

Maartje Nevejan is an independent filmmaker (based in Amsterdam), with a background in theatre and multi media. In her projects she likes to research the (raw) poetic quality of reality.

Trained as an actress, Nevejan founded her own theatercompany with a collective of actors and writers. One of its plays was turned into a feature movie called Broos, and all the actresses were awarded with the Golden calf as best actresses of the year 1997.

Since 1999 Nevejan changed her focus from theater to documentary filmmaking. From being an actress to a director.

"14 and 1 Stations" was a 15-episode tv-series with a live performance "Station to Station" on good Friday 2000 about the meaning of the story of the Passion of Christ in this momentum. Two storylines, the profane and the sublime were crossing, the people in the Red light district in Amsterdam told their stories of suffering crossing those of artists like Marina Abramovic, Desiree Dolron, Ger van Elk, Eli Content, Marc Mulders and Gijs Frieling. Nevejan used the Internet, still in a very beginning state, for the first time with this project.

From 2002-2009 Nevejan worked with immigrant kids, after making a Festival in Amsterdam West, the project became two award winning tv-series for BNN called "Couscous and Cola".

This controversial TV series adressed the lives and opinions of these kids and their relation to the "West", in a time where the once so tolerant Holland was going through a confused and hostile episode towards foreigners. Nevejan followed the kids from age 13 till 19 years and travelled with them to the USA in 2003 and in 2006 back to Africa.

The series was bought by Al Jazeera English and broadcasted worldwide in 2007. It received an Emmy-nomination in 2008.

Due to the enormous respons of the international youth emailing Nevejan, she started a website called "Couscous Global" and travelled for one year through the world filming debates with young adults about their hearts and opinions. Everyone could post videos on line towards eachother, and for a moment it felt that we had a global debate of youth culture from China to Africa, from the Middle East to the USA.

From 2009-2011 Nevejan made two feature length documentaries:

"Theo van Gogh, the man is dead", a selfportrait of the filmdirector who was killed in 2004 by a muslim terrosrist in the streets of Amsterdam.

"Once upon a vaccination", a search for truth about the HPV vaccinations for young girls.

Furthermore she was involved in many international art and film projects in Sudan, Iran, in China during the Olympics, and in the UK.

From 2011-2012 Nevejan worked on a " The National Canta Ballet" that literally came from a dream. A ballet with the Dutch National Ballet and 53 handicapped people with their little red handicapped cars called Canta.

There was a website by designer Rogerio Lira, a book written by Karin Spaik, a radio documentary by Bert Kommerij, and Nevejan directed the 5

part documentary TV series called " The Canta Dances" based around one question to both the ballet dancers as the handicapped people: Tell me the story of your body from the perspective of your body".

The end so far of this moving project were the live performances in the Gashouder. " The National Canta Ballet" where ballet dancers and handicapped people worked together to create a poetic and moving piece of beauty.

In 2013 Nevejan will make a featurelength documentary from this project produced by Viewpoint productions.