Screening of Works by Dutch Filmmaker Mr Rob Rombout





Over 120 people attended the screening of works by Dutch filmmaker Mr Rob Rombout that took place at Metropolis cinema on the 27th of January, 2012 at 8:00 pm. Among them were the deputy head of mission at the Netherlands in Lebanon, Hans Peter van der Woude, the director of the Netherlands Institute Taco van der Zwaag, more staff from the Netherlands Embassy, the Ambassador of Romania in Lebanon, Mr. Daniel Tanase; photographer Marc Nader, senior staff of AUT, AUT Audio-Visual Arts students, Metropolis cinema management staff and a number of documentary lovers.

The retrospective was organized by the American University of Technology in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands.

Mr. van der Woude started with a welcoming speech and immediately after, Rombout presented an overview of the films Amsterdam Stories and Les Passagers de l'Alsace

"Amsterdam Stories USA", a road movie of the little-known America that follows the migratory flow of the past through 16 North American towns, sites, and populated places, all of them called Amsterdam or New Amsterdam is the latest work of the Dutch film maker. It is 6 hours long but he showed 30 minutes of it. "Les Passagers de L'Alsace", is a captivating documentary in which Rombout shares with us his thoughts and feelings as a passer-by who meets a region and its inhabitants and shows his perception of the Alsatian identity.

The second day allowed viewers to watch Les Acores de Madredeus, a wonderful depiction of the wild beauty of the Acores islands and discover the most famous music band of Portugal, Madredeus.

The photography and music were the guides to the discovery of the islands and the people who live there.

The second movie, Amsterdam Stories took viewers to two islands called Amsterdam, one in the North Pole, discovered by Dutch navigator Barentz and the other near the South Pole, discovered by van Houtman. References to the Dutch capital, Amsterdam, made the film a unique comparative documentary of places and people.





"Water Stories": a Documentary Produced by AVA Students under the Supervision of Rob Rombout



"Water Stories", a 36 min documentary, a 3-month project accomplished in 2 weeks, was the labor of a strong teamwork and sleepless nights.

It is an artistic film that shows the relationship between people and water, meant to present water under a human perspective.

The documentary produced by the Audio-Visual Arts students under the supervision of the Dutch filmmaker Rob Rombout is a part of an awareness campaign that AUT is launching in schools and universities.

Our AVA students practically lived in the studios as they were editing and linking the sequences they had filmed in 4 days. They met with people who believe that water is a major part of their lives, from West Bekaa to Byblos.

The documentary showed how a fire brigade officer, a champion swimmer, a farmer, a priest, a mufti and scientists think of water and how they define their relationship to it.

Attending an intensive workshop by the Dutch documentary maker Rob Rombout and putting it into practice by producing a distinctive documentary is a unique experience, which has allowed the students to develop their knowledge and gain experience in their field.

It was a huge challenge for them to achieve a 3-month work in 2 weeks and to convert a scientific topic to a human perception. "Working with an athlete and having her talking about water from a different angle was a real challenge" said Joe Jeha, DOP of "Water and Love" sequence.

"It was a fruitful experience having Rob teaching us new tips and techniques" added Nancy Helou, coordinator of the "Water and Love" team.







As previously mentioned the shooting was at a crazy rhythm, "We spent 6 hours driving to and from Bekaa and filmed in 4 different locations, all in one day" added Nidal Salameh, director of the "Litani Dam" team as well as Sandra Boutros, director of the "Religious Aspects of Water" who also said: "It was a very tough yet extremely valuable experience".

Over 100 people attended the rough cut of "Water Stories" that took place on Friday, February 10 at Issam Fares Auditorium, with the presence of the 15 students who worked on it and their supervisor Rob Rombout.

Friends and parents of the students interacted with the characters of the film; the Mufti of Jbeil Sheikh Ghassan Lakkis, Father Jean Jabbour, Ms Tania Alawi, Dr Hadi Tabbara, Dr Mirna Semaan, Mr Jean Nakhoul, senior staff and other members of the AUT community in addition to the director of the Netherlands Institute in Beirut and professionals from the movie industry.

During the cocktail that followed, students had the chance to speak of various techniques they learned and used in interviewing characters and camera effects.

What Students Say



Sandra Boutros



Nancy Helou,



Nidal Salameh



Joe Jeha

The film was produced with the support of the Royal Embassy of Netherlands and the Netherlands Institute in Beirut.



The Making of "Water Stories"















