

Grands travaux

Olivia Rochette & Gerard-Jan Claes, 2016

Synopsis

Grands travaux is set in the Institute Anneessens-Funck, a Dutch-speaking vocational school in the centre of Brussels where young students have come to learn a trade. The film both documents and stages that which gives shape to their lives: the practical assignments and classes at school, football, the oscillation of their love lives, as well as the ongoing search for housing and employment. Depicting daily life within the school walls, *Grands travaux* also aims to sketch an image of Brussels today, placing its youngsters at the very centre.

Country	Belgium
Language	Dutch, French, Pular
Subtitles	English, French & Dutch
Release date	24 May 2016
Filming locations	Brussels
Screening format	DCP
Length	101 min.
Aspect ratio	16:9
Colour/B&W	Colour
Sound	Dolby 5.1

Stills

www.dropbox.com/sh/ddg3e0mab3oghw5/AAD0cBfLHp5doPQHDmME24Tka?dl=0

Trailer

www.vimeo.com/200651375

Poster

www.dropbox.com/sh/c0c6x46q9ta8qn1/AADhQ-_wPswJq61ijaqXAOVa?dl=0

Interview on *Grands travaux* written by Bjorn Gabriels [available in Dutch and English]

www.sabzian.be/article/grands-travaux-interview-with-olivia-rochette-and-gerard-jan-claes

or

www.issuu.com/keursschouwburgbrussel/docs/grands_travaux_binnenwerk_met_cover

Website

www.claes-rochette.be/work_detail.php?work=grandstravaux

Facebook

www.facebook.com/claesrochette

A film by	Olivia Rochette and Gerard-Jan Claes
With	Mohamud Mohamed Abdi, Ahmadou Oury Barry, Mamadou Diallo, Achmed Xussein
And with	Mustafa Abbas, Pascaline Agraine Adjei, Deborah Baah Asiedu, Nele De Cat, Adama Diallo, Yunus Emre Ak, Fathi Erriouech, Reza Gharibzadeh, Erza Hasani, M'Hamed Kasmi, Hamza Iqbal, Ilhan Izci, Daniel Mampaxi Kiaku, T.Rose, Vicky Verbist, Kris Verhaegen
Image	Olivia Rochette
Sound	Gerard-Jan Claes
Producer	Bart Van Langendonck
Line producer	Tatjana Kozar
Editing	Dieter Diependaele
Sound editing	Ingrid Simon, Sabrina Calmels
Sound mixing	Thomas Gauder
Color correction	Raphaëlle Dufosset
Second camera	Ruben Desiere
Additional sound recording	Lennert De Taeye, Nina de Vroome, Paulo Rietjens
Advice	Elias Grootaers
Production	Savage Film
Co-production	Beursschouwburg, Zéro de conduite
Supported by	Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds (VAF), Centre du Cinéma de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie (VGC) & De Belgische Tax Shelter voor filmfinanciering
In association with	Eyeworks Film & TV Drama, Scio Productions, Canvas

Biography

Documentary filmmakers Olivia Rochette (Belgium, 1987) and Gerard-Jan Claes (Belgium, 1987) graduated in 2010 from the School of Arts – KASK in Ghent with *Because We Are Visual*. This documentary allows the viewer to discover the world of public video journals. It was shown at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, and Videoex, and was exhibited in museums such as S.M.A.K. and MAC's. Since 2009, the duo has worked for Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her dance company Rosas. In 2012, Rochette and Claes made *Rain*, a full-length documentary about the transmission of De Keersmaeker's contemporary choreography to the classically-trained ballet dancers of the Ballet de l'Opéra national de Paris. The film premiered at Film Fest Ghent and was also shown at Cinéma du Réel at Centre Pompidou, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, Los Angeles Film Festival, etc. In 2013, the pair founded the production and distribution platform Zéro de conduite together with documentary filmmaker Elias Grootaers. The same year, they also established Sabzian, a collection of online reflections on cinema and an agenda listing cinephile events in Belgium and surroundings. Their newest film, *Grands travaux*, premiered this year at the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels and had its international premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Introduction by Bjorn Gabriels

Documentary filmmakers Gerard-Jan Claes and Olivia Rochette live and work in Brussels. Rarely a sentence worth a dime a dozen, the likes of which are frequently used in bio-blurbs, was so telling. Their new documentary *Grands travaux* is, indeed, just that: living and working in Brussels. For the filmmaking duo as well as for the pupils at the vocational school Anneessens-Funck with whom they collaborated.

In previous work, Claes and Rochette already paid attention to the environment in which youngsters grow up, and to the way their world is imagined. In 2010, they graduated from KASK – School of Arts in Ghent with *Because We Are Visual*, an audiovisual essay that encapsulates the diverse, exuberant mood swings of young YouTubers. The meandering montage of online video diaries exudes both the carefree freedom and the stifling oppression young people experience while frankly and unpretentiously expressing their grief, dreams, mischief and joy. The characters of *Because We Are Visual* realize that they are flirting with the boundaries between private and public, but embrace the anonymous public space of the Internet. After all, in these images they exist.

With their graduation film, Claes and Rochette won a Wildcard from the Flemish Audiovisual Fund, which allowed them to start with *Grands travaux*. But first they made their debut film *Rain* (2012), commissioned by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's dance company Rosas, for which they have been providing audiovisual work since their student days. The documentary *Rain* turns to the restaging of De Keersmaeker's eponymous choreography at the Ballet de l'Opéra national in Paris. Through the preparatory work of the dancers, the film looks at the friction between classical ballet and contemporary dance in the wings of the Opera. The personal involvement of Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, who often follows the rehearsal process from a distance, breaks through in recordings of telephone conversations with her closest collaborators. Again, the cinematic space embodies an encounter.

In 2013, Rochette and Claes co-founded the production and distribution platform Zéro de conduite with teacher and documentary filmmaker Elias Grootaers. Together, they organize film programs at the Beursschouwburg, where Rochette and Claes have been 'associated artists' from 2013 to 2016. In 2013, they were also co-founders of Sabzian, an online platform whose agenda and reflections about cinema set out to foster a vivid cinephile culture. These initiatives contribute to a discursive space in which films and reflections about films incite each other to constantly re-think how cinema relates to life.

The interplay of reading and writing, showing and looking, filming and being filmed also sparked their latest film, *Grands travaux*. Searching for form as filmmakers, they find the boys at Anneessens-Funck searching for a home, work, a future... Claes and Rochette made a film in close collaboration with the youngsters Ahmadou Barry, Mamadou Diallo, Achmed Xussein and Mohamed Abdi. They met each other in a game of forms, in a film.