

le Fresnoy
presents

Plastic and Glass

a contemporary musical about recycling

by Tessa Joosse



Plastic and Glass

director Tessa Joosse

presskit

length 9:00 - 16:9 - HD - digibeta - stereo
available subtitles; French/Spanish

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synopsis

In a recycling factory in the north of France the machines dance, the workers join in song, and the truckdrivers almost do a ballet. The film shows the process of recycling by impressive machines and by hand. We hear the noise that accompagnies this process. Slowly the factory noise becomes a rhythm and a truckdriver starts to sing a song for his love. He wants to build an island with the materials at hand, where they can be together to 'sort things out'.

In this crossover between documentary and musical it is the filmmakers aim to merge image and sound in such a way that the one cannot exist without the other. Inspired by the recordings of Alan Lomax and the films of Jacques Tati, the result is a sculptural and informative documentary and at the same time a musical film with a sticky song .



credits

Director / composer- Tessa Josse Production- Le Fresnoy studio international des arts contemporains, Frédéric Papon Image- Blaise Basdevant - With; François Marzynski, Abdelhamid Bensbaa, Fabrice Lecomte, Ahmed Benzouai, Claude Lesne, Messaoud Sellaoui, Lionel Menendez, Anne Marie Quartiero, Frank Engels, Patrick Lecoutre, Mohammed Aberkane, Sahri Azzedine. Voices; Poet Stunt, Joseph David, Jaques Loeuille, Yann-Elie Gorans, René Ballesteros, Mohammed Bourouissa, Olivier Capra, Thierry Maes, Marina Meliande .

biographies

Director; **Tessa Josse**

Born in 1974 in Tholen, The Netherlands.

After studying sculpture and video installation art, Tessa Josse slowly transitioned into musical theatre and opera, where she made many onstage installations and films. The desire to create her own musical compositions and sound design drove Josse to pursue independent filmmaking.

She made visual interpretations of (amongst others);

2009

Eben Gabraan, (Rasheed al Bougali- opera). with New Ensemble Amsterdam, November music festival. video on stage, World premiere. Video,45'

Fidelio (Beethoven - opera), Live streams and video on stage, with Valerie Gergiev as conductor 115'

La voix humaine, (Francis Poulenc - opera) video on stage and decor, with Nelly Miricioiu, soprano. Video 40'

2008

Seraphin Stimme (Wolfgang Rihm - opera),with Vocaallab, live streams and film on stage, World premiere. Video 45'

2007

Slapen zonder Schumann, (Robert Schumann / Peter Jan Wagemans - opera) with Rian de Waal, video on stage, World premiere. Video 60'



biographies

Actor; **François Marzynski**

Was educated at the Theatrical Collective of Hainaut of Christian Cailleret. He started out as a clown in the eighties.

Singer; **Poet Stunt**

Born 1957 in France, lives and works in Amsterdam since 1978.

He started as a singer-songwriter in the 1980s, recorded several CDs as a solo artist and worked with several people from the artworld in Amsterdam. He just finished his CD "into the obscure". Currently he is working with the experimental music ensemble "Caspar Rapak".

DOP; **Blaise Basdevant**

Has been working in the industry for 13 years as a DOP, cinematographer, producer and gaffer. His work-field ranges from TV commercials to artistic shorts.

Producer; **Frédéric Papon**

Frédéric Papon is a cinematographer and head of the first years educational program at Le Fresnoy.

Production company; **Le Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains**

Le Fresnoy is a post-graduate art and audiovisual research centre, opened in October 1997 and financed by the Ministry of Culture with the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Regional Council and Tourcoing Town Council. It was founded by film director and writer Alain Fleischer who is the artistic and pedagogic director. As its full name - National Studio - indicates, it is a place of production (studio) as well as a school. Its aim is to enable young artists to produce works using professional standard equipment under the direction of established artists. <http://lefresnoy.net/>



Press

Filmmaker Tessa Joosse finds unexpected beauty in an industrial setting in this short documentary. Mark Deming, All Movie Guide, www.allmovie.com

“like the scene from *Dancer in the Dark* by Lars von Trier but much better”
Monsieur Jean-Pierre, Première Séance, www.rtb.be

“A symphony for garbage that’s faithful to Mary Poppins’ motto; ‘In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.’ Joosse shows us the recycling factory through the eyes of a talent scout; the workers and the refuse at their best musical behaviour.”
courtisane festival - www.courtisane.be

“I find the overall theme (of the film) of humanisation and aestheticisation of a space apparently dominated by the alienating machine a very important one”
Professor Marek Korczynski, Loughborough University
Chair of Sociology of Work, research on the relationship between music and work.

‘Plastic and Glass’ is a magical documentary; a humoristic short movie in which the rhythm produced by the sounds of a recycling factory slowly evolves into a song, which catchy and merry refrain is the title of the film.

The simple, natural character of ‘Plastic and Glass’ does not only touch a sympathetic nerve with its ode to metamorphosis by recycling, it luckily never is a naive apology for the assembly line work.

The film leaves a deep impression owing to its sense of detail, its sound design and its metaphorical load. Half way through the film the song emerges and is taken over by the movements of the factory workers. Remarkably, each one of the workers exists as an individual. From the unity that they form, and in spite of the mechanical nature of their task, each of them has his own face, an unique attitude and a specific voice.

‘Plastic and Glass’ takes us away from the factory; we see what one does not generally see, such as the almost autonomous movement of overalls, which accompany the gestures of the wearers. By the virtues of the song, even hummed, the souls of the workers are laid bare.

There is, indeed, something of a lower register in the merry humbleness of the industrial euphoria that the film evokes.

The song sounds like a promise of a symbolic future, a world where all is recycled, as an afterthought on the frenzy of a backdated productive era where progress equals the exponential growth of the numbers of objects and their wrappings.

Isn’t ‘Plastic and Glass’ our present day “Chant du Styrene”? (Alain Resnais, 1958) Because here, as indicated in the silence of the last shot where the gate of the factory frames a suburban landscape, nature observes us and poses a reminder.

François Bonenfant

brefmagazine.com/pages/extraits.php?id_texte=260

songtext

Plastic and glass

Plastic and glass
Paper rocks and scissors

Plastic and glass
Plastic and glass
Paper rocks and scissors

I'll build you a mountain of cardboard
And a sea - of glass of course
A tree for the shade will be made
Of some fine aluminium foil

Chorus; Plastic and glass
Plastic and glass
Cardboard
Cardboard

I'll build us an island of leisure
With a paper maché fence
Whatever will be we're together
And you'll have to make amends

Chorus; Plastic and glass
Plastic and glass
Cardboard
Cardboard

'Cause if you start nagging again my dear
Like you did last night in the dark
I'll sort you out and I'll break you down
To start anew with a spark

Chorus; Plastic and glass
Plastic and glass
Cardboard
Cardboard

screenings

Film festivals

2009

62nd film festival Locarno, Switzerland

Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival, Brasil

Filmer le travail, Poitiers, France

Mostra de Ciencia e Cinema.la Coruna, Spain

la 32e édition des Rencontres Henri Langlois, Festival international des écoles de cinéma, Poitiers, France

16th international film &tv schools' festival, Mediaschool, Lodz, Poland, honorable mention

2010

Sundance Festival, Park City, USA

32nd International Short Film Festival - Clermont-Ferrand, France

la 22e édition du Festival Premiers Plans d'Angers, France

23rd annual FIPA, Biarritz, France

Cineglobe, Geneva, Switzerland

Indielisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

Mecal International Short Film Festival of Barcelona, Spain

Courtisane Festival, Ghent, Belgium

Cineposible International Film Festival, Almendralejo, Spain

The Environmental Film Festival at Yale, NE, US

Santa Cruz Film Festival, CA, US

10ème édition du Festival du court métrage de Nice, France

Festival de l'Acharnière, Lille, France

Calgary Underground Film Festival, Canada

wiz art festival, Lviv, Ukraine

Reel Earth Film Festival, New Zealand

Festival National du Court Métrage Etudiant, la Sorbonne, Paris, France

Planet Report Environmental Film Festival, Romania

Ecofilms Rhodos International Film + Visual Arts Festival, Greece

AFI/Discovery Channel: SILVERDOCS Documentary Festival, Washington, USA

Cinema Corto in Bra, Italy

FID marseille, France

screenings

La Cinémathèque Française, Paris, France

La Fiac international art fair, Paris, France

A la frontière - CROSSING BORDER [Nouveaux regards cinématographiques européens],

traveling program by l'Agence du court métrage

Canal + television

Prizes;

Grand Prix du jury - Festival National du film court étudiant, Paris

Grand Prix du jury - Festival L'Acharnière

Prix du jury René Vautier - Festival L'Acharnière

Best experimental film - Santa Cruz Film Festival

Student jury award - Dialektus Anthropological Film Festival, Hungary,

Honorable mention - Festival Mediaschool Lodz, Poland

inspiration

Alan Lomax Archive

(That's the sound of a man) working on a chain – sam Cooke

Slave to the rhythm – grace jones

journey trough the secret life of plants- stevie Wonder

Talking Heads - cool water

The pajama game (with doris day) – George Abbott, Stanley donen

Our daily bread – nicolaus geyrhalter

Manufactured landscapes – Jennifer baichwal

Johan van der keuken –film with musicians in a small room during a kind of séance

Dancer in the dark – Lars von Trier

Lomax the song hunter-Rogier Kappers

Heimatklänge- Stefan schwietert

Erving Goffman – interaction ritual – non-verbal communication

Anthony Giddens – on sociology –social interaction and everyday life

Marek Korczynski - Music and Meaning on the Factory Floor

Harun Farocki - Workers Leaving the Factory – about factory workers in film history

Michael Pickering – Rhythms of labour – the British work
song revisited

Manfred Grabs - Hanns Eisler. A Rebel in Music

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