



### **Dutch Movies Matter Competition Statement 2023**

All eight movies we've seen in the Dutch Movies Matter section are characterised by a high level of diversity and quality, with very personal and intimate stories that often involve a personal quest that challenges and confronts the director. These stories touch on social and political issues and are approached in a variety of artistic styles, but are unified by a common thread of tackling complex subjects in a thoughtful and engaging way. The healing testimonials are filmed with a high sense of aesthetic and authenticity. With a strong Cinematic intention, the director gave a voice to a reality not known to many of us in the western world. A mix of theatre, rituals and exploration helps expressing their common pain and therefore allows the viewer to engage.

Special mention - DAUGHTERS OF THE SUN – Reber Dosky, The Netherlands, 2023.

The filmmaker is part of the family, and the emotions shown in the film are genuine. The editing is of high-quality, and the use of archive footage allows us to get to know, rebuild and understand a family member that is no longer there. The film highlights the importance of mental health and the grieving process. It is respectful and authentic, with a high level of integrity. The film portrays the struggles of every family member in a delicate way, and it helps the audience understand the character even though he is no longer there. The film is unique but also very universal and touches on something that we feel has urgency.

Winner - MIJN GROTE BROER – Mercedes Stalenhoef, The Netherlands, 2023.