

## Document Citation

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## De arm van Jezus (The Arm of Jesus)

The Netherlands, 2003

world premiere



**director:** André van der Hout  
**produced by:** VPRO, Arry Voorsmit, Riba  
**by:** Filmproductions  
**sales:** Riba Filmproductions  
**scenario:** André van der Hout  
**cast:** Ferry Heyne, Frank van den Bos, Huug van Tienhoven, Wim ter Weele  
**camera:** Adri Schover  
**editor:** Adri Schover, André van der Hout  
**sound:** Kees de Groot  
**length:** 71'  
**language:** dut  
**subtitles:** english  
**medium:** 35mm

**Musical elements and archive material is mixed in this surrealist drama about a son who goes looking for his father in Rotterdam. Several roles are played by members of the Dutch band The Kift.**

In a mixture of Brechtian musical elements, special archive material and a surrealist theatrical atmosphere, the film *The Arm of Jesus*, made for VPRO's Lolamoviola series, tells the story of a miner who steals his colleague's wages to pay for his ticket to America. His son travels after him years later, but can't find him. The son is sent on business from Chicago to Rotterdam; there fate has a surprise in store for him. André van der Hout: 'The Arm of Jesus is a game with time. On one hand, events in the past you can no longer witness, a life lived, irrevocable history; the story of Father Hendrik Yzermans is largely told using found footage. It really happened and was recorded. On the other hand, you have the vicissitudes of his son Jakob Yzermans, who tries to intervene in the course of history. Two contrasting lives crossing paths in a backstreet boarding house. Rotterdam and fate are the two other characters in the story. In the last century, hundreds of thousands of newcomers settled here. But not everybody came to Rotterdam with the intention of staying. Some were only in transit. The commercial traveller, a refugee on his way to America. That someone hangs around all their life in a place he never wanted to go, I find a fascinating fact. I didn't really want to come to Rotterdam myself either.'

VPRO Tiger Awards Competition

### Screenings:

24 jan 20:00 Pathé 5	
25 jan 09:45 Pathé 4	
27 jan 14:15 Venster 1	
31 jan 10:15 Pathé 3	
1 feb 19:30 Schouwburg grote zaal	

