

# MICHEL TEN HORN | BIOGRAPHY

Michiel ten Horn (1983) is a Dutch director and screenwriter. In 2007 he graduated from the HKU University of the Arts where he studied Animation. As a student, he already started focusing on live-action, but even to-date he continues to apply his animation background in his storytelling and use of form.

The prestigious American film magazine Variety listed Michiel as one of 'Ten European directors to watch', after his critically acclaimed feature film debut THE DEFLOWERING OF EVA VAN END had its world premiere at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Recently, Michiel directed the first Dutch Netflix Original Series ARES, in collaboration with Giancarlo Sánchez. The show premiered in January 2020 and tells the story of an Amsterdam student who joins a secret society that has been around since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Dutch Golden Age, but must decide how far she is willing to go to rise up to the ranks.

Michiel's debut film THE DEFLOWERING OF EVA VAN END is a tragicomedy about the Van End family who, after the arrival of an impossibly perfect German exchange student, can no longer imagine how they ever managed to live with their imperfect selves. The film has been sold to 23 countries including USA, and went on to receive three Golden Calf nominations for Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and Best Music. At the same festival, the film won the Dutch Film Critics Award for Best Film of the Year and was honored with the Film Poster Award.

After the success of his debut feature, Michiel directed the short film

FINGERS (2013), about a math teacher who believes he sees a girl getting fingered by a boy in the classroom, confusing him about what happens sexually amongst today's youth. FINGERS was nominated a Golden Calf for Best Short Film at the 2013 Netherlands Film Festival, and selected for several international film festivals including Palm Springs International Film Festival. Prior, Michiel directed two other shorts: ARIE (screenplay and directing, Golden Calf nomination for Best Short Film), and CARESSE (screenplay).

Michiel's next film THE PETER PAN MAN (or: HOW TO AVOID EVERYTHING, 2014) was originally produced as a TV film but after it gloriously conquered the 2014 Netherlands Film Festival with six nominations (Best Music, Best Production-Design, Best Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Director and Best Film), the network uniquely decided to give the film a theatrical run as well. Eventually the film won three Golden Calf Awards for Best Film, Best Actor and Best Screenplay.

The film features the thirty-two-year-old waster and eternal student Thijs, who leads a relaxed life until he meets Lisa. Without intending to, Lisa has a profound effect on Thijs, unveiling a deeply ingrained dissatisfaction with his passive behaviour. The film is based on an original idea from Michiel. He co-wrote the script with Anne Barnhoorn, with whom he also worked on THE DEFLOWERING OF EVA VAN END.

Since then, Michiel created a stand-alone episode for the on true crime inspired series GODFORSAKEN! (2017) and directed an episode for the show RANDOM SHIT (2019), which runs on the successful Dutch streaming platform VIDEOLAND. The show won the Hashtag Award for Best Video On Demand. He also completed an episode for THE PUDDING CLUB, by the same team as RANDOM SHIT, which will air in 2020.

Currently, he is in preproduction for his next feature film ACCORDING TO TRADITION (o.t. VOLGENS DE OVERLEVERING) and is attached to direct the German/ Canadian feature film NIGHTLIFE. Also, Michiel regularly directs commercials and animations.