

## Document Citation

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STIFF '99



Johan van der Keuken with Ben Webster

## Johan van der Keuken: Early Shorts

**NETHERLANDS**

**DIR/CAM** Johan van der Keuken

Total Running Time 109 min.

### JOHAN VAN DER KEUKEN: PERSISTENCE OF VISION AWARD

"Film is not life," observed van der Keuken recently, "but it has to touch your life. It's a second life." These four early poetic films reveal the origins of the complex, layered style of his later documentaries. The lyrical, subjective camerawork, detailed observations of everyday life and sensitivity to inner reality make these portraits among the most lovely of short films. While time, movement and framing are the subjects of all van der Keuken's work (he is as much devoted to the abstract as the figurative), these fragmented glimpses of other lives send us beyond the frame, to the life that continues outside the film.

#### A Moment of Silence

An impressionistic view of everyday life—glances, gestures . . . canals. (1963, 10 min.)

#### Beppie

Beppie, an expressive ten-year-old girl who lived on the same canal as the filmmaker, gives us a tour of her world. (1965, 38 min.)

#### Herman Slobbe/Blind Child 2

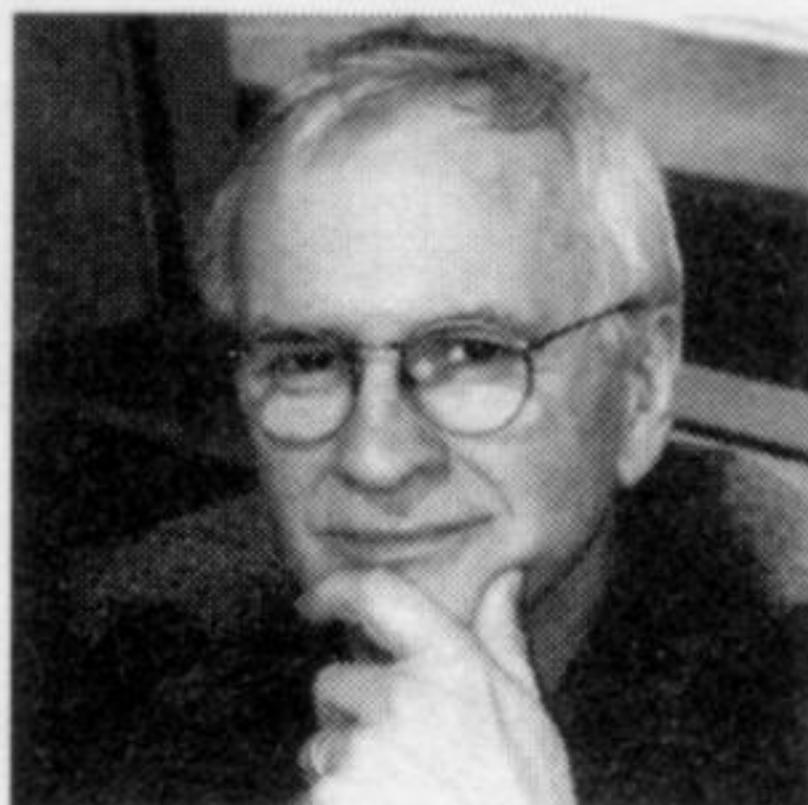
Herman Slobbe talks of his blindness, the struggles of Blacks and, in two unforgettable scenes, takes over the microphone to provide his own sound. (1966, 29 min.)

#### Big Ben/Ben Webster in Europe

Van der Keuken draws on the improvisation and spontaneity of jazz for a dynamic sense of the legendary tenor saxophonist. (1967, 32 min.)

*Kathy Geritz*

Johan van der Keuken (b. Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1938) *See Filmography on page 106.*



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