

## Document Citation

Title	<b>News from home</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Akerman, Chantal (1950-2018), Brussels, Belgium
Film Subjects	News from home, Akerman, Chantal, 1977

# NEWS FROM HOME

France-Belgium 1976

**Director:** Chantal Akerman

**Producer:** Alain Dahan

**Production Companies:** Ina, Unite Trois, Paradise Films

**Screenplay:** Chantal Akerman

**Photography:** Babette Mangolt

**Editor:** Francine Sandberg

**Sound:** Dominique Dalmasso and Larry Haas

Running time: 90 minutes

"I lived [in New York] the first time for a year and a half, and during this whole time I was getting letters from my mother. In relation to what I was experiencing, in relation to New York, it was very moving. Like a kind of amorous complaint, repetitive, always accompanying me. For my mother, who is from old Europe, America is still the myth of the new America. And she was writing to her daughter who had come to America to succeed in life. Obviously it wasn't said like that, because it was very simple language, direct. . . . The film seems to me to be very European, it's a film of construction. . . . It's a film about being off-center: me and New York, which is a city without a center, and this shows up in the construction of the film. Generally speaking, but not systematically, the film is composed of shots in the subway (the subway is very important in New York, I love everything that has to do with subways, trains . . .) and of exteriors. And you never know where you are, never. The same construction shows up on the level of sounds, and the letters which are read voice-over. At times they disappear and I let the sounds speak, at times they're scrambled and you can't understand them, rather like a leit-motif. It's like a love song that you listen to or don't listen to, and at the same time it's like a hold that is slipping . . ."

Interview with Chantal Akerman, CdC No. 277

Chantal Akerman was born in Brussels June 6, 1950. When she was fifteen she saw *Pierrot le fou* and felt, for the first time, "a violent desire to make films." She went to film school at the INSAS in Brussels for four months, dropped out and started earning money to produce her first film, *Saute ma ville* (1968). She has lived and worked in New York and Paris, where she is currently making a feature for Gaumont, the biggest production company in France.

## Filmography

1968—*Saute ma ville* (short). 1971—*L'enfant aime ou Je joue a etre une femme mariee* (short). 1972—*Chambre 1* (short), *Chambre 2* (short), *Monterey hotel* (short). 1973—*Yonkers* (unfinished). 1974—*Je tu il, elle*. 1975—*Jeanne Diehlman, 23 Rue de Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles*. 1976—*News from home*.