

biography DIGNA SINKE



Digna Sinke (Zonnemaire, 1949) graduated from the Dutch Film Academy in 1972 as writer/director of fiction films and documentaries. Her first long feature film De Stille Oceaan (The Silent Pacific) was selected for competition of the Berlinale 1984. Her long feature film on Belle van Zuylen, a 18th century female author of Dutch origin, and her friendship with Benjamin Constant won the main prize at the Mannheim/Heidelberg festival 1994.

In 2010 she completed her long term documentary project about Tiengemeten, a small island in the Dutch delta which has been developed from agricultural area into 'wild' nature. The final film Wistful Wilderness won the prize for best documentary at FIFE (Paris) and Neue Heimat Festival in Freistadt (Austria).

After the tone, a hybrid feature film, was selected for the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR 2014).

In 2016 her documentary Below the surface has been nominated for best long Dutch documentary NFF 2016.

Her documentary Keeping & Saving or how to live ended up in the 4th place of the audience rating of IFFR 2018, and was also nominated for best feature documentary.

In 2001 Digna Sinke took over the production company SNG Film (Studio Nieuwe Gronden) from her late husband René Scholten. Since then she produced more than 40 films: feature length fiction like Kala azar by Janis Rafa (Tiger Competition IFFR 2020), and documentaries like Leonie actress and spy by Annette Apon, Tanzania Transit (2018) by Jeroen van Velzen (Best new documentary director, Tribeca 2012), De Engel van Doel by Tom Fassaert (Forum Berlinale, 2011).

Digna is a knight in the Order of Orange Nassau (1998).

In 2016 she received the Groeneveld prize for her commitment to nature and landscape.

In 2023, she received the Golden Calf for film culture.

In 2025 the VIENNALE dedicated a retrospective to her.