



THREE DAYS OF FISH

by Peter Hoogendoorn

The Netherlands
2024 | 84 ' | Drama / Comedy



SYNOPSIS

While living abroad with his second wife, 65-year-old Gerrie returns to Rotterdam for his annual health check-ups. There, he meets with his son, 45-year-old Dick, who yearns for quality time that his father stubbornly avoids.

Calling upon the titular proverb that familial peace is best kept with short visits, “Three Days of Fish” is a dry-witted chronicle of a father and son as they unravel a remarkable but complex connection. During their brief time together, Gerrie and Dick’s whimsical but combustible communication comes in unspoken efforts for affection, ultimately offering a glimpse into the dynamics of an intricate bond between two socially inept men, constantly “fishing” for each other’s love.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Peter HOOGENDOORN (1968, the Netherlands) studied at the Dutch academy for film and television. His short graduation film, *Wes* (2009), based on his childhood, won various awards, including the Cineville Audience Award and the IJzeren Haring Award at the film festival of Leiden. Hoogendoorn's feature debut *Between 10 and 12* was selected for Venice Days in the summer of 2014.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Three Days of Fish" is a portrait of a father and son, focusing on the dynamics between the two. In their endless small accusations and insinuations, Dick and Gerrie showcase the opposite of unconditional love. Yet, as we discover their unfulfilled desires, we come to understand that they desperately want to be closer to each other.

Using simple, everyday actions and 'liminal moments,' I intend to create intimacy and connection between the audience and the characters. The spirit of the film is simple, understated, and contemplative. Aside from family dynamics, this film explores the transience of life. While wishing desperately for Dick and Gerrie to express more of their truly-felt affection for each other, people in the audience might be reminded of their own family ties.

The father-son dynamic and their behavior form the foundation of the story. To me, what turns it into a film is the way in which we observe them. I do not want to place my camera in between them using shot-counter shot techniques and create the storytelling in the editing process.

I want to observe Dick and Gerrie like a powerless witness, almost a voyeur. Am I filming the characters in the space, or am I filming a space that holds the characters? You can portray dramatic scenes by putting the camera close to the characters, but personally, I start to feel moved when I see the people in the space around them. The emotional effect, its tragedy, and its beauty are in the framing, the people's body language, but also very much in the space in which they find themselves.



DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

Tussen 10 en 12 / Between 10 and 12 (2014, NL, 71 mins)

Show Me Love (2012, short, NL, 11 mins)

Wes (2009, short, NL)

MAIN CREDITS

Title: Three Days of Fish

Original Title: Drie Dagen Vis

Directed by: Peter Hoogendoorn

Written by: Peter Hoogendoorn

Cast:

Ton Kas,
Guido Pollemans,
Neidi Dos Santos Livramento,
Addison Dos Reis,
Line Pilet

Produced by: Circe Films, Kaap Holland Film

Co-produced by: A Private View, NTR

Producers: Stienette Bosklopper, Maarten Swart

Co-producers: Dries Phlypo, Marina Blok

Countries of production: The Netherlands

Cinematography by: Gregg Telussa NSC

Editing by: Annelotte Medema NCE

Production design by: Hanneke Wind

Costumes by: Manon Blom

Make-up by: Gerda van Hoof

Music by: Christiaan Verbeek

Assistant director: Stefanie Hamann

Line Producer: Sophie Challa

Sound by: Diego van Uden

Sound mix by: Matthias Hillegeer

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