

GRASSROOTS

Teleac/NOT (Holland)
The gay movement
transcript english

timecode	video/speaker	text / music
00.16 00.17	archive: weddings jan. 2001	music Voice over: Finally, the day has arrived. The first of January 2001. For the first time, at precisely 12 o'clock, four gay couples get married in Amsterdam. A unique event in Holland. World news.
10.35	caption, Inssaf Uariachi in 10.36 out 10.39	I think it's ridiculous that it's only been possible since the new Millennium. It should have been legalised ages ago.
10.41	caption, Jacques Drabbe in 10.42 out 10.46	I think it's fantastic that there are now equal rights where this matter in concerned.
10.52	caption, Robert Long in 10.53 out 10.57	Even though I got married myself last year, I think marriage is an institute the government should stay out of.
11.01 11.08	archive pan couples; cake raising flag	voice over The image of the Netherlands is that of a nation that embraces homosexuals. Is this true? Can we raise the flag? (start music)

11.17	Robert sings 'homo sapiens' caption, left above: R.L. 1980	
11.18		<i>She is a woman</i>
11.22		<i>And she is a woman</i>
11.26		<i>They live together in Rotterdam in a flat</i>
11.29		<i>Fancy that</i>
11.34		<i>One is called Lies, the other one Jet</i>
11.42	people walking through streets	<i>A couple that's doing great</i>
11.50	Robert on stage	<i>Good Catholic, decent folk</i>
11.54		<i>On Friday they even have fish fingers</i>
11.58		<i>They sleep in the same bed</i>
12.04	Robert walking	<i>And now and then they do It</i>
12.10	MS Robert	<i>He is a man and he is a man</i>
12.25	Inssaf working in bar	<i>They've been together for years</i>
12.34		<i>No big deal</i>
12.54	MCU Inssaf	<i>It's crystal clear now, isn't it</i>
		<i>If that's what they want, they should do it</i>
		<i>Even if there's no clerk to say:</i>
		<i>you're a couple now</i>
		<i>Different strokes for different folks</i>
		<i>No one minds that</i>
		Voice over
		Robert Long; Singer, composer, writer. He has always called a spade a spade.
		So much has been achieved for the new generation, that they don't feel the need to contribute anything anymore. So they're picking the fruits, but aren't continuing it.
		voice over
		Inssaf Uariachi works in a women's bar. She's also the editor-in-chief of a gay monthly teen magazine.
		voice Inssaf
		Amsterdam was once the Gay Capital of Europe, but there's very little left of that. It's not even the Gay Small Village anymore. It's become more like a Gay Street in Europe. My environment is very 'pink'. I do mostly hang out with people like me.
		Some passers-by have a good stare when they've read the "Women Gay Mix Bar" sign. I usually stare right back. Then they realise they're staring.

13.10	Drabbe opens cellerdoor	Funnily enough, looking back, I realise I've never had a girlfriend. I'm so focused on men that it's alien to me.
13.23	walking	Voice over Jacques Drabbe has been involved in the gay rights movement from a young age. He's been an active member of the COC for over 50 years.
12.27	archive COC black/white	In 1949, shortly after the war, the biggest gay movement is founded: The COC: a Cultural Leisure Centre. A name that doesn't reflect the nature of its members.
13.44		The founder is Bob Angelo, a pseudonym for Nico Engelschman. Hardly anyone dares to be open about his or her sexuality.
13.54	advertisement	voice Drabbe: I placed an add in <i>Tuny Tunes</i> , a music magazine. I got a few letters in response, and one of them included a COC brochure, with a picture of a very handsome boy on the cover. And some text. I thought: That's it. So I rang them up and asked them for information.
14.21	brochure	They said anyone who was gay could become a member. So that's what I did.
14.30	MCU Drabbe	But most of them used pseudonyms. And to keep everything from the government, especially in those days... I wanted something with a buzz: Dare To Live. Yes, that's it. So I was Jacques Dare-To-Live.
14.52		At one of the first meetings, a member said to me: Doesn't dare to live at all. You've got a pseudonym. I thought: He's got me there.
15.05	black/white archive COC	Voice over The fear stems from the previous period. In 1911 a law is introduced: "article 248 bis". This law states that sexual relations between adults and minors under 21 of the same sex are punishable.
15.26		The law doesn't apply to heterosexuals.
15.34	Robert plays piano	music (recording teleac)

15.40	MCU Robert	voice Robert I had a boyfriend. Let's say I was 19 and my boyfriend was 17. That went well for a while. At a certain point I reached 21, and he hadn't yet. For some reason or another, he got into trouble with the police. They threatened him, and made him tell them who he associated with. His nerves got the better of him: With me, among others. I was arrested, because I'd had contact with a minor. Even though I'd been with this guy for three or four years.
16.09	Drabbe	The person who was caught - or reported, in some cases - was in big trouble. You were charged, and these charges weren't dropped or waived.
16.26		You were in big trouble, because you could go to prison.
16.30	Robert	So I was arrested. I was in a pop group at the time. We had a gig in Germany that weekend, one of our first gigs abroad. So the vice squad ordered me to tell them who I associated with. What other faggots do you know?
16.45		I refused to say. So they threw me in jail. All of this based on laws that you'd now hear and think: You must be joking.
16.52	archive men/women unrecognisable filmed	Voice over For most gay men and women it's unthinkable to talk about their sexuality in public.
17.02	man	There's quite a big difference. First of all I don't like the division 'the male-type and the female-type.' A marriage is based on the difference between man and woman.
17.11		Voice over It remains a difficult topic of conversation. Even among family and friends.
17.16	Inssaf in bar, various shots	music: I'm coming out
17.22	MS Inssaf	There are different degrees of coming out. First of all, to yourself. Then to your family, friends, colleagues. You have to acknowledge that you're gay first. Unfortunately, everyone in the world is raised with the man-woman stereotype.

17.41	MCU Drabbe	I thought: This is it. This is what I want. So I wrote a letter to my family explaining the situation. And: If this is a problem and causes a rift, then I'll be upset, but I'll still choose the rift.
18.00	Med. Robert	When my family found out, they didn't exactly throw a party. They didn't buy a cake, or decorate the house. It was a big problem for them.
18.14	CU Inssaf	They got a shock when I told them. But we're all trying to come to terms with it. We're working on it.
18.26	CU Robert	I was his only son, and the apple of his eye. I wasn't a very good pupil, so when he discovered that on top of that I had this terrible disease called homosexuality, he was at his wits' end.
18.41		He expressed that with anger and strict rules. I wasn't allowed to leave the house. I put my shoes out at night. He'd hide them, so I couldn't go out.
18.54	MCU Drabbe	My twin brother wasn't happy about it at all. He found it offensive. He didn't talk to me for two years. It wouldn't do, having a fag for a twin brother.
19.18	CU Inssaf	My family is religious, and I'm not, so we clash on that front too. I'm the only one who's not religious.
19.26	MCU Drabbe	I lived in Hilversum at the time. I was summoned to the Superintendent of Police. He asked me: Are you homosexual? I said: Yes, I am. Would you object to us telling your father? I said: No. They lived in Rotterdam.
19.52		He left the room, and came back a short while later with my father. Apparently, he was already there.
20.01	Robert watching shop window	I was a window-dresser. And I had a few colleagues. I was eighteen when I started. These guys would often go: Hey Robert, look at that hot bird. I got so fed up with that that I said: Guys, just warn me if a cute guy walks past. And the issue was solved right there, and it was never a problem.
20.29	Inssaf on bicycle	It has a lot to do with my lifestyle in general. Not just my sexuality. We don't agree on a lot of fronts, to put it mildly.

20.43	Drabbe on bridge	They'd already got the name and number of a psychiatrist. They could call straight away. And I could see him that very evening.
20.53	MS Robert	My father wasn't an easy man anyway. He was a homophobe, you might say. So there was no discussion possible. It just wasn't normal. His son wasn't gay. He would not accept that.
21.10	CU Inssaf	I just said I had to tell them something. My mother started asking questions. But I don't really feel like going into this, to be honest.
21.26	MS Robert	So it became an issue, and it stayed that way. I left home when I was 17, because the tension, particularly in that area, was so unbearable that I sort of escaped.
21.36	MCU Drabbe	So I went into therapy with him, and after a number of sessions, I think it was the fourth session, he told me he was treating this other patient who was now going out with a girl and had already started playing with her breasts a bit. I thought to myself: So what? I said: That's wonderful. But it's not for me.
22.04	Inssaf	Of course it's hard when your family doesn't accept certain things. But some personal choices need to be made anyway.
22.13	water, tilt up houses, CU's etc.	<p>voice Drabbe</p> <p>This is Oudegracht 333. This was where Ina Boudier Bakker lived, a well-known writer who rented her cellar to the COC in Utrecht between 1950 and 1952.</p> <p>This place is very dear to me. This is where I entered the gay scene, and had my first experience. And I was lucky enough, in hindsight, to meet my partner there, whom I've been together with for 55 years.</p>
22.17	Drabbe	
22.35		
23.03	archive, operation	<p>Voice over</p> <p>For a long time, homosexuality is regarded as a disease, which can be cured. Even castration occurs until the Sixties.</p>
23.07		

		<p>These operations are carried out in various places in Holland. Sometimes under pressure, to avoid prosecution.</p>
23.23	Robert	<p>Homosexuals can function just as well in society as heterosexuals. So I'm thinking: What's your problem? We don't need to keep the population growth rate up, because the world is overpopulated as it is. So it's not that.</p>
23.36	Drabbe	<p>An unacceptable deviation, a disease that was curable according to some psychiatrists.</p>
23.46	Inssaf	<p>When a friend of mine came out, his mother thought she could just go to the doctor and get a pill. Alas...</p>
23.54	Robert	<p>It was torture, because their hormones changed. They'd get breasts and higher voices, it was terrible.</p>
24.04	Drabbe	<p>If you castrate these people, the problem's solved. They'll be free, and it'll be all over. Well, no.</p>
24.14	archive	
24.17	Amsterdam + de schakel (Link)	<p>Voice over But the gay movement gradually spreads. In 1952, the COC opens the first society in Amsterdam: The Link.</p>
24.28		<p>This place of entertainment is tolerated, but watched closely by the police.</p>
24.35	Robert	<p>When I was young, going out was a secret affair. There were more clubs in Amsterdam, but they were all exclusive, and you had to be over 18 or 21 or something, I can't remember.</p>
24.46	Drabbe	<p>Amsterdam had a buzzing gay scene.</p>
24.50	Robert	<p>Back then you had The Dok in Amsterdam. I remember coming in and seeing this crowd of cha-cha-ing queers. I thought: This is not my scene at all. So I left it for what it was. Not my cup of tea.</p>
24.53	MCU Robert	

25.06	Drabbe archive COC bal masqué	There was a Carnival every year. This was prepared in great detail. We went once, even though we weren't - and aren't - really party animals. But we went. I was dressed in a sarong. Of course there was a lot of dancing and flirting. It was a lot of fun, sure.
25.23 25.29		
25.36	archive Robert caption: Robert Long 1983 in 25.38 out 25.42	Robert <i>I met you in Thorbecke Square You were waiting for something, it seemed Waiting for nothing, it seemed You looked inconsolable.....</i>
25.49	Drabbe to his cellar	Voice over In Utrecht, the COC organises meetings in Drabbe's cellar for years. The vice squad does keep an eye on things, and comes to inspect every now and then.
25.52		
26.03	Drabbe	And you had to apply for a permit, that's to say, fill in a list of what you'd been doing that month. A week later you could collect it, stamped and signed.
26.15	in his cellar	For a long time we didn't have a fixed location. We just moved around. Now we had a place where we could be ourselves and which was used a lot. Sometimes there were 140 people. But that was the maximum. In this part you could only drink tea or coffee or juice. No spirits.
26.41		This section had a bar, with bar stools. All of this was put in storage, it wasn't there back then.
26.51		If you climb up here... This is where we danced.
27.00		Voice over In 1964, a homosexual appears on TV for the first time. It's Benno Presela, the chairman of the national COC.
27.10	Benno Premesela, caption in 27.11 out 27.15	We believe that the whole issue concerning homosexuality is a matter of creating understanding and knowledge and education. In this respect, we're in a favourable position here in the Netherlands. Far more favourable than any other country in the world.

27.25	archive demonstation 1969	Voice over Five years later, in 1969, the first gay demonstration is held.
27.30		Young people gather in front of the government building in The Hague demanding the abolition of Article 248 bis.
27.37	woman (unknown)	This is a discriminating article. For heterosexuals, the minimum age is 16 years.
27.46		Voice over There seems to be more openness.
27.50	archive 1970, amsterdam (color)	Then, quite soon afterwards, in Amsterdam... This is where the Second World War is commemorated in Holland each year. The Queen and others place flower wreaths around the Liberation Monument. Members of the gay rights movement want to place a wreath by the monument too.
28.04		
28.09		But the police intervenes.
28.21	archive 1971 lower house (black/white)	They're more successful in the Lower House. Despite resistance from a few small parties, homosexuals celebrate a tremendous victory. The avenged article, 248 bis, is abolished in 1971.
28.36	Robert MCU Robert	For me, the advantages were greater than the disadvantages. The advantage was living in a world I felt comfortable with, sexually speaking as well. The disadvantage was that you had to protect yourself from certain things. Well, that just makes you stronger. It sharpens your mind. You had to find arguments as to why you didn't want to feel dirty or guilty or rejected. That did me a lot of good.
29.00	Robert	pianomusic (recording teleac)
29.10	archive gay parade	voice over In the Eighties, the gay nightlife booms. Amsterdam is the Gay Capital of Europe, with its annual Gay Parade.

29.40	MCU Inssaf boats	To me, it's an annual commemoration of 1969. I think the Gay Pride should have more political content. Not just a bunch of fun boats and parties.
29.51	Drabbe	The atmosphere is great, in Amsterdam. And there's no disturbance from anyone who's against it.
30.03	Robert MCU	If there is a need to demonstrate, this is the wrong way to go about them. A queer is not just someone who strips down, gets on a boat and celebrates his freedom. I find it...
30.17	archive 1986 church	voice over The Church makes a remarkable move. In 1986, the Remonstrant Brotherhood is the first church to acknowledge gay relationships. From then on, same-sex relationships may be consecrated.
30.34	building, tilt down Inssaf to office	The COC launches a new monthly magazine for the youth: <i>Expreszo</i> .
30.44		Expreszo is a magazine for young gays and lesbians. For what they call HOLEBI in Belgium: homos, lesbians and bisexuals.
30.54	MCU Inssaf	It's been around for 18 years. And it's geared toward young adults between 15 to 27. It's the only magazine available for young people who aren't straight. It's called ExpresZo: Just So. That's the difference.
31.13	in bookshop	This is so typical. These are all magazines for teenagers or young adults. But <i>ExpresZo</i> isn't here.
31.31		It's here with the other gay magazines. But the difference is that this is specifically for young people. I don't understand why it's always up there with the porn magazines.
31.47		When you're fifteen, you feel self-conscious standing by the big boobies section. Particularly young gay guys. It doesn't make it any easier.

32.03	archive Gaygames	music
32.07		Voice over A big international event draws wide-scale attention. The Gay Games give a new impulse to gay sport.
32.15	Drabbe	You can tell they're no different from that whole heterosexual area. They're sportsmen too, they're enthusiastic, and so on.
32.30	archive weddings	Voice over In the late Nineties, the Equal Treatment Act and the same-sex civil marriage legislation were introduced. A lot has been accomplished, it seems.
32.40	Robert in city	I think the previous generations have achieved a lot considering the times they lived in, to get the equal rights movement going, to make the term 'homosexuality' more common.
32.54		I still believe it's a normal affair, even if you're an exception to the common rule, that doesn't make it abnormal. I think that's the problem today.
33.01	Inssaf	Holland is tolerant, but the word says it all: it tolerates. That's the same as turning a blind eye. It's not the same as acceptance, which implies accepting and respecting.
33.16	Drabbe	There's a lot more freedom for gay men and women. From a sociological and legal point of view, their position is more favourable. There is of course always room for improvement.
33.38		And we need to take care of that. We have to make sure we're not flung back in that cage.
33.49		voice over The introduction of gay marriage marks the end of a positive development in the gay rights movement.
33.54	archive Mosk	voice over
33.57		Intolerance towards homosexuals is on the rise. In larger cities, and within the Moroccan community, many people object to the Dutch tolerance.
34.04		Muslim clergymen throw oil on the fire.

34.08	MCU Imam	voice Imam	
34.18		Homosexuality is harmful to society in general and particularly to the Dutch nation. If this phenomenon spreads among the youth, both boys and girls, it will lead to extinction.	
34.22	archive Pim Fortuyn elected	Voice over The rise of homosexual politician Pim Fortuyn. He says what he thinks, and does what he says.	
34.40		MS Pim Fortuyn I'm looking forward. At your service.	
34.44		picture P.F. pan, flowers and candles	voice over Fortuyn is murdered just before the elections.
34.50			Due to his immense popularity, there is a huge despair.
34.54			The Dutch nation is in shock.
34.58	And it hardens.		
35.03	archive tram in street	In the centre of Amsterdam, the editor of a US gay magazine is beaten up by a group of young people.	
35.13	Chris Crain	We passed by a couple of men. One of them turned and spat on us. We turned around and asked why he had done that. He murmured something about fucking fags and the next thing I know the same man had hit square on the nose. Then it became a blur.	
35.37	flags	voice over Legally, a lot has been done in Holland for homosexuals. Can they be themselves now?	
35.43	Robert in street	It happened once in Rotterdam. We were sitting there and some people walk past. It was in the summer. They see us and go: Hey faggot! They dropped their pants. Want a piece of ass?	
35.53	CU Robert	They call me 'fag', but I know that. That's not news to me.	
35.58	Inssaf	There are still a number of issues in Holland, particularly related to adopting children... That's still very difficult.	

36.08	MCU Drabbe	Yes, people are people. I think they're a bit half-baked, to be honest, as far as their mentality is concerned. But you can't change that, and you have to be constantly aware of... keeping it intact.
36.34	MCU Robert	It's taken us a long time to develop our ideas about sexuality, too. The fact that other countries are lagging behind a bit or have started later or haven't even started, I don't think you shouldn't focus on that.
36.47	Inssaf	When that day arrives, when the pension rights, labour laws, relationship rights, the right to children, have all been sorted out... we can move on.
37.01	Drabbe in city	When I get a brochure from the bank, or something else, I look at the photos, and I see a man and a woman, a family, and so on. And I think: Where are the two guys? Or the two women? They're not there. Whether it's a brochure from a hotel, travel agency, or insurance company. I can't see them. And I think: Hang on. It's time that changed.
37.14		
37.27		
37.32	Robert sings 'homo sapiens' (archive)	Robert <i>But I am a person And you are a person Also known by the generic name homo sapiens</i>
37.40		<i>Some want this Others want that</i>
37.44		<i>But if a person has to hide His true nature all his life</i>
37.48		<i>The church isn't worth a penny Even if priests say God is good</i>
37.52		<i>Cause if you think God is good He won't mind at all If you love someone</i>
38.01	titles (on separate list)	music

38.27	logo EBU	music
38.35	black	