

PRESS RELEASE

Dublin, 27 January 2014



DUTCH/IRISH/GERMAN/BELGIAN CO-PRODUCTION OPENS PANORAMA DOKUMENTE SECTION OF 64th BERLINALE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Panorama Dokumente will open at Cinestar 7 at 5.00 pm on February 7 with the world premiere of the Dutch/Irish/German/Belgian co-production *Last Hijack* by Tommy Pallotta and Femke Wolting.

Synopsis:

LAST HIJACK is a true tale of survival in Somalia told from the pirate's perspective. Combining animation with documentary storytelling, the film takes an innovative hybrid approach to explore how one Somali pirate - Mohamed - came to live such a brutal and dangerous existence. Animated re-enactments exploring Mohamed's memories, dreams and fears from his point of view are juxtaposed with raw footage from his everyday life in an original non-fiction narrative.

Somalia is the worldwide capital of piracy, and Mohamed is one of Somalia's most experienced pirates. But in his homeland, a failed state, Mohamed is just another middle-aged man trying to make ends meet. Far removed from the glamour and adventure of the pirates of books and movies, Somali pirates face increasing scrutiny and stigmatization both at home and abroad. Now Mohamed is engaged and both his parents and his in-laws pressure him to change his ways before the big wedding day. Mohamed senses that the golden age of piracy may be coming to an end, and with pressure mounting to provide for his loved ones, he must decide whether to risk everything for one last hijack.

Bio Tommy Pallotta & Femke Wolting:

The filmmaking team of Tommy Pallotta and Femke Wolting is a meeting of true industry pioneers who push the boundaries of storytelling. Tommy first connected Richard Linklater with animation when he produced the award-winning feature film **Waking Life**. He followed up with Philip K. Dick's **A Scanner Darkly**, starring Keanu Reeves and Robert Downey Jr. He then directed the Emmy nominated **Collapsus**. Femke Wolting co-founded Submarine, a multiple award-winning production company. She produced numerous projects such as Peter Greenaway's feature **Rembrandt's J'Accuse**, groundbreaking documentaries like **My Second Life**, and the internationally acclaimed **Meet the Fokkens** about elder twin prostitutes. Femke has also directed many documentaries, such as **Sneakers** - about the rise and rise of the sports shoe - and **Viktor & Rolf: "Because We Are Worth It"** - which followed a year in the lives of avant-garde fashion designers Viktor & Rolf. Currently, Femke is producing Peter Greenaway's next film, **Eisenstein in Guanajuato**.

Last Hijack is also an **online interactive documentary** where the viewer can switch between the western and Somali perspective. This transmedia production will be launched after the Berlinale on: lasthijack.com

The world premiere of *Last Hijack* is on Friday February 7, 5 pm, at Cinestar 7. Other screenings during Berlinale are: 8 feb, 12 pm, CineStar 7 / 9 feb, 5.30 pm at Cubix 7 / 10 feb, 3.30 pm at Colosseum 1 / 14 feb, 2.30 pm at CineStar 7.

This film is a Dutch / Irish / German / Belgian co-production by Submarine in co-production with Still Films, Razor Film, Savage Film, IKON and ZDF. In association with Bord Scannán na hÉireann/the Irish Film Board. Supported by the Media Programme of the European Union, Netherlands Film Fund, CoBO, Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, the Dutch Media Fund and the Flanders Audiovisual Fund with the participation of PLANÈTE + and RTS Radio Télévision Suisse.

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