

Biography Mea Dols de Jong

Mea Dols de Jong (1988) is a young talented director. She studied documentary directing at the Netherlands Film Academy in Amsterdam. Mea received critical acclaim for her graduation film IF MAMA AIN'T HAPPY NOBODY'S HAPPY which has won 27 (international) awards. In 2016 she was named one of the "Top 10 Europeans to Watch" by *Variety* and listed by leading Dutch newspaper NRC as one of 100 most influential people in the Dutch Cultural sector

Originally studying to become a fiction director, Mea changed course and switched to documentary directing. The influence of fiction remains a thread throughout her documentary work. Her skills and craft center around observing and exposing interhuman relations down to its finest detail. Able to combine psychology with refined atmospheric aesthetics, Mea seems always subtle but yet provocative at the same time.

IF MAMA AIN'T HAPPY NOBODY'S HAPPY was selected for IDFA and nominated for i.a. the Tuschinski Award for Best Graduation Film. The documentary has won over 15 international awards so far, including Slamdance Festival, Best Documentary at Taufilm Tel Aviv, Best Short Documentary in Huesca, Best Documentary at DOK München, Jury and Audience Award at Berlin's Sehsüchte International Film Festival, in Sapporo (Japan) and Vilnius (Lithuania) the film was awarded for Best Documentary of the Year. In her native The Netherlands the film received amongst others an Audience Award at the VERS Awards.

During her study Mea made several documentaries for public networks such as NCRV, AVROTROS and NPOdoc. Right after graduating Mea started working for *Mindshakes*, an online platform for innovative journalism by Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad.

Also, Mea directs commercials for a.o. the Dutch Heart Foundation and retail chain Albert Heijn, for which she was nominated for a Dutch Directors Guild Award 2015 for Most Outstanding Director in the category Commercials.

Mea is currently researching for her next documentary.