



# BARBER SHOP

a documentary series by Luc Vrydaghs

PRODUCED BY  
CASSETTE FOR TIMESCAPES

SALES BY  
FIRST HAND FILMS

## PRODUCTION

### Cassette for timescapes

Schuurstraat 39, B-9040 Ghent, Belgium  
+32 478 211 811, emmy@timescapes.be  
www.timescapes.be

## WORLD SALES

### First Hand Films

Neunbrunnenstrasse 50, CH-8050 Zürich  
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## SYNOPSIS



We meet 6 populations in transition via the microcosm of the local barber shop: in Rio de Janeiro, barber Pedro picks teenagers from the street to teach them a profession. The inhabitants of Clacton-on-Sea reflect on post-Brexit society. In South Africa, post Mandela era, the white middle class is degrading to poverty. Detroit's young and old inhabitants, each in their own way, have learned to overcome the city's bankruptcy. The Sahrawi refugees question the fight for their land. In India, hairdresser Soniya helps her clients to fight for women's rights.

In every episode, a population finds itself on the verge of change and a barber plays his role. As opinion maker, as confessor, as story collector, as society barometer. Gradually, Barber Shop measures the state of our world, offering dialogue and human resilience as a hopeful perspective for the future.

*website: [www.barbershopseries.com](http://www.barbershopseries.com)*

## FACTS

**Director:** Luc Vrydaghs

**Producer:** Emmy Oost - Cassette for timescapes

**Genre:** Documentary series

**Length:** 6x26 minutes

**Locations:** Detroit - USA  
Clacton-on-Sea - UK  
New Delhi - India  
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil  
Pretoria West - South Africa  
Smara-Refugee camp - Algeria

**Partners:** VAF / MEDIA FUND  
VRT/CANVAS  
ZDF/ARTE  
BNP Paribas Fortis Film Finance  
Media Programme of the European Union  
The Tax Shelter of the Belgian Federal Government  
UR

**World Sales:** First Hand Films

**Status:** World premiere - 8 February 2017 - CANVAS (BE)

International premiere - 13 February 2017 - ZDF/ARTE (DE)

## PRODUCER'S CONTACT



**Emmy Oost - Cassette for timescapes**

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## CREDITS



Director Luc Vrydaghs  
Director of Photography Alexander De Backer  
Edited by Dieter Diependaele  
Original Music Dominique Pauwels  
Sound Design Matthias Hillegeer  
Sound Engineers Matthias Hillegeer, Gedeon Depauw,  
Kwinten Van Laethem, Henrique Compos Da Silva  
Research Lotte Knaepen, Ebe Daems, Nahid Shaikh

Produced by Emmy Oost - Cassette for timescapes  
Executive Producers Esther Van Messel, Gitte Hansen - First Hand Films  
Associate Producer Spijkerdocs  
Co-producers Reinhilde Weyns, Paul Peyskens - Canvas  
Olaf Grunert - ZDF/ARTE  
Alex Verbaere, David Claikens - BNP Paribas Fortis Film  
Finance  
Susanne Folkesson - UR





## 6 EPISODES x 26 MINUTES

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### DETROIT / USA

This city, where formerly General Motors, Ford and Chrysler employed almost every citizen, was declared bankrupt in 2013. The car industry moved away to low-wage countries and over a million citizens left the city: 'Motown' became 'Ghost town'.

In this environment of decay, a few diehards stubbornly keep running their business; one of them is barber Roberto (73), who used to be the hairstylist of many Motown artists. In his barber shop the old spirit is still alive: soul music blares from his jukebox and his customers, mostly above 70 years old, swear by the glam Chuck Berry hairdo.

Barber Shop Detroit tells the story of nostalgia and pride against a background of economic recession. How the past can help endure the present. Or like a customer explains: 'If you take care of your hair, your hair will take care of you'.

### CLACTON-ON-SEA / UK

How possibly could the UK vote for Brexit? In Clacton-on-Sea, a small seaside town, barber Susan and her clients reflect on current European issues like migration, religious extremism, economic decline and the position of the UK vis-à-vis the EU. As her barber shop serves as the local get-together place in the neighbourhood, we get to peek in the opinions of ordinary people and their hopes on post Brexit society.

Susan is one of the very rare female barbers, who learned the profession since she was 14. With clients of both sides (the REMAIN voters and the LEAVE voters), we follow Susan balancing between being warm and social on the one hand and being closed and protectionist on the other - an issue that all European populations struggle with since the migration crisis and muslim extremism.

### NEW DELHI / INDIA

India has only recently openly raised its voice to one of the most violent aspects of society: the incredibly high number of rapes and the impunity of the attackers. Women seem to be helpless and have no chance to ask for justice.

Some women, however, have found the strength to resist society's stigma. Soniya has a beauty parlour and barber shop in New Delhi. She survived an acid attack, several years earlier. Being mutilated for the rest of her life, she makes it her mission to give beauty and self-respect to the women around her. Barber Shop India demonstrates that beauty lies in the mind.

## **RIO DE JANEIRO / BRAZIL**

Brazil has well prepared itself for the Olympic Games of 2016, to embrace sports enthusiasts from all over the world. However, the people from the favela's have, as always, been forgotten.

Barber Shop Brazil talks about current state of the favela's and of the common man's fear, not of drug dealers, but of the police. This is not a film about corruption but about the life of ordinary teenagers in Brazil's capital.

The story plays in the outer skirts of Rio, in the Favela Jacarezinho. Barber Pedro rents the chairs in his barber shop to teenagers, but only if they stop getting involved in drugs and crime. Not only eager to learn a profession, the teenagers of Salao Faria have even developed a very specific haircut: the Jaca Haircut.

## **PRETORIA WEST / SOUTH AFRICA**

South Africa has known a turbulent history of occupation, discrimination and violence against the black population. With the ANC in power and today in the post-Mandela era, the roles are reversed. We see a true 'Black Economic Empowerment', in which the black people are favoured in terms of housing and employment. The white middle class is slowly slipping away into poverty, resulting in violence, excessive drugs and alcohol abuse.

Barber Shop South Africa brings the story of this impoverished white middle class who decides to insulate itself from the outside world and settles in strict religious communities on the countryside.

Adri (36) is the white female hairdresser of Filadelfia Ark, a community West of Pretoria. She cuts hair on a chair outside her bungalow. Her customers appreciate her gentle approach and visit her for an enjoyable talk. Filadelfia Ark has almost paradise like surroundings, with lakes, animals and an outdoor dining-place, but the community radiates a story of fear, exclusion, poverty and religion.

## **SMARA REFUGEE CAMP / ALGERIA**

Set in the Western Sahara, Barber Shop Algeria tells the story of the last colony in Africa: since Morocco illegally annexed the territory of the Sahrawi, this nomad population has been living in refugee camps along a long Moroccan wall built in the middle of the desert. For generations, the Sahrawi have been fighting to reclaim their land.

In Smara refugee camp, barber Mohammed treats customers of different generations: old men that initiated the resistance, young men who prefer modern life over a seemingly useless battle, and children, who need to learn the real reasons for the theft of the Sahrawi's land...



## BIO DIRECTOR LUC VRYDAGHS

Luc Vrydaghs is working as director since 1990. First years in publicity, later for the production company Woestijnvis. He started to make documentaries in 2002 with the series Gas Station, 6 episodes of 26' mins in Arizona, Punjab, Czech Republic, Israël, Australia & Iceland. Gas Station was screened at the Documentary Fortnight 2007" @ MOMA New York, amongst numerous other festivals, and won the Silver Award @ Biarritz FIPA. Gas Station was broadcast on VRT & Arte in 2007. In 2012 he made a documentary about the old undertaker F. Deneeyer. Luc subsequently directed 3 international series, in co-production with broadcaster Canvas: a 4 episode series in Nicaragua in 2013, a series of personal road movies in Madagascar (mixed animation & life footage) in 2009 and Europalia - a road movie and 27 short artist portraits in the 27 countries of Europe in 2008.

## FILMOGRAPHY

- 2017      **Barber Shop** – creative documentary series, produced by  
Cassette for timescapes, commissioned by VRT, ZDF/ARTE & UR.  
Sales by First Hand Films.
- 2013      **NICARAGUA** - Series of personal road movies in Nicaragua,  
commissioned by VRT
- 2012      **F.DENEYER** - documentary about an old undertaker,  
commissioned by VRT
- 2009      **MADAGASCAR** - Series of personal road movies in Madagascar-mixed  
animation & life footage, commissioned by VRT
- 2008      **EUROPALIA** - Road movie + 27 short portraits of artists  
in the 27 countries of Europe, commissioned by VRT
- 2007      Co-director documentary "**BELGASPORT – VERBAUWEN**",  
produced by Woestijnvis
- 2006      **GAS STATION** – creative documentary series, produced by CCCP,  
commissioned by VRT, sold to TF1.
- FESTIVALS & AWARDS - GAS STATION:**  
            Silver Award @ Biarritz  
            Documentary Fortnight 2007" @ MOMA New York  
            DOCUMENTA Madrid  
            Short Cuts Keulen  
            Berlin Shortfilms  
            St Kilda Festival-Iceland
- 2002      **BAL MUNDIAL** - series on the World championship of football

- 1992-2001 **DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIALS:** De Nationale Loterij, Brantano, GB, Belgacom, La Dernière Heure, Perrier, Mobistar, E5- Mode, Sunsnacks, Efteling, Het Nieuwsblad, Maes-Pils, Quick, Proximus...  
**REALITY SOAPS** (Camera + direction): De fanfare, De binnenvaart  
**PROGRAMM SERIES** (Concept + camera first 3 episodes):  
Taxi - a 100 dollar ride" for National Geographic
- 1991 PRIZE best editing of animation film "**BOKS ALE BOKS**" at the Brussels FF Documentaries for the human-interest program **SAN SEVERIA**, VRT.

## BIO PRODUCER EMMY OOST

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Emmy Oost studied Germanic Literature & Linguistics and started working as a film producer for Johan Grimonpez, an internationally acclaimed filmmaker and artist from Belgium who directed a.o. DOUBLE TAKE (2009, premiered in Berlinale & Sundance) and SHADOW WORLD (2016, premiered in Tribeca & IDFA). Since 2009, within her company Cassette for timescapes, she mainly focuses on documentary and crossmedia projects with social or political engagement.

Oost received the Flanders Cultural Prize 2016 for film for her work on interactive documentary and for the release of a slate of 3 migration films: PROBLEMSKI HOTEL by Manu Riche premiered at IFFR 2016. NO MAN IS AN ISLAND by Tim De Keersmaecker was selected for Hot Docs' competition 2016. THE INVISIBLE CITY [KAKUMA] by Lieven Corthouts started its impact program with The Good Pitch in May 2016.

Currently releasing: BARBER SHOP series by Luc Vrydaghs (with VRT/Canvas & ZDF/ARTE, sales by First Hand Films) and INSIDE THE DISTANCE by Elias Grootaers that premieres in the Bright Future Competition at IFFR 2017.

Emmy Oost studied Germanic Literature and Linguistics. She is part of the EDN, EAVE, Eurodoc, Pixel Lab and ACE Producers Networks.

[www.timescapes.be](http://www.timescapes.be)

[www.facebook.com/CassetteForTimescapes](https://www.facebook.com/CassetteForTimescapes)

Tweet: @emmyoost

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