

Retro look for Onder der wolken



Onder der wolken (**Under the Clouds**) is a five-part Belgian television mini-series based on the tale *The Kavijaks* by Jozef Vantorre. Set in the early post war years, the prestigious drama follows the lives of a young boy and his large, poverty-stricken family, as they try to make ends meet by undertaking all kinds of shady business. Starring the complete Declair family – Jan as the tyrannical father, Jenne as old Piften and Sophie as Cecile – the series will be aired on VTM later in 2005.

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"I was impressed with **Bloody Sunday**, the film about Northern Ireland, in which faded colours predominate alongside occasional stronger ones. It depicted an atmosphere of fear and intensity really well," says Director of Photography Renaat

Lambeets who is keen to create a similar retro look with stark contrasts and drab colours for **Onder de wolken**.

Although the film represents Lambeets' first collaboration as DP with Director Stijn Coninx, they worked together as Assistant Director and third Camera Assistant respectively, on **Leeuw van Vlaanderen (Lion of Flanders)**. A specialist in the operation of the Steadicam, Lambeets did not become involved with the mini-series until relatively late – about two months before the start of the shoot. "I'm striving

for a stable image but, when a scene dictates, I'm filming handheld for a busy, claustrophobic feel. I use the Steadicam in difficult areas or to gain time, but not to exaggerate. It is perfect for shooting sequential shots and gives the actors a lot of freedom, but you have to keep it functional," he explains.

Lambeets is currently shooting five to six minutes of material a day and admits he still prefers to work with film. "Video has a long way to go; you can't achieve the colour palette, shadows and blacks, even with HD. The physical aspect of film is difficult to equal. I chose Kodak VISION2 100T 7212 for daylight exteriors and, in order to avoid working with filters and to keep out light, I'm shooting with a small aperture. 7212's slight depth definition achieves a nice 'Flou' effect". Lambeet is using Kodak VISION2 200T 7217 for the first time on the interiors and is very satisfied with the results. "7217 is perfect and combines good definition with beautiful colours. I use large 35mm

Cooke lenses for their transparency; if you completely open the aperture and underexpose, you get a beautiful light curve," he remarks. Knowing he wouldn't be able to add very much light to the night exteriors, Lambeets selected the "extra sensitive" Kodak VISION2 500T 7218. "You can take more liberties with television shoots because everything is reduced into the size of the tube, but

lighting for television shouldn't be any less effective because of that," he comments.

Lambeets began his career as a Cameraman for BRT, shooting commentaries and documentaries for programmes such as **Panorama** and **Terloops (Impromptu)** and video clips for, amongst others, dEUS, K's Choice, Arno, Axelle Red and The Cure. He collaborated on the features **Gaston's War** (Robbe De Hert), **Damiaan** (Paul Cox), **Ali Zaoua** (Nabil Ayouch) and the television film **Balzac** with Gérard Depardieu. His DP credits include **Any Way the Wind Blows** (Tom Barman) and the documentary **White King, Red Rubber, Black Death**. ■



Top: Stijn Coninx with actors on the set of *Onder der wolken*
Above: DP Renaat Lambeets