

View from the edge



**José Luis Rebordinos,
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International Film Festival**

Dutch cinema is becoming increasingly rich and offers a film festival like San Sebastian a wide variety of daring and innovative projects. It seems to me that in the last few years the Dutch industry has evolved in a very positive way.

An excellent example of this is Threes Anna's Tokyo-based *SILENT CITY*, which was loved by our Selection Committee. The film will screen in our New Directors section. It is a bittersweet story, with slight touches of comedy, that talks about the inability to communicate between human beings as well as about the difficulty of understanding between different cultures; but most of all it is a beautiful portrait of a strong, but fragile woman, played by an excellent actress in Laurence Roothoof.

Over the past two decades directors such as Paul Verhoeven, Alex van Warmerdam, Nanouk Leopold, Victor Nieuwenhuijs, Maartje Seyferth and Mijke de Jong have, among many others, led the way in bringing Dutch films to cinema screens and festivals all over the world. Nevertheless we should not forget new directors such as Sacha Polak and Threes Anna, who have

strongly embraced, and been embraced by, the international film scene.

I believe that, in general, the cinema created by the new Dutch directors has the same characteristics as the cinema of the new directors within other countries, offering visionary insight and overcoming similar dilemmas with high degrees of skill, thought and versatility. However the proposals made by new Dutch filmmakers are normally more risky, more personal and they look for new forms of expression. Some of them succeed, but others don't.

From the perspective of a film festival such as ours, it is easy to work with Dutch cinema thanks to the collaboration with the Eye Film Institute Netherlands (formerly Holland Film). As for Dutch festivals such as IFFR (Rotterdam), they are of vital importance, especially from an industry point of view. Rotterdam is one of the most important events within the film calendar to encounter professionals within the international industry, and of course it marks the beginning of the business year.