

SENN
BORSATO

NINA
WYSS

JOES
BRAUERS

DEREK
DE LINT

PETER PAUL
MULLER

RAYMOND
THIRY

VAN DE REGISSEUR VAN
ACHTSTE-GROEPERS HUILEN NIET
EN
ANUBIS

PRESS BOOK

CODEM

EEN FILM VAN DENNIS BOTS

ONTRAFEL JIJ DEZE ZOMER HET MUSKETIERSGEHEIM?

SCENARIO TIJS VAN MARLE EN KAREN VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN

BLIKER EN ELBE STEVENS PRESENTEREN EEN INDEPENDENT FILMS RELEASE "CODE M" NINA WYSS, SENNA BORSATO, JOES BRAUERS, PETER PAUL MULLER, HANNAH VAN LUNTEREN, LOTJE VAN LUNTEREN, LEON VOORBERG, HUBERT DAMEN, RAYMOND THIRY, ROBERT DE HOOG, BEAU SCHNEIDER EN DEREK DE LINT ALS OPA BER
CASTING JAMUSZ GOSSCHALK, LEONIE LUTTIK, ELSKE FALKENA, SOUND MIXER FERRY DE PATER, KOSTUUM ONTWERP FLEUR ENDERBERG, MAKE-UP & HAAR JACQUELINE HOOGENDIJK, COMPOSITIE FONTS MERKIES, SOUND DESIGN HERMAN PIEETE CAS, MONTAGE ELSBETH KASTEEL NICE, VFX SUPERVISORS ALBERT VAN VUURE, DENNIS KLEYN
PRODUCTION DESIGN FLORIAN LECTERS, CAMERA DENNIS WIELAERT, LINE PRODUCER MICHEL BARTELS, CO-PRODUCENTEN MYLENE VERDURMEN, MARTIN DEWITTE, PRODUCENTEN HARRO VAN STAVERDEN, ELBE STEVENS, DAVID-JAN BLIKER, REGIE DENNIS BOTS





Dutch distributor:
Press contact:

Independent Films
Eline de Boer
T:+ 31 20 314263
E: eline@independentfilms.nl

Synopsis

Short

In the new, thrilling and adventurous family film 'CODE M', the strong-willed Isabel (11) takes over her ill grandfather's search for the legendary sword of the world famous musketeer D'Artagnan, against her family's wishes. The sword has been missing for centuries and Isabel's only clue to its location is a secret code. Together with her cousin Rik (13) and friend Jules (12), she embarks on an exciting quest that takes them through caves and past castles. But they soon discover they are not the only ones looking for the sword. Who can Isabel trust and who has a hidden agenda?

Long

In a prologue we see the musketeer D'Artagnan, who is the leading commander during the battle for Maastricht in 1673. When exploring the hills of Limburg he witnesses farmer boy Stas Karstens (12) being humiliated by plundering soldiers. D'Artagnan gives the boy a helping hand and together they drive them off. Stas is very impressed by the musketeer and the power of his beautiful sword. D'Artagnan promises to give Stas his valuable sword, as soon as the battle for Maastricht is over. Unfortunately he won't be able to keep his promise because he dies during the battle. Musketeer De Montesquiou hides D'Artagnan's sword and gives Stas a letter with the code: a true musketeer knows how to solve that code and will then retrieve the sword. Stas spends his entire life trying to decipher the code, and so do generations of his family after him.


In 2014 the adventure of leading character Isabel (11) begins. She hasn't seen her grandfather Ber Karstens (great-great-grandson of Stas) in years. Her mother, Louise, is mad at her father and doesn't want to speak to him anymore, to great dissatisfaction of Isabel, who always enjoyed searching for D'Artagnan's sword with her favourite grandfather. But when Ber ends up in hospital because of a mysterious car accident, Louis gives in and visits him at the hospital in Maastricht with her own family and her sister's family. When it appears that they have to stay a little longer, because Ber isn't recovering very well, Isabel decides to secretly take over her grandfather's search for the sword.

Isabel hopes that finding the valuable sword will help her grandfather get out of financial problems. It has become clear that Ber has trouble taking care of himself: he has a lot of debts and Louise and her sister Jacqueline have concluded that their father can't live in the farmhouse on his own anymore. They will put the farmhouse and its contents (a large collection of antiques concerning the musketeers and the sword) up for sale. Isabel knows that her grandfather will be devastated if he has to leave this place.

Isabel's search is a race against time. During this quest Isabel discovers the truth about her grandfather's accident and finds a letter that was supposedly lost, which includes directions to the place where D'Artagnan's sword is hidden. Isabel gets help from her cousin Rik (12), son of her recently divorced aunt Jacqueline, who used to live abroad. Initially, the two can't stand each other, but slowly Rik's interest in the sword is sparked again and the kids become better friends. Rik happens to know a lot about computers, which at times helps them tremendously in their search.

Now that Isabel has revived the search for the sword, she discovers there are others who seem to be very interested, curious and even become greedy. Fons van Limburg Stirum (62) is the local castle lord. He is an old acquaintance of Ber, with the same passion for musketeers, but the two have lost contact in recent years following a heavy quarrel. When Fons learns that the sword could possibly be discovered, he wants to do everything he can in order to find it first. Since money isn't an issue for him, he hires art dealer Sjef to buy the contents of Ber's farmhouse. Of course, this greedy art dealer realises that the sword of D'Artagnan is worth a lot of money. Both Fons and Sjef start watching the children's every move.

Fons has a grandson, Jules (13), who is staying with him for the summer. From the moment he meets Isabel, the boy is attracted to her. After some quarrelling with Rik, Jules joins Isabel and Rik as 'the third musketeer' and they start working together to find the sword. Besides the quest for the sword, Isabel will also confront her mother and discover the shocking truth behind her fight with grandfather Ber. She will have to deal with the treason of Jules, who is manipulated by his grandfather, and she will have to outsmart Sjef, who recklessly tries to get the sword before anyone else does. Like true musketeers, Isabel and her friends have to overcome all these obstacles to save grandfather Ber and to bring her family back together again: all for one, one for all.

Director:	Dennis Bots
Script:	Tijs van Marle Karen van Holst Pellekaan
Cast:	Derek de Lint Peter Paul Muller Joes Brauers Nina Wyss Senna Borsato Hannah van Lunteren Lotje van Lunteren Raymond Thiry Robert de Hoog Beau Schneider
Length:	98 minutes
Genre:	adventure, family
Kijkwijzer classification:	
Release:	24 juni 2015
Distributor:	Independent Films
International Sales:	Sola Media GmbH

Director's intention

I am very strongly attracted to the genre of adventure films. With the 'Anubis' films I garnered sufficient experience in this genre. Through the feature films 'Cool Kids Don't Cry' and 'Secrets of War' I have gained experience in bringing drama to the screen, layering the characters and portraying their complicated relations to each other. In the film 'CODE M' I can combine both these experiences. Because this is a captivating, thrilling adventure film that tells a moving story about the struggle people go through. I consider this combination an amazing challenge.

The main character Isabel intrigues me and I feel I can relate to her. She is an independent girl who is unique and has a mind of her own. She is convinced of her mission and won't stop at any cost. I recognize myself in those qualities. I have always set out my own course and never stopped believing in that. After finishing my education at the filmacademy, I made films and television series such as House of Anubis and Zoop. I was judged by many colleagues. But I knew that the experience that I got from projects such as those would be incredibly valuable. I also knew that I would make films such as 'Cool Kids Don't Cry' and 'Secrets of War' and that the experience of my previous work would benefit me. And it has.

I have not been able to develop the project from the beginning. Therefore I have not had any influence on the synopsis and its development into a treatment. Fortunately, the screenwriters were very willing to work together in a later stage and to fine tune the story, to build and bring nuance to the different characters, but also to look for new and surprising visual transitions between present and past. As a result I am very grateful for the wonderful cooperation between the writers and me.

I immediately saw a lot of potential in the screenplay and want to show that there is a succesful film in this story which will stand out in both the Netherlands and abroad. Where D'Artagnan is usually a well-known hero from books and American blockbusters, we will hopefully reveal that the famous musketeer truly existed and pass on the immaterial value of his motto to both young and old.

All for one, one for all!

Dennis Bots.

Producer Bijker Film & TV

Bijker Film & TV is a renowned production company, founded in 1999 and has a long tradition in producing content aimed at target audiences youth and family for various platforms such as cinema, VOD, television and internet. Our productions are characterized by a combination of entertainment, societal relevance and cinematography. It is our purpose to tell stories that matter. We aim to tell these stories in a broad manner, in order to reach a large audience. For this purpose, we use various media outlets (film, print, events, social media, expositions). This has resulted in the internationally successful and awarded films such as COOL KIDS DON'T CRY and SECRETS OF WAR.

Producers

Harro van Staverden

David Jan Bijker

Line producer

Michiel Bartels

Producer Elbe Stevens Films

Elbe Stevens Films is the largest fictional film company in the south of the Netherlands. The strategic location in Maastricht underlines the company's international orientation. Co-productions are mostly aimed at Germany and Belgium. Apart from mainstream projects, the company focuses on new filmmakers and original ideas. These young directors produce short films in an international collaboration. The framework of this project is called Masterplan Filmtalent Limburg. Elbe Stevens received the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Inspiratieprijs last year in recognition of his work in relation to supporting and stimulating new talents. Of these short films, DE SMET, is most well-known. It won several prizes, including in 2015 de Canal + Award at the Clermont Ferrand Film festival. Elbe Stevens Films has also been involved with the media platform Cinesud from the start.

Producers' statement

Musketeer D'Artagnan

In 2011 we heard about the history of the captain of the guard of musketeers D'Artagnan in Maastricht. D'Artagnan is world-famous for his appearance in the novels 'The Three Musketeers' written by the French Alexandre Dumas and the many film adaptations of these books. The last film adaptation is from 2011. But only a few know that D'Artagnan has really existed, as one of the first musketeers in the service of the French court, for king Louis XIV.

D'Artagnan is known as one of the great heroes of European history, with many heroic deeds to his name. During his lifetime he visited the Netherlands a couple of times. And finally he passed away in our country with one final act of heroism during the siege of Maastricht in 1673. In 1673 Louis XIV wanted to free the Dutch Republic from the Spanish occupation. This battle began with the siege of Maastricht and was one of the most important military operations of Europe in that period.

The conquest of Maastricht became known as one of the many military successes of king Louis XIV and an important subject in the glorification of the deeds of the Sun King. For that reason, the siege of Maastricht is depicted on the painted ceiling of the mirror room in the palace of Versailles.

Mystery surrounding D'Artagnan

In the historiography and many artistic representations on the siege of Maastricht we can trace back all the details of this event. However, one mystery remains to this day: no one knows the location of D'Artagnan's grave. There are historians who claim that D'Artagnan was taken to Paris after the siege of Maastricht to be buried close to the palace of Louis XIV. Other historians, including the French biographer of D'Artagnan, Odile Bordaz and the Dutch historian Dirk Jacob Jansen are convinced D'Artagnan is buried in Wolder, south of Maastricht.

After seeing the statue of D'Artagnan and discovering this mystery surrounding his death an idea for a film began to develop. A family film where for the first time the authentic history of D'Artagnan's heroic death in Maastricht is revealed. And that emphasizes the core values that D'Artagnan upheld: loyalty, bravery, honesty, perseverance and courage. Universal core values for young and old. In connection to these values we have made educational material, a two-year-long exposition on the musketeers, a musketeers event, a youth novel and tourist routes and package deals.

Compagnie des Mousquetaires d'Armagnac

To this day, there are still several celebrities who keep the memory of D'Artagnan alive and act as musketeers. Amongst them: Gorbatsjov, prince Henrik of Denmark, married to the Danish Queen Margaretha II and king Albert of Belgium. The Dutch Squadron consists of some well known names as well: André Rieu, Camiel Eurlings and Camille Oostwegel, owner of the Chateau Hotels in Limburg and Consul for France. The Dutch Squadron is one of the main squadrons involved.

- Harro van Staverden and Elbe Stevens

Biographies

DIRECTOR



Dennis Bots (1974) was born in Zambia and moved to Gemert, the Netherlands in his youth. For years he has worked as a director on various projects. He has worked on multiple television series and short films, including WESTENWIND, TRAUMA 24/7, ROZENGEUR & WODKA LIME, DE AFDELING and SPOORLOOS VERDWENEN. With his two short films REFLECTMENT and EMERGENCY EXIT he has won several prizes abroad;

including the Young Talent Showcase Award in Cannes, the Silver Gryphon Award for Best Short in Youth Selection and the Reel-2-Reel Most Innovative Short Film in Canada. His main passion is making films and television series for children. As such, he has directed multiple youth series in the Netherlands and Belgium. Including ZOOP, het SINTERKLAASJOURNAAL and THE HOUSE OF ANUBIS, nominated for the golden rose. He also co-directed the first feature film ZOOP IN AFRIKA (2005) which became a box office hit and he directed PLOP AND THE PINGUIN (2007). In 2008 he directed the film ANUBIS EN HET PAD DER 7 ZONDEN and in 2009 the film ANUBIS EN DE WRAAK VAN ARGHUS. In 2012 he directed the film COOL KIDS DON'T CRY, a film adaptation of the eponymous novel by Jacques Vriens, the screenplay written by Karen van Holst Pellekaan. Dennis also directed SECRETS OF WAR, written by Karen van Holst Pellekaan also based on the eponymous book by Jacques Vriens, for which he received the Golden Calf award: the special Jury price. For CODE M he again has teamed up with Karen van Holst Pellekaan who co-wrote the film with Tijs van Marle.

NINA WYSS plays ISABEL

Isabel (12) is a tomboy, who lives by her own rules and is independent. She acts spontaneously, relies on intuition. She longs for adventure and can be difficult to deal with. She hates to conform to a norm. She often fights with her mother. Her need to protect Isabel is often misunderstood as control and rejection. On top of that, Isabel is mad that her mother cut all contact with grandpa Ber. She has always had a weakness for her adventurous grandfather Ber. He is her hero, especially in the perseverance he has shown in looking for the sword of D'Artagnan and his general attitude. Apart from her independence and attitude towards her mother, Isabel has a strong sense of humor.



Nina Wyss (2000) is the oldest sibling in a family with a German father and Swiss mother. As a result, Nina was raised trilingual. Apart from the gymnasium that she attends, she was part of the national youth musical theatre. She took lessons in dancing, singing and acting. Her first role was as Winnie in the television film RABARBER (Marc de Cloe) in 2013. CODE M was the second feature film in which she took on a leading role: she plays main character Isabel.

SENNA BORSATO plays RIK

Rik (13) is Isabel's cousin. They have not seen each other in years but are forced to hang out after grandpa Ber's accident. In many ways, Rik is the opposite of Isabel. He only acts on knowledge and reason, is mostly cynical and always thinks twice before going on an adventure. This, in combination with his obsessive love for everything online, qualifies him as a arrogant know-it-all and nerd. But underneath this facade is an insecure boy, who is suffering because of his parents' divorce. Initially, he is annoyed by Isabel (because he feel threatened by her assertiveness), but along the way he dares to go on an adventure with her and blossoms into a energetic boy, who becomes essential in discovering the mysteries surrounding the lost sword of D'Artagnan.



Senna Borsato (2001) has always been fond of theatre, acting and is very creative. Senna made his acting debut by playing a leading role in the film HEKSEN BESTAAN NIET. He also had a part in de film PLAKBAND with his sister Jada. This film was part of the 48-hour Film Project – the Cinekid version. Past year, Senna played the role of Jip in the NCRV-youth series HET VERBORGEN EILAND. In 2015 he took on the role of Rik, one of the main characters, in the exciting family film 'CODE M'.

JOES BRAUERS plays JULES

Jules (12) is the grandson of nobleman Fons. He is spending the summer at his grandfather's castle, because he is going to partake in a grand fencing tournament. But also because his father is too busy to take a vacation and his mother has recently passed away. Jules is a sensitive boy, who tries his best to meet his grandfather's high expectations. Nobleman Fons does not expect anything less than a fencing champion in his noble family. Immediately upon meeting her, Jules falls for the cool Isabel and is more than willing to help her. But he gets himself in trouble when his grandfather discovers the purpose of the kids' secret mission and tries to lure Jules into spilling everything. Jules then faces the challenge to stand up to an authority and to choose his friends' side.



Joes Brauers (1999) was raised in Bocholtz. He became nationally known through his role as Kruijmelte in the eponymous Dutch musical. He won this role by participating in the nationally televised search WIE WORDT KRUIJMELTE? for the actor to play the main part. Joes also played Dik Trom in 2012 in the eponymous musical. In addition to theater, Joes played several film parts. In 2011 he played his first role in the film ANATOLE (Elbe Stevens). He voiced a part in the animation film DE VERBODEN ZOLDER (Dick van den Heuvel). In 2014 he portrayed one of the main characters in the film SECRETS OF WAR directed by Dennis Bots. He can also be seen in DE BOSKAMPI'S (Arne Toonen, 2015) and HET KOGELGAT VAN CHATEAU ST. GERLACH (Robin Peeters, 2015). In CODE M Joes plays the part of Jules.

DEREK DE LINT is GRANDPA BER

Grandpa Ber (Bertrand Karstens) (67), is an eccentric, chaotic and passionate man with an excessive amount of kitsch and antiques spread through his age-old farmhouse, creating chaos. Ever since he was a child he has been obsessed with finding the sword of D'Artagnan, much to his daughter Louise's disapproval. Since Ber's wife passed away about 6 years ago and Louise broke all contact with him, he has led a reclusive life as an einselganger. Unable to show the people he loves what he truly needs: his family.



Derek de Lint became well known to the large audience through his part in the film *SOLDAAT VAN ORANJE* by director Paul Verhoeven. The film was nominated for an Oscar in the category Best Foreign Film. He also played a main part in the film *DE AANSLAG*, an adaptation from the eponymous book by Harry Mulisch, which was awarded the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Derek has built an impressive international career. He played parts in *THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING* (with Juliette Binoche), *MASCARA* (with Charlotte Rampling) and *STEALING HEAVEN*.

In addition, Derek played a lead role for four years in the American TV-series *POLTERGEIST: THE LEGACY* and played parts in shows such as *THE L WORD*, *INTO THE WEST*, *NCIS*, *ALIAS*, *NYPD BLUE*, *CHINA BEACH* en *SILENT WITNESS*. Derek also played a part in the popular TV-series *GOOISCHE VROUWEN* and subsequently its successful feature film. In addition, over the course of the past years Derek has played parts in the 3D film *NOVA ZEMBLA*, the romantic comedy *VALENTINO*, the slave-drama *TULA: THE REVOLT*, the thriller *DAGLICHT*, family film *MIDDEN IN DE WINTERNACHT*, historic epos *MICHIEL DE RUYTER*, the comedy *FAMILY WEEKEND*. Derek can also be seen in the feature film *GOOISCHE VROUWEN 2*. Currently he plays a part in the third season of the drama series *BLOEDVERWANTEN* and can be seen in the cinema in family film *CODE M* as grandfather Ber.

PETER PAUL MULLER is REMCO

Remco (46) is the husband of Louise and the father of Isabel and Toby. A sweet man who prefers harmony over conflict and therefore is considered a push-over, especially by Isabel. He mostly gives in to his strong and often strict wife. Remco is a fun dad to his children and tries to solve their conflicts with a sense of humor.



Peter Paul Muller (1965) is mostly known as the singer Martin Morero in the comedy drama series *GOOISCHE VROUWEN*, of which the fifth and final season was broadcast in 2009 and subsequently in the feature films of the series which were released in 2011 and 2014.

Peter Paul graduated the academy of performing arts in Maastricht in 1991. He could be seen in various television shows such as *RICHTING ENGELAND*, *DAG JUF, TOT MORGEN*, *GRIJPSTRA & DE GIER*, *BAANTJER* and *HOLLANDS HOOP*. In 2012 Peter Paul, in the role of Martin Morero, hosts his own talkshow *VILLA MORERO*.

In addition to his work for television, he plays parts in the film *ALL STARS* (1997, Jean van de Velde). Following the success of the film, a TV spin off was released in which Peter Paul played a role for three seasons. The show was awarded an Emmy. After the success of the film and the TV-series a second film was released in 2011 *ALL STARS 2 OLD STARS*.

In addition to these performances, Peter Paul played parts in *DE PASSIEVRUCHT* (2003, Maarten Treurniet), *DE DOMINEE* (2004, Gerrard Verhage) and *ALLES IS LIEFDE* (2007, Joram Lürsen). He also played a part in the film adaptation of the book *DE EETCLUB* (2010, Robert Jan Westdijk), the Flemish feature film *FRITS & FRANKIE* (2010, Marc Punt) and *WIPLALA* (2014, Tim Oliehoek). He received a Golden Calf for best male actor in a supporting role for *GOOISCHE VROUWEN* in 2011. In 2014 he also appeared in the sequel *GOOISCHE VROUWEN 2*. In 2015 he is seen in the sensual thriller *RENDEZ-VOUS* (Antoinette Beumer) and in *CODE M* (Dennis Bots).

RAYMOND THIRY is D'ARTAGNAN

Charles de Batz de Castelmor, count of Artagnan was a 'first musketeer' in the army of the French king Louis XIV. D'Artagnan represents the ideals of a musketeer: Loyalty, honesty, transparency, heroism, courage, selflessness and independence. He died with one final heroic act during the siege of Maastricht (1673). There is one mystery to this day surrounding his death: No one knows where D'Artagnan is buried.



Raymond Thiry (1959) became known to the Dutch audience through his role as Van Rossum in ROOS EN HAAR MANNEN, the youth program that was broadcasted successfully by VPRO for 10 years.

Raymond received a Golden Calf nomination for best actor in 2006 for his part in the art house film LANGER LICHT by David Lammers. In 2009 he won a Golden Calf for his supporting role in the feature film OORLOGSWINTER, which drew more than 800.000 viewers to the cinema and was even in cinema's in America. He also played a part in the box office hit BRIEF VOOR DE KONING. Since 2010, Raymond has played the part of Luther in the appraised crime series PENOZA, of which the third season starts in the fall of 2015. In addition to this, he can be seen as the father in the youth series DOCKLANDS, the feature film SONNY BOY and the drama series A'dam – E.V.A. In 2011, Raymond (together with Martin Hofsta) toured Dutch theatres with the comical show DAMES EN HEREN, with which they also performed at Oerol and de Parade and he played a part in the theatre show POSKANTOOR. He also took on parts for tv-series HET GORDIJNPALEIS VAN OLLIE HARTMOED by Norbert ter Hall and the exciting TV-series DE GEHEIMEN VAN BARSLET. In 2012 he played the leading role in the comical crime film BLACK OUT by Arne Toonen. In the fall of 2013 Raymond played a leading role in A LONG STORY, in the one night stand ONDER INVLOED en in de crimefilm WOLF, which is sold internationally. He also played in the romantic comedy BRO'S BEFORE HO'S and the graduation film COWBOYS JANKEN OOK, which is selected for the Berlinale. In 2015 he can be seen in the art house films TUSSEN 10 EN 12, OUR SUN, the TV series MISSIE AARDE and feature film BLOED, ZWEET EN TRANEN. And of course, the family film CODE M where he portrays the historic figure D'Artagnan.

Cast and crew list

Director	Dennis Bots
Script	Thijs van Marle en Karen van Holst Pellekaan
Cast	Derek de Lint Peter Paul Muller Joes Brauers Nina Wyss Senna Borsato Hannah van Lunteren Lotje van Lunteren Raymond Thiry Robert de Hoog Beau Schneider André Rieu
Producer	Harro van Staverden (BIJKER Film & TV) David Jan Bijker (BIJKER Film & TV) Elbe Stevens (Elbe Stevens Films)
Co-producer	Living Stone AVROTROS
Line Producer	Michiel Bartels
Camera	Dennis Wielaert Kasper de Bont (B-camera) Christian Schult (ACB-camera)
Editing	Elsbeth Kasteel Niels Koopman (assistent)
Sound	Ferry de Pater
Sound Designer	Herman Pieete
Light	Joris Hetsen
Make-up & Hair	Jacqueline Hoogendijk Judith Looye
Costume Design	Fleur Enderberg
VFX	Dennis Kleyn
Music	Fons Merkies
Production Designer	Florian Legters
Casting	Kemna Casting Elske's Casting
Poster design	Michael van Randerat - Locust Entertainment