

LOGLINE

In a Dutch classroom, refugee children learn alongside locals under Miss Kiet's firm but loving hand.

SYNOPSIS

Kiet Engels is the kind of teacher one wishes every schoolchild could have. She is strict but never harsh. She is loving but never soft. Her patience seems endless.

Many of Miss Kiet's pupils have only just arrived in Holland. Many are refugees. Everything is new and confusing for them. Some at first are quarrelsome and headstrong. But Miss Kiet's firm but loving hand brings calm and awakens interest. She not only teaches her pupils to read and write Dutch, but also helps them learn to solve problems together and respect one another. Slowly the children gain skills and confidence.

Using patient observation alone, without interviews or voiceover, the film focuses on four refugee children of different nationalities. Shot from their perspectives, the camera follows at close hand their struggles to learn a new language, their fights, their friendships and their first loves.

Haya is at first impetuous, yet fearful. Little by little, Miss Kiet helps her to find her friendly side. Leanne is quiet and lonely. But after a few months she able to tell everyone, in Dutch, that she loves her classmate Branche. Jorj has trouble sleeping and is unruly. His little brother Maksim has terrible nightmares. Miss Kiet's tenacity helps Jorj and Maksim discover that learning can be worthwhile and even fun.

By the end of the documentary, an affectionate community has grown – the fruit of one teacher's patience and dedication. This touching film chronicles changes that are simultaneously small yet immense.

SELECTED FESTIVALS

Audience Award, Munich Dok.Fest
Special Mention, DOXA Documentary Film Festival
Official Selection, True/False Film Festival
Official Selection, CPH: DOX Documentary Film Festival
Official Selection, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)
Official Selection, Goteborg Film Festival
Official Selection, Melbourne Documentary Film Festival
Official Selection, Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival
Official Selection, Singapore International Festival of Arts

IN THE PRESS

"Veteran duo Petra Lataster-Czisch and Peter Lataster deliver a master class in nonfiction filmmaking with *MISS KIET'S CHILDREN*, one of the year's truly outstanding European documentaries... The result is a lovely, upbeat, even life-affirming film." —*The Hollywood Reporter*

"A documentary jewel: subtle but powerful with a faultless feeling for what goes on in children's heads. A small monument for a teacher, but above all for her brave class." —*De Volkskrant*

"Everything you heard about *MISS KIET'S CHILDREN* is true. Easily the best Dutch film of the year." —*Trouw Newspaper*

"[4 stars] This entirely engrossing, tender and shrewdly observed documentary is the study of a special infant school class in the Netherlands, which is set aside for the children of migrants and refugees—largely from Syria... A lovely film." —*The Guardian*

"Miss Kiet's Children is all about hope and what can be achieved by one good woman. A beautifully judged piece." —*ScreenDaily*

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Writer/director Petra Lataster-Czisch (born 1954, Dessau) and cameraman Peter Lataster (born 1955, Amsterdam) formed a filming partnership in 1989 and a production company, Lataster Films, in 2001. They have since made award winning feature documentaries, shorts and dance films. In 2012, the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) festival honoured them with a retrospective and the Dutch Institute of Sound

and Vision released a DVD box with their collected works. The films include *Miss Kiet's Children* (2016), *The Need to Dance* (2014), *Awake in a Bad Dream* (2013), *We* (2012), *Jerome Jerome* (2011), *Not Without You* (2010), *If We Knew* (2007), *This Will Never Go Away* (2005), *Dreamland GDR* (2003), *Fragile Happiness* (2001), *River of Time* (1999), *Call it Sleep* (1996), *Tales of a River* (1994), and *The Enchantment* (1991).

FILM CREDITS

Title:	<i>Miss Kiet's Children</i>
Directors:	Petra Lataster-Czisch & Peter Lataster
Producer:	Peter Lataster
Executive producer:	Marty de Jong
Editor:	Mario Steenbergen
Camera:	Peter Lataster
Sound:	Gertjan Miedema
Sound design:	Hugo Dijkstal
Graphic design:	Petra Warrink
Grading:	Xandra ter Horst
Commissioning editor:	Jelle Peter de Ruiter
TV-station involved:	KRO-NCRV
Running time:	113 minutes
Image:	Color
Country:	The Netherlands
Production year:	2016
Release:	2017
Aspect ratio:	16:9
Sound:	Stereo
Language:	Dutch with English subtitles

An Icarus Films Release

Download publicity images, press kit, poster and more at

<http://icarusfilms.com/pressroom.html>

User: icarus Password: press

More Information:

<http://icarusfilms.com/new2017/kiet.html>

Filmmakers' Website:

<http://www.latasterfilms.nl/en/films/dekinderenvanjujkiet/>

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