Imagining Curacao in the work of Norman de Palm

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Family de Palm
“Finding magic in unexpected places is what drew me into the arts”
“Where two different cultures met at the dinner table”
Curacao Refinery, built in 1915
“Sampled Curacaean”
“Hollywood; stories that were turned into films...”
“I am a fervent believer in elves, goblins, three wishes. You can shape your life. Nothing is impossible”
Norman’s living room decorations
Onder uw bescherming!

“Under your protection”
The bedroom
the bathroom
Nijmegen, the Netherlands: Clinical psychology
Norman & sister Jorina
Sambumbu’s
Norman de Palm & Felix de Rooy
“Felix became one of the great minds that contributed to my development, to what propelled me”
Norman de Palm in Equus, Curaçao
“Making social processes insightful, finding the drama in society and every day life, in which drama has a crushing yet uplifting power at the same time, this is what I still do.”
• Arts: poetry, acting, sculpting, language, theater, FILM
• Multiculturality (creolization)
• Plural identities
• Fairytales & Myths
• Magic, surrealism
• Good vs Evil

• Psychology
• Catholic Church
• African lore
• Critiquing society / challenging authority / (60s)
• Community
• Curacao
DIR: Felix de Rooy
SCR/PROD: Norman de Palm
1986, 100 min
Papiamientu
English subtitles
The priestess Solem, her baby Almacita and her helper Lusio
“When we speak Papiamentu we speak from the past to the now”
Tera Kora (Red Soil)
ALMACITA di DESOLATO

VAN

NORMAN PH DE PALM

The script
“I wanted to create a world in which you could see the strength of a community to redefine itself, to recover, to generate renewal”
Berimbao
“Evil” - with green eyes
The forbidden fruit: cashew
Almacita di Desolato is a universal story of renewal, hope, the improvement of society; healing from a colonial heritage
DIR: Felix de Rooy
SCR/PROD: Norman de Palm

Based on a story by Felix de Rooy

1990, 100 min

Papiamentu & Dutch

English subtitles
“The Governor represents the authority, and he is married to the resistance”
“It is the history of a people that is prying itself loose from a colonial yoke. It is an internal discussion over what it shall be.”
“I did not want to make it more beautiful than it is, we are not freed from the color hierarchy. Skin color, hair, all these things are still very much present, even in the younger generation.”

“It is not so much the neighborhood where you live, but the way you look.”
Ava as Yemaya
Oftentimes someone needs to be sacrificed, burned at the stake, in order to make change happen...
Zulaika

DIR: Diederik van Rooijen
SCR: Milushka Birge
PROD: Norman de Palm

2003, 100 min

Papiamentu & Dutch
English subtitles
“Pay cash, take your purchase home now”
“Today we DON’T lend things (run a tab), tomorrow we do”
“I play this in Cuba and people think the movie takes place there around the corner”
“There is always a way out. Dead end streets don’t exist. Behind the wall there lies another road, and you have to find that, that is your path, your life”
San Antonio