



Basalt Film presents in co-production with Human

# Good Neighbours

a film by Stella van Voorst van Beest



killing loneliness one door at a time

STELLA VAN VOORST VAN BEEST PRESENTS A FILM BY TON PETERS RESEARCHER ERIC LEEK RESEARCHER MANON VAN DER SLOUIS EDITOR NICOLE HÁLOVÁ  
COSTUME DESIGNER PHIL JANDALY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAN WILLEM VAN DEN BRINK FERRY DE PATER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN THORBJORG PRODUCED BY ANOUK HOUTMAN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SUSANNE KEILHACK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MAARTEN DE GRAAF EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ELINE VAN WEES CO-PRODUCED BY HUMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SIMONE VAN DEN BROEK

BASALT FILM HUMAN MEDIA FONDS FOND N. FILM FONDS PRODUCTION INCENTIVE VSBfonds Win Leraren Van Lijpze Stichting dok.incubator

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## BASALT FILM

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# GOOD NEIGHBOURS

## LOGLINE

Loneliness hides behind closed doors and around every corner. But can you fight it without facing your own fear of death?

## SYNOPSIS

When Rotterdam citizen Bep de Bruin is found dead in her home, lying there unnoticed for 10 years, the city is in shock. How could this happen? Ada (59) and her best friend Wilma (70) decide to volunteer for the local government's response: a campaign against loneliness. Together, they go door to door to check in on elderly citizens, looking for lonely people that fit the profile and need help. This is how they meet Jan, who has barely left his home in seven years. In fighting to stay independent, his loneliness intensifies, and Ada and Wilma are upset by his insufficient quality of care. They also encounter Tilly, a strong and stubborn woman who has contact with no one but her beloved dog, and refuses every offer of support. Overwhelmed by the loneliness they encounter, and by their fear for what this means for them and their city, Ada and Wilma stop observing — and take action.



Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/300274819>

[goodneighbours-film.com](http://goodneighbours-film.com)

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR | Stella van Voorst van Beest

Stella van Voorst van Beest was born and grew up in Rotterdam. She studied Social History at the Erasmus University (History of the 20th Century and Communication Studies). After that she studied Documentary and Editing at the Dutch Film Academy in Amsterdam. She graduated in 1994. She works as a Director and Editor. Her Films are characterized by a strong visual, observing style.

[www.stellavanvoorstvanbeest.nl](http://www.stellavanvoorstvanbeest.nl)



### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 2013 the body of the 74-year-old Bep de Bruin was found. She had been lying dead in her home in Rotterdam for 10 years without being noticed. The city was in shock. How could this have happened? How could it be that no one had missed her?

At the time, I closely followed the reports about Bep de Bruin and the discussion about loneliness that followed after that. I was touched by the reactions of the local residents. I found it unbelievable to hear that for a large part of the Dutch people (and the same is true in other European countries), their social contacts are not satisfactory. That many people indicate that they feel lonely. How is that possible? Do we live differently together than before? Are we really not paying attention anymore? Is loneliness the ultimate consequence of the fact that we can no longer live together?

When the city of Rotterdam started a campaign against loneliness among the elderly, it gave me a starting point for making this film. During my research with a questionnaire under my arm, I made home visits to people over 75, just like the two volunteers Ada and Wilma in my film. I heard countless life stories from the elderly



and once again realized how unruly and complicated it might be to live together, but also how beautiful and moving it can be. And it made me think: what kind of neighbour am I myself? And how am I going to arrange things myself when I am old? Who do I want to be able to fall back on?

*Stella van Voorst van Beest*



### **ABOUT THE PRODUCER | Basalt Film, Simone van den Broek**

BASALT FILM (2012) is the Rotterdam based company of Simone van den Broek. Basalt Film produces socially relevant documentaries of high artistic quality for National and International cinema and television a.o. Matthew's Laws, 72 min, 2012. Grand Prix Visions du Reel, Grand Prix Dutch Feature Length Documentary, Special Merit Prize TIDFF, Best Feature Length Documentary RIDM. Basalt Film is EDN member and part of EAVE network.

## FILM FESTIVALS

- IDFA 2018 | Amsterdam, the Netherlands | World première
- One World 2019 | Prague, Czech Republic

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Running time: 82 min

Format: DCP, 5.1

Completion: November 2018

Premiere: 17 November 2018

Dutch theatrical release: 14 February 2019



## CREDITS

Director: Stella van Voorst van Beest  
Camera: Ton Peters, Sander Snoep, Mick van Dantzig  
Sound: Eric Leek, Carla van der Meijs, Mark Wessner, Kees de Groot  
Research: Manon van der Sluijs  
Editor: Nicole Hálová, André van der Hout, Riekje Ziengs  
Consulting story editor: Phil Jandaly  
Sound design: Jan Willem van den Brink, Ferry de Pater  
Graphic design: Suzanne Keilhack  
Colourist: John Thorborg  
Colour grading: Storm postproduction  
Offline & exports: Laurent Fluttert, Matte Mourik, Jan Jaap Kuiper/Amator  
Translation & subtitles: Michael Gebe, Einion  
Legal services: Monique Kooijman, Denkk  
Script & editing advisor: Mart Dominicus  
Impact distribution: Jelte Zonneveld, Bernadette Kuiper  
Production assistant & transcriptions: Anouk Houtman, Veerle Boekestijn  
Postproduction supervisor: Maarten de Graaf, Milestone Amsterdam  
Line producer: Eline van Wees  
Human commissioning editor: Willemien van Aalst, bert Janssens  
Distribution: Cinema Delicatessen  
Sales agent: Outlook Filmsales  
Producer: Simone van den Broek – Basalt Film  
Co-producer: Human

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