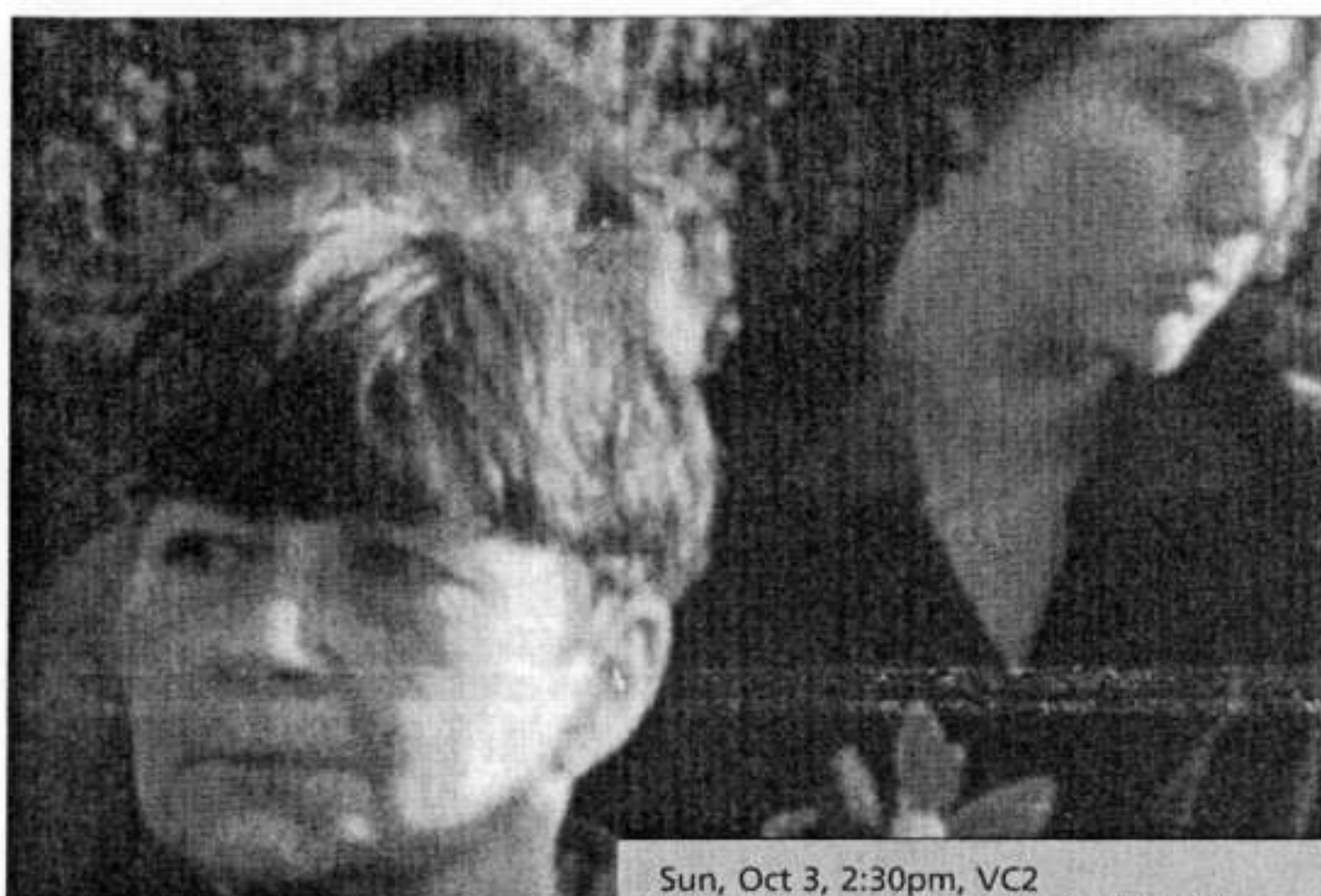


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# THE NETHERLANDS



Sun, Oct 3, 2:30pm, VC2  
Wed, Oct 6, 10:00pm, VC2 <TWOMI>

## 2 Minutes Silence, Please

**Netherlands, 1998, 87 minutes**

**Director:** Heddy Honigmann

**Producer:** Pieter van Huystee **Screenplay:** Heddy Honigmann, Hans

Dortmans **Cinematographer:** Maarten Kramer **Editor:** Mario

Steenbergen **Production Company:** Pieter van Huystee Film and TV / NPS

**Print Source:** Fortuna Films **Sales Agent:** Holland Film **Format:** 35mm

### International Premiere

In films as different as *Saving Private Ryan* and *Life is Beautiful*, World War II has assumed due prominence in the international arena of retrospection at the end of the twentieth century. Something of an antidote to both those blockbusters, this new film by the remarkable Heddy Honigmann [*O Amor Natural*, VIFF 96, *Underground Orchestra*, VIFF 98] orchestrates a number of eloquent individual responses to the questions of why and how World War II should be memorialized, as it retreats from living memory.

Honigmann's crews followed several men and women as they went about their varying degrees of observance, culminating at 8:00 pm with the official two minutes silence, on the Dutch War Memorial Day (May 4) in 1998. Just as the film expresses a broad spectrum of experience through personal encounters with a handful of people, its specific nationality only strengthens Honigmann's acknowledgement of the difficulties of remembering and the universal dangers of forgetting.

Her invariably candid subjects include a riotous 85-year-old who parties at the rest home but who also recalls the disappeared Jewish family she worked for; an Asian café owner who worries about resurgent racism in Belgium and Germany... Perhaps the most striking of all is the woman cellist, poet and psychotherapist who demands that we remember the enemy within, the dark side in all of us... When she takes her place with the orchestra for the performance of the Mozart Requiem which ends the film, her sombre wisdom seems to enter the music and to unleash a glorious benediction after the pain-filled silence. By deceptively simple means, Honigmann's war film incites the most profound hope. —Bill Gosden, New Zealand Film Festival

**Selected Filmography:** *Metal and Melancholy* (94), *Au revoir* (96), *O Amor Natural* (97), *The Underground Orchestra* (98)

CINÉMA VÉRITÉ