toneel verschijnt wordt duidelijk waarom hij een jaar geleden verdween. En ook deze keer raken de hosts gevangen in een spinnenweb van hun eigen verhalen, leugens en gespeelde emoties en raken ook zichzelf kwijt.

Club Zeus is een filmisch portret van met het leven en de liefde worstelende twintigers in een razendsnel veranderende Chinese metropool. In *Club Zeus* wordt sociale vervreemding, emotionele afhankelijkheid, verlangen en liefde met elkaar vervlochten in een stad die sneller verandert dan dat haar inwoners volwassen kunnen worden.

Ontstaan

De film is ontstaan vanuit de wens van de regisseur en de producent om een filmproject op een alternatieve manier te ontwikkelen en te realiseren, vanuit de ambitie om het momentum dat een creatief idee heeft zo snel mogelijk te benutten. De film werd in tien dagen met een volledig Chinese crew in Shanghai gedraaid, aan de hand van een ruwe versie van een het scenario en gebruikmakend van veel improvisatie. Middels deze aanpak zijn regisseur en producent erin geslaagd om in relatief korte tijd, met weinig middelen en veel enthousiasme van cast en crew een prachtige lange speelfilm te realiseren.

SYNOPSIS

Leonardo (24) works as a host in club 'Zeus' in Shanghai. Host boys, like host girls, fulfil the need of attention, friendship and love. But whereas with host girls it is mostly about sex, with host boys the goal is to steal the hearts of their clients. Leonardo's day starts when night falls and ends at sunrise spending many hours a day to maintain the 'relationships' with the women.

One day Sly (27) arrives. Sly was once one of the best selling hosts of club Zeus, but left one year ago without further notice. Sly returned to convince Leonardo to quit hosting, but the owner of Club Zeus doesn't let her young talent leave that easily. Sly decides to work one last time as a host, in order to earn enough to buy Leonardo's freedom. But the moment Sly turns on his cell phones, text messages from all the desperate women come flooding in. And when Jade, a beautiful young woman who works as a hostess in another club receives word that Sly returned the reasons why he had left before slowly become clear and the hosts once again find themselves caught in a web of their own stories, lies and fake emotions.



CAST

Leonardo 里奥纳多

Sly 斯莱

Coco 可可

Jade 杰德

Xiang Xiang 想想

Deep 德普

Cruise 克鲁斯

Izzy 伊西

Candyman 甜心先生

Alice 爱丽丝

Maggie 玛吉

Pei Pei 佩佩

Liang Xi Wei 梁西微

Yun Ti 云缇

Xiao Yue 小月

Xiao Wei Wei 小薇薇

Fang Fang 芳芳

Li Wei 李维

Dan Dan 丹丹

Woman followed by her husband

Angry Husband 生气的丈

Neighbor 邻居

Ray Zhao 赵炳锐

Zheng Qi 郑奇

Yan Li Ping 严莉萍

Fu Ran 付然

Sun Yi Xuan 孙艺轩

Zhou Mu Jie 周沐杰

Huang Chen 黄晨

Zhang Ying Hua 张英华

Isaac Andres Cedeño Yanez

Yan Jing Yao 颜景遥

Yuan Yuan 袁文莉

Ning Yi 宁怡

Song Yan Ni 宋燕妮

Ge Qin 葛琴

Zhen Feng 周泓

Su Ran 苏冉

Wang Jing Xiang 王静香

Guo Ya Li 郭雅利

Zhou Guo Jie 周国婕

Shimura Hidemi 丈夫跟踪的女人

Li Qiang 李强

Gu Guo Zhen 顾国珍

DIRECTOR DAVID VERBEEK

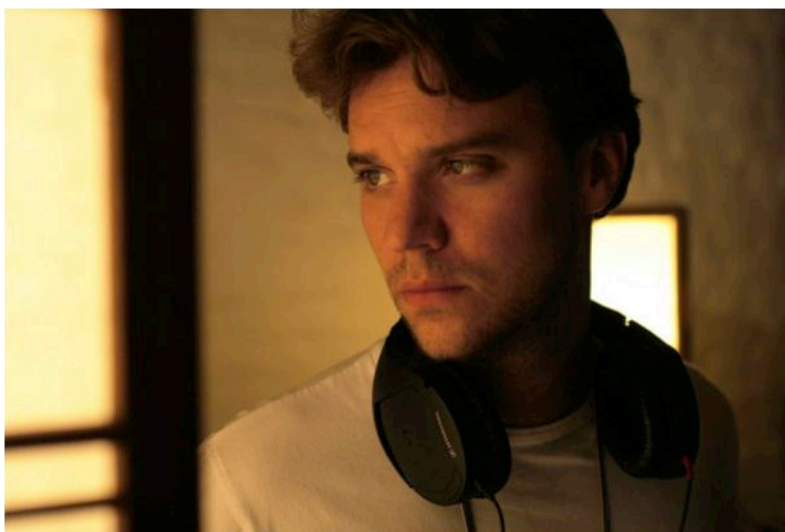
Graduated in Directing from Amsterdam's Film Academy, in 2005. During his second year there, he directed the feature film "Beat" with a budget of only 500 euro's. It was selected for the International Film Festival Rotterdam, as well being released on DVD and nationwide in theatres. The following year, he was asked to direct a television film for the VPRO, resulting in the critically acclaimed "Yu-Lan".

After graduating he left for China, returning three years later with his second feature film "Shanghai Trance"; a cinematic portrait of Shanghai that depicts a generation of young Chinese, bedazzled by a city that is changing faster than they can grow up. The film was selected for the Tiger Award Competition at the International Film Festival Rotterdam as well as numerous international festivals. It was released in China in over 250 cinemas and in late 2008, David made the front page of the Volkskrant newspaper for being the first Dutch director to achieve this.

He shot third feature film in Taiwan, a Dutch/French/co-production. "R U There" is a multi-dimensional experience that comprises 20% Second Life images. It is an exploration of the virtual world in which the younger generation is so deeply immersed. The film got selected to Un Certain Regard in Cannes.

FILMOGRAPHY

2011	CLUB ZEUS	Feature film, 75 minutes, writer, director
2010	R U There	Feature film, 90 minutes, director
2008	SHANGHAI TRANCE	Feature film, 122 minutes, writer, director
2006	MELODY Z	Short film, 20 minutes, writer, director
2006	alt.suicideholiday.net	Short film, 28 minutes, director
2005	YU-LAN	TV-movie, 50 minutes, co-writer, director
2004	BEAT	Feature film, 78 minutes, co-writer, director



PRODUCER REVOLVER MEDIA

REVOLVER develops and (co)produces crossing-border cinema by young and upcoming talents, both focusing on the Netherlands as well as on international productions. REVOLVER is committed to creating beautiful and strong stories, nurturing authentic, strong, unique and author driven stories. We strongly believe in the marriage between artistic and commercial values and serving an international market.

RECENT PRODUCTIONS

Club Zeus (2011) – a feature film by David Verbeek
Worldpremiere at International Filmfestival Rotterdam 2011

22 May (2010) – a feature film by Koen Mortier
Produced by Epidemic (BE), co-produced by Revolver and IJswater Films (NL). Worldpremiere at Toronto International Filmfestival 2010, selected for International Filmfestival Rotterdam 2011

Crips, Strapped 'n' Strong (2008) – feature documentary by Joost van der Valk
Selected for the IDFA Documentary Workshop 2004. Selected for IDFA 2009, Locarno Film Festival 2009. Nominated for the 'IDFA Doc U! Award 2009'

Happy Family (2006) – tv-film directed by Martin Koolhoven.
Produced by Waterland Film (NL), co-produced by Revolver. Distributed by RCV, worldsales: MDC International

Vivere (2007) – feature film directed by Angelina Maccarone.
Produced by Elsani Film (DE), co-produced by Revolver. Selected for Tribeca Film Festival, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Copenhagen International Film Festival, London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Awarded "Best feature film" at the 2009 Festival del Sol, "Best Screenplay" at the Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival and obtained the "Artistic Achievement Award" at the Outfest in Los Angeles.

Déja Vu (2006) – feature film directed Francois Vautier.
Produced by Dominant7 (FR), co-produced by Revolver for ARTE France.

Haagse Sjonnie (2005)– tv-documentary by Joost van der Valk
Broadcasted by IKON Television

IN DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION

Mimesis – feature film by Sander Burger, written by Dragan Bakema

I Dream in another language – a feature film by Ernesto Contreras, written by Carlos Contreras.
Selected for Binger Filmlab, Sundance Lab, Buenos Aires Lab. Supported by MEDIA, Rotterdam Media Fund

Supernova – feature film by Tamar van den Dop.

Vics World – feature film by Michiel van Jaarsveld

Common Descent – feature film by Eelko Ferwerda, written by Ben Young

Crosstown – feature film by Miriam Kruishoop

PRODUCTION NOTE

'Club Zeus' was developed and produced in a less ordinary way. While director David Verbeek was waiting for his next feature film 'R U There' to be fully financed, the plan came up to shoot a film in Shanghai in the meantime; more guerrilla, on a lower budget and driven by ambition, a good idea and the pure wish to create something in a shorter time. We proposed a plan to shoot a short film about hostboys to the Dutch Filmfund and the Fund for the Arts (Fonds BKVB), on which both funds reacted positively. David wrote the rough draft of a script of around 40 pages and in the meantime the Rotterdam Media Fund came on board as well.

While we were in preproduction, we realized we had a strong story in our hands and saw the potential for a feature film. We decided to use all the available funding for the shoot, giving us just enough budget to shoot for ten days in Shanghai with a Chinese crew and the endless energy and enthusiasm of our local coproducer and her team. Great fun and a huge creative energy!

Back in the Netherlands, David edited a first cut of the movie over the course of a few months (as he started prepping his following project). Since we used all our financial resources for the shoot, we took a rough cut of about 75 minutes to the Dutch Filmfund and proposed it for a postproduction funding. The fund generously decided to help us and with this financial backing and the enthusiasm of the postproduction crew we managed to finish the film and have it premiere at the International Filmfestival Rotterdam!

Raymond van der Kaaij, January 2011



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY	David Verbeek
CAST	Ray Zhao, Zheng Qi , Yan Li Ping, Fu Ran
PRODUCTION COMPANY	Revolver Media
CO-PRODUCERS	Les Petites Lumières
PRODUCERS	Raymond van der Kaaij
DOP	Shu Hao Chou
ART DEPARTMENT	Yao Jun
COSTUME DESIGN	Cher Huang
MUSIC	Martijn de Wit
SOUND ENGINEER	Ranko Paukovic
EDITING	Sander Vos, David Verbeek
LANGUAGE	Mandarin
RUNNING TIME & FORMAT	75 minutes on DCP/HDCAM
SHOOTING LOCATIONS	Shanghai
WITH THE SUPPORT OF	The Netherlands Film Fund, The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture, Rotterdam Media Fund
DISTRIBUTOR	Cinema Delicatessen

