

MEA DOLS DE JONG | BIOGRAPHY

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.

The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard, home to internationally recognized journalism fellowships, programs and publications, has selected Mea as one 27 Nieman Fellows for the class of 2019. This prestigious group includes reporters, correspondents, editors, photographers, filmmakers, television news anchors, a radio producer and other journalists who specialize in data investigations, digital development, social media, virtual reality and new forms of storytelling.

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 always seems 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.

In 2018, Mea writes and directs the 5-episode web-series NETTIQUETTE, in which Mea and some youngsters look for the true meaning of likes and comments on social media. The series premiered at the 2017 IDFA.

In 2019, she writes and directs the documentary BEYOND EMOJI, about the seven billion emoji's being used everyday that we do not know much about yet. This documentary premiered at IDFA in 2019.

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.

Mea also 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 in both 2015 and 2016 for Most Outstanding Director in the category Commercials.