

## **Biography Paula van der Oest**

Paula van der Oest (1965) is a celebrated Dutch filmmaker. Her 2001 film ZUS & ZO was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Her films ACCUSED (2014) and TONIO (2016) were both chosen as the Dutch entry for the Best Foreign Language Academy Award, as well.

Van der Oest is well known in the Netherlands and has worked with her country's most celebrated stage, screen, and television actors. Her 2011 film, BLACK BUTTERFLIES, a Dutch/South African co-production, won the Best Actress Category for the work of Carice van Houten at the Tribeca Film Festival. Her other films including THE DOMINO EFFECT and MOONLIGHT have enjoyed success at film festivals around the world.

In 1988 Paula graduated from the Film and Television Academy in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with ZINDEREND (1988) which won the Tuschinski Film Award, a prestigious Dutch student award. Shortly after, she made COMA and ACHILLES EN HET ZEBRAPAD (1995) for the VPRO, a Dutch public broadcaster. COMA won the Golden Calf for Best Drama Series at the Netherlands Film Festival.

Her feature film debut, DE NIEUWE MOEDER (1996), premiered at the Venice Film Festival and received the Holland Film Award. Paula's success continued with her second feature film TATE'S VOYAGE, which she both wrote and directed, receiving three Golden Calf nominations and the TV Film Award.

Her third feature film, ZUS & ZO, is based on the theatre play Three Sisters by Chekov. Paula not only directed the film but also wrote the screenplay. The film was nominated for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film 2001.

That year, Paula also directed her first international film, MOONLIGHT (2002). She received the award for Best European Feature at the Hollywood Film Awards 2003, the Student Jury Award at the Lecce Festival of European Cinema, the Golden St. George at the Moscow International Film Festival and the Youth Jury Award at the Netherlands Film Festival.

Furthermore she directed television film MADAME JEANETTE (2004), the feature HIDDEN FLAWS (2004), based on the novel by Renate Dorrestein with its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, television film WIJSTER (2008), and the feature TIRAMISU (2008), the latter winning two Golden Calf Awards at the Netherlands Film Festival.

In 2010 she directs BLACK BUTTERFLIES, a biographical portrait of the South African poet Ingrid Jonker, with Carice van Houten, Rutger Hauer and Liam Cunningham in lead roles. The film was sold to over 50 countries and received a large number of national and international awards.

For her next film THE DOMINO EFFECT (2012) Paula won Best Director at the Netherlands Film Festival (2012). Paula wrote and directed this film about the ongoing banking crisis of that time.

In 2014 Paula directed ACCUSED, a dramatized reconstruction of the biggest miscarriage of justice in Dutch history. This psychological thriller made it to the Academy Award shortlist and was awarded with many awards such as Best Film and Best Director at the Milano Film Festival in 2016.

Her latest film TONIO (2016), based on the famous novel by iconic Dutch writer A.F.Th van der Heijden, was chosen as the Dutch entry for the Foreign Language Oscar 2016. It's receiving raving reviews, calling it an instant classic and one of the best Dutch films to date.

Her latest feature DE KLEINE IJSTIJD (2017) will be released in October.