



Bio's Key Crew and Cast

Filmmakers: Susan Wolf and Machiel Amorison

This film is an international collaboration between Susan Wolf, from the SF Bay Area and Machiel Amorison, from Amsterdam.

Susan has over 25 years experience as a producer, editor, production manager and photographer. Susan attended Colorado College, where she earned a teaching degree with an emphasis in Art History. After teaching elementary school, she followed up with classes in photography and film at University of Colorado Boulder and at the San Francisco Art Institute. Susan began working as a professional photographer for the SF design trade while continuing with classes and workshops in film and photography. Susan worked as producer, and post production supervisor for Highlight Productions, a SF production company with corporate and ad agency clients. In 2000, Susan co-founded and managed Emaginate, an award winning Bay Area production and post production company.

In 2009, Susan produced the "The Living Matrix: A Film on the New Science of Healing, an internationally acclaimed documentary which was distributed in over 23 countries and translated into 10 languages. After working with Echelon to organize and promote charitable bike races and consulting with CS productions to develop a reality TV show, in 2017 Susan formed Red Spoke Films with Machiel Amorison to produce documentary films.

Machiel has been making films since his teens. He studied broadcasting and filmmaking in SF. After finishing his education he went back to Europe and worked as a cameraman for a newsgathering company based in Mannheim which produced news for German TV. After returning to the Netherlands (his native country), he started his own production company. Over the years he produced many commercial and promotional programs including two seasons for Dutch TV of Parents Today ("Ouders Van Nu") which advised parents about raising young children. In conjunction with the Dutch WE magazine, Machiel produced and distributed several popular parenting videos. A major milestone was an internationally distributed documentary about Frans Hals, the renowned Dutch painter, produced in conjunction with the Frans Hals museum.

Along with his degree in film production, Machiel has a degree in marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK. He speaks fluent English, German and of course Dutch. He founded BDS Media Projects and recently has produced in conjunction with the Dolhuys Museum (Museum of the Mind) a film on the history of psychiatry and a film on the restoration of the 18th century Regent Room of the museum which aired on TV Noord Holland. In addition to the the documentaries he is producing and directing, Machiel's current focus in on dance and performance films.

Statement from the Directors:

Susan and Machiel met in San Francisco over 30 years ago when Machiel was attending film school and Susan was attending the San Francisco Art Institute. They always hoped to work together on a project but it took a long time before it was the right time.

In 2014, Machiel called out of the blue and asked if Susan would be interested in making a film about Mata Hari. "Who 's that?" she replied. Susan knew next to nothing about Mata Hari. The more she researched, the more fascinated she became and the film began to take shape. Machiel's great grandmother had gone to school with Mata Hari, so there was family lore that captivated him. The discovery of startling new information about Mata Hari and the impending 100 year anniversary of her death inspired him to get started on a film.

Machiel and Susan found that existing documentaries were full of half truths about Mata Hari that perpetuated many of the myths about her. They set out to create a film that would unravel the complex story of Mata Hari and acknowledge her creativity, courage and intelligence. Newly discovered letters give genuine voice to her struggles as an abused wife and shed new light on her role as a mother.

The film was primarily shot in the Netherlands where Mata Hari was born and lived much of her life. Shooting in the Netherlands provided distinct advantages regarding budget, authenticity and access to original material. Interviews were shot in Paris, the Netherlands, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. The voice over with renowned Dutch actress, Thekla Reuten, was recorded in Amsterdam while Susan and editor, Bob Sarles, directed from a studio in CA. In spite of the distance and nine hour time difference, thanks to technology, the filmmakers were able to take advantage of the best each side of the world has to offer.

Thekla Reuten

Actress/ Voice of Mata Hari

Dutch actress, Thekla Reuten is a star in her native country, having led two films to Academy Award nominations — "Everybody's Famous!" and "Twin Sisters." She made her international breakthrough in Martin McDonagh's "In Bruges," opposite Colin Farrell, and has since starred in "The American," opposite George Clooney. This year Reuten stars opposite James Nesbitt in the second season of Sky's "Stan Lee's Lucky Man." Thekla has joined Jennifer Lawrence in the cast of Fox's spy thriller "Red Sparrow," which will be released March 2018. The story follows a Russian intelligence officer (Lawrence) who is ordered against her will to become a "Sparrow," a trained seductress, and to operate against a young CIA agent.

Other films include the political thriller *Waffenstillstand* ('Ceasefire'), *De Trip van Teetje* (Tate's *Voyage*), *Kruimeltje* (Little Crumb), *Rosenstraße*, *Una Bellezza Che Non Lascia Scampo* ('An Inescapable Beauty'), and *Iedereen beroemd!*

Reuten's television work includes *Hidden* (BBC, Great Britain), *Restless* (BBC, Great Britain), and *Sleeper Cell* (Showtime, USA). She has performed in Johan Simons' production *Fall of the Gods* at the Salzburg Festival and the Ruhr Triennial, as well as in Rufus Norris' *Blood Wedding* at the Almeida Theatre in London, alongside Gael Garcia Bernal.

Thekla Reuten is an undeniable front-runner in the new wave of European actresses lauded on the international stage and screen.

Dita Von Teese **Burlesque Artist**

Dita Von Teese was born on September 28, 1972 in Rochester, Michigan, USA as Heather Renée Sweet. American [burlesque](#) dancer, model, costume designer, entrepreneur and occasional actress, Dita helped re-popularize burlesque performance, as well as vintage fetish style. She was formerly married to Marilyn Manson. Dita chose her stage name by adopting the name Dita as a tribute to silent film actress Dita Parlo. For her breakthrough December 2002 *Playboy* cover, she was required to have a surname, so she chose *Von Treese* from the phonebook. But *Playboy* misspelled it *Von Teese*, a name which she then kept.

Dita Von Teese is frequently dubbed the "Queen of Burlesque" in the press. In her own words, she "puts the tease back into striptease." Her signature show features a giant [martini](#) glass. Her feather fan dance inspired by burlesque dancer Sally Rand, featured the world's largest feather fans, now on display in Hollywood's Museum of Sex. Her burlesque career has included some memorable performances. She once appeared at a benefit for the [New York Academy of Art](#) wearing nothing but \$5 million worth of diamonds. Additionally, Dita became the first guest star at Paris's Crazy Horse cabaret club with her appearance in October 2006.

Dita is known for haute couture fashions, and says, "I advocate glamour. Every day. Every minute."

She has appeared in mainstream features, such as the 2005 short film, *The Death of Salvador Dali*, written by Delaney Bishop, which won best screenplay and best cinematography at SXSW, Raindance Film Festival and Mill Valley Film Festival and won Best Actress at Beverly Hills Film Festival. She starred in the feature film *Saint Francis* in 2007.

Florence Rapati **Dancer/Choreographer/Actress**

Florence Rapati started her classical ballet training at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. She then followed HBO at the National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam where she graduated in 2008 as a professional ballet dancer. Besides classical ballet she has studied various Modern dance styles and later immersed herself in other styles such as salsa, breakdance, hiphop, acrobatics and tango, which inspired her to start new collaborations.

Florence worked as a freelancer for several dance companies since 2008 and has done many (neo) classical ballet projects. She has worked with various artists such as Kytteman, the Youth of Today and currently works with Herman van Veen.

In 2012, Florence realized her dream and founded her own company *Flow Performing Arts*. The company has become known for their Fusion Dance style and are often invited to festivals such as Parkpop, Liberation Festival, Solar Weekend and many others.

Florence founded and became the artistic director of the *The Art Generation Foundation* in November 2012. The objective of the foundation is to organize dance workshops and performances for a diverse audience from young to old. The Foundation focuses explicitly on cultural education (teaching, stimulating and coaching) and cultural participation. The presentation of professional performances is an integral part of this. The foundation has its registered office in The Hague and focuses primarily on its projects in The Hague and the immediate surroundings.

Bob Sarles

Editor

Bob Sarles co-directed (with Brett Berns) and edited the feature documentary film *BANG! The Bert Berns Story*, which had its world premiere at the 2016 [SXSW](#) Film Festival and has screened at the Mill Valley Film Festival, Seattle International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, Los Angeles' Don't Knock The Rock Festival, Chicago's CIMMFest and the prestigious DocNYC Festival in New York City and a score of other major film festivals and special screenings including the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. The film, distributed by Abramorama, will have its theatrical and all media release in the spring of 2017

Sarles also directed and edited the documentary film *Feed Your Head: The Psychedelic Era* and produced, directed and edited the well received documentary film *Sweet Blues: A Film About Mike Bloomfield* that was included as a DVD in the Columbia/Legacy boxed set *Michael Bloomfield: From His Head to His Heart to His Hands*.

Sarles worked on the editorial staff of feature films including *The Right Stuff*, *Henry & June*, *My Blue Heaven* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. He was a sound editor on *Breakin'*, *Romero* and *The Money Tree*.

In 1986 Sarles founded his own film production company, Ravin' Films, which was incorporated in 2010. Sarles operates his production company with his longtime filmmaking partner Christina Keating, who is also his wife. Sarles co-edited the Peabody winning 1994 documentary mini-series *Moon Shot* for which he shared a Primetime Emmy nomination for editing and the 1999 ABC documentary *The Story of Fathers & Sons*.

Christina Keating

Editor

Christina Keating has worked on the production, script and editorial staffs of television programs and documentaries that have aired on PBS, FOX, MTV, VH1, the WB Network, PAX, Oxygen, FUSE, and the Discovery Channel. She has overseen the production and post production of film tributes created for the annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremonies.

Christina produced the DVD programs *John Lee Hooker: Come And See About Me*, *Fly Jefferson Airplane*, and produced and edited the nine DVD series *Rock And Roll Hall of Fame Live for Time Life*. She has overseen the research, production and post production of numerous projects produced by Ravin' Films, most recently the feature documentary *BANG! The Bert Berns Story*.

Frank Van Wanrooij

Composer

Frank van Wanrooij was born on July 12, 1963 in the Netherlands, and works as a Music Director for theatre shows. With his company Nomad In Sound Terrain he is active as a composer in multiple styles varying from contemporary classical music to world music and main stream tunes to capture large audiences. He lives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Conducting over 3000 theatre performances Frank was the Musical Director for HAIR (European Tours, 1994-2000, Broadway Musical Company NYC). Since 2001 Frank has been the musical director for the Dutch renowned comedian Tineke Schouten.

He was a board member between 2008-2016 of VCTN and NTB (Dutch union for musicians, actors and technicians). Currently he is a board member of Buma Cultuur, the organisation that promotes Dutch copyright with an annual budget of more than 3 million euros.

In addition to being active as a composer, arranger and writer, Frank studied law with a focus on copyright law. He considers music copyright to be of great importance to both musicians and the public.

Walther Vlaanderen **Fine Arts Photographer**

Born in 1948 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Attended the Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam (1970's) and educated himself as a photographer in the following years. Walther's work has been featured in many publications and exhibitions.

(from the Publication Digital Magazin "Cunst" oktober 2011 by Hein Walter):

You can see that Walther Vlaanderen used to be a painter, it is coming back in his pictures, in colors and compositions. Nowadays he is painting with his camera and instead of paint he is using light. His pictures are silent stories, dreams, illusions, theatrical sphere images, half truth, whole theatre plays. They all about relations, although most of the time only one person is there. The other one can be the viewer when the person in the picture looks at you, confronts you. On the other hand it can be the lack of "the other" is the main message of the picture. In that case the picture will express loneliness, expectation, or sometimes desire.

Walther has his studio in Almere The Netherlands. He handles two types of photography: The commercial type of photosessions with professional models, and his artistic free work with ordinary people acting in their daily habits. At first they were two clearly separated fields but in time the borders faded which became profitable for both disciplines.

There are different kinds of photographers. The ones who are photographing the society, the news, the ones who can show nature in all of their magnificence and greatness. There are others who want to express the tension between/of relationships and there are photographers who want to manipulate the reality. Such a photographer is Walther. Not outside in a landscape but indoors with artificial light, with a scenery and costumes in a studio where light and composition are controllable. That's how he tells his stories. He elevates ordinary people to characters in an opera, movie stars in a romantic film, figures in their own bestsellers.

Rene Wielings **Casting Director and Actor**

René (1950) began as a nurse in the emergency room of GGD Amsterdam, and later was a social nurse at the SOA outpatient clinic. In 1984 he started as a self-taught pantomime on the street and within a year he was able to exchange his original profession for an artistic career. Rob van Reijn (Dutch grand master of the pantomime) called him his successor at the time, but René opted for the commercial side. Through his work as a teacher of improvisation at the HBO education Show / Musical, he regularly performed in well-known TV programs: Bananasplit, Soundmixshow, Mini-Playbackshow, Who am I, Ron Brandsteder shows, Love-Letters, Man bijt Hond. He also performed the Red Man. In the course of his 25-year career, René has performed at home and abroad and gives a very personal interpretation with a focus on improvisation, stand-up comedy and humor.