

Biography Remy van Heugten

Remy van Heugten (1976) is a Dutch film director who is known for his socially engaged films. His graduation film ABOUT ROSES (2004) was nominated for the Student Academy Awards, and he won best director at the Netherlands Film Festival for his feature film SON OF MINE (2015).

In 2000, Van Heugten graduated at the School of Higher Education for Audiovisual Arts in Genk, Belgium. He continued to specialize his directing skills at the Dutch Film Academy in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, where he graduated with ABOUT ROSES (2004). The film received several awards, such as the Dutch public network award AVRO Nassenstein, and the prestigious Tuschinski Award. Also, ABOUT ROSES was nominated for the 2005 Student Academy Awards.

Continuing to focus on stories with a contemporary theme about social development, Van Heugten directed the short film SMOKING AS A TURK (2012), the TV films WHITE FISH (2009) and SHAHRAM & ABBAS (2006), for which he received a honorable mention at the Debut Competition of The Netherlands Film Festival.

Van Heugten manages to explore socially relevant issues throughout his commissioned work as well. In films and TV series such as VALENTINO (2013), ICARUS (2016), GODFORSAKEN (2011), FRESHMEN (2010) and HOW TO SURVIVE? (2011-2012) Van Heugten shows that he mastered a variety of genres from crime to political drama and comedy. For HOW TO SURVIVE? Van Heugten is awarded with a Cinekid award for Best Fiction and nominated for a Rose d'Or award for Best Youth Series.

For his next film SON OF MINE, which Van Heugten considers his debut as an auteur-director, he delved into the gritty reality of poverty in the most southern province of the Netherlands. In this area, where Van Heugten spent his childhood, unemployment rates remain high after the mines closed down in the 1970s. The film received praise for its honest portrayal of a father-son relation suffering from financial hardships.

SON OF MINE premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in the Hivos Tiger Competition to rave reviews. The film went on to win many awards, both in The Netherlands and internationally. In total, SON OF MINE received six nominations at the 2015 Netherlands Film Festival, winning four: Best Film, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography and Best Director for Van Heugten. He also received the Dutch Directors Guild Award for most remarkable directing in the category Best Film and TV Drama.

Internationally, the film earned accolades at the Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival in Germany, Galway Film Fleadh in Ireland, Warsaw International Film Festival in Poland, Brussels Film Festival in Belgium and World Premiere Festival in Manilla, Philippines.

Again exploring the role of the outsider, Van Heugten is currently working on his third feature film MASCOTTE, about a deformed teenager who is seeking for acceptance amongst his peers.

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