



Still: Dirty God

**48th International Film Festival Rotterdam
23 January - 3 February 2019**

Rotterdam, 13 December 2018

On Wednesday 23 January 2019, the film *Dirty God* by Dutch filmmaker Sacha Polak (Hemel, Zurich), produced by Marleen Slot (Viking Film), will open the 48th edition of International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR). *Dirty God* is a compelling portrait of a young mother named Jade (a powerful debut role for actress Vicky Knight), and deals with themes of courage, self-acceptance and motherhood in contemporary London.

Festival director Bero Beyer: “We’re very proud to announce that this intensely powerful and emotional film by a daring Dutch filmmaker will give a flying start to our 48th edition. **Dirty God** grabs you by the throat, while at the same time sketching a complex, multi-layered image of a strong woman dealing with her difficult situation. This grandiose work of cinema goes beyond the superficial to pose questions of guilt and beauty, hate and fear, strength and femininity.”

Sacha Polak: “As a loyal IFFR visitor, I’m honoured to have my film open the festival. What a great place for a world premiere.”



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Just a few days after its world premiere in Rotterdam, **Dirty God** will see its international premiere at Sundance Film Festival, where it will be the first-ever Dutch film to screen in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition.

Dirty God was part of BoostNL during IFFR's CineMart in 2016. Polak's feature debut **Hemel** (2012) screened at the Berlin International Film Festival where it won the FIPRESCI award. Her second feature, **Zurich** (2015), also screened in Berlin and won the C.I.C.A.E award. **Dirty God** is Polak's English-language debut.

The Official Opening Night will take place in 'de Doelen' and we are honored that Minister of Education, Culture and Science Ingrid van Engelshoven will attend to open the festival with us. Sacha Polak and members of her film crew will also be in attendance.

