

Peers from Ondiep

UTRECHT | On Amersfoort festival SCENECS shows the compelling documentary Willem & Kid, about two neighbours in the Utrecht people district Ondiep.

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Short film about neighbours Willem and Kid at film festival SCENECS

Willem & Kid is one of the most remarkable documentaries that can be seen this week. The short film follows a number of years the two neighbours in the Utrecht people district Ondiep, whose houses are demolished. Willem and Kid have to move but it runs differently than expected.

The documentary is a sequel to the photo project Willem and Kid of the Utrecht photographer Rob Hornstra who moved into a house in 2004 on the Avenue of Chartreuse in Ondiep. Willem and Kid were his neighbours.

A year later he began to photograph both neighbours because they gave a picture of the typical working-class district. Hornstra followed Willem and Kid until the summer of 2012. Alumni HKU, Jolien Steenman and Laura Roncken, have made this project a overwhelming film.

Both have to leave, because housing association Mitros wants to demolish the houses. The 'brave' Willem moved and is overjoyed when his cat Blackie walks around in his new home. The 'rebellious' Kid does not want to move - "no way they get me out here" - and finds his happiness in his venomous serpent - "my girl" - which is in a herbarium.

When his snake unexpectedly dies, the drug-addicted and suffering from epilepsy Kid Nafgzer gets very upset. During the shooting of the film Kid dies. According to the police investigation, after an epileptic attack he fell into the Weerdsingel and drowned. Rob Hornstra assumes a different version of Kid's life ending on June 12th 2013. "He was used by drug dealers."

Unapproachable

From summer 2012 Hornstra could not photograph Kid because he was unapproachable. "There was no possibility to meet up with him. He started acting weird."

The documentary includes footage of Kid's funeral, where music of Bob Marley was played. "Consulting with the family of Kid we have decided to include the funeral in the documentary," says director Jolien Steenman.

Remarkable is that the homes of Willem, Kid and photographer Hornstra are still not demolished. "It is now a home for students and anti-squatters," said Hornstra. He wants his photo project Willem and Kid, which partly was to see at the Centraal Museum and a festival in Rome, to be continued. "I find it interesting to record what happened at Kid's end."

Willem & Kid's is to see today at 12:00 on SCENECS in Amersfoort.