

SPOTLESS

A short film by Emma Branderhorst

IJSWATER

KAPITEIN
KORT

Logline

When 15-year-old Ruby realizes she is having her period, she doesn't want to ask her mother to buy her period products, because she knows their financial situation doesn't really allow it. To make sure she doesn't bother anyone with her problem, she tries to solve it herself.

Synopsis

Spotless tells the story of 15-year old Ruby, who lives with her mother and her younger sister. Her mother works overtime to make ends meet and Ruby feels responsible for her sister. When Ruby realizes she is having her period, she notice they are out of period products. She doesn't want to bother her mother with asking for them, because she is aware of their money problems. To make sure she doesn't trouble anyone with her problem, she tries to solve it herself.



Alicia Prinsen as Ruby



Directors biography

In 2019 Emma Branderhorst graduated as a director from the University of the Arts Utrecht. She has worked multiple times as an assistant director for larger Dutch film productions and has been working as a casting director for several years.

Emma is enthusiastic, full of passion and fights for the stories that are close to her heart. Being a progressive feminist, she is fascinated by themes of youth and nurture from a feminine perspective. She loves to work with different themes of society.

Her short film 'Onderhuids' ('Under the Skin') had its international premiere during Berlinale Generation 2020 and won a Wildcard at the Netherlands Film Festival for best new talent. Emma is currently developing several films and is directing commercials at Pink Rabbit as well.

2021 ***Spotless***

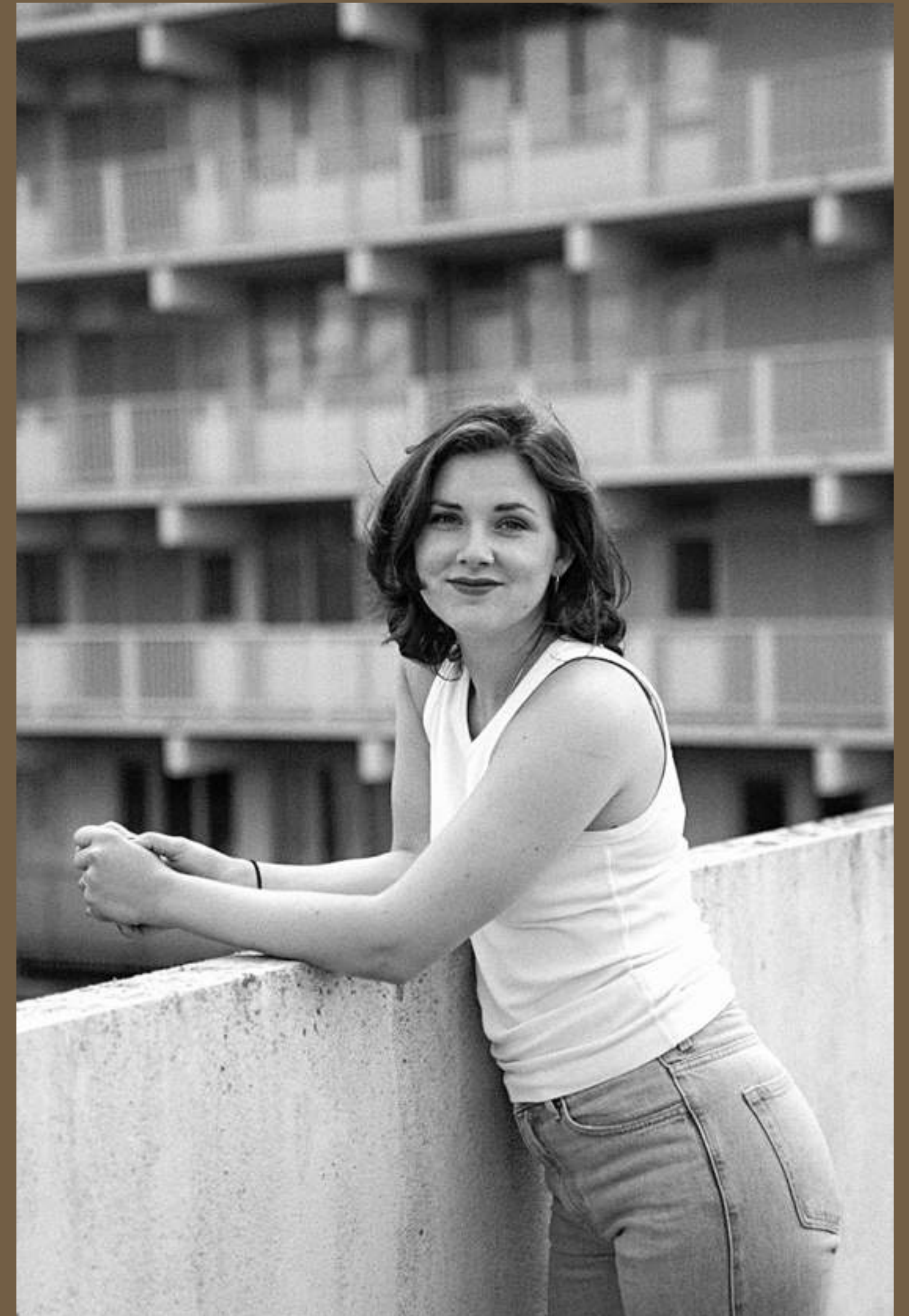
Berlinale 2022 - Generation K-plus Competition, Netherlands Film Festival - Nomination Best Debut film
2021, Cinekid 2021 - winner best Dutch short film.

2019 ***Under the Skin***

Berlinale 2020 - Generation K-plus Competition, Netherlands Film Festival 2020 – Winner Wildcard, Zlin Film Festival 2020, Brussels Short Film Festival 2020, Sehnsuchte Student Film Festival 2020, Cinekid 2020 – winner best Dutch short film

2017 ***Femme***

(Go Short 2018, Shortcutz 2018, Shorts.TV)



Director Emma Branderhorst

Directors Statement

Around the world, two billion women and girls have their periods each month; 800 million of them on any given day. It is something that every woman has to deal with every month. It shapes us as women, shapes our bodies and the awareness of what our bodies are capable of. Menstruation is a universal theme in our lives and connects us as women. A safe and comfortable menstruation is important for every woman who menstruates. We need period products, such as tampons or sanitary pads, to get through our periods 'spotless'. Yet this is not normal for everyone; 1 in 10 women in the Netherlands between the ages of 12 and 25 suffers from period poverty. This means that they don't have access to or are unable to afford the right means to get through their periods comfortably. Think of the right period products, but also of sanitary facilities.

When I was young, menstruation always used to be a taboo subject. After my mother said: "Congratulations, you are a woman now", a cake was brought out and I received a necklace as a present, I talked about my menstruation as little as possible. I was so ashamed. In the years that followed, it remained a taboo subject, at home as well as in my group of friends. I did not dare, and in fact I still find it difficult, to say in public that I'm on my period. If I need a tampon from someone, I whisper it in their ear and then sneak off to the toilet with the tampon hidden in my sleeve. There is still a lot of shame around menstruation. What makes period poverty different from 'normal' poverty is that it is a double taboo.

There is a lot of shame for women. Discussing menstruation is difficult enough, but admitting to being poor is even more so. The taboo surrounding this topic ensures that the problem of period poverty remains undiscussed.

For the film, I did a lot of documentary research, to be able to give the most realistic picture possible of the problem. In Spotless, the viewer gets to know a worldwide neglected problem. Through my visual style, in which realism plays a major role, we map out this problem. With the film, I want to make people aware of the problem, in order to provide a safety net for the women who are experiencing this. Let's break the taboo and open the conversation.

*Lead actress Alicia Prinsen, director Emma Branderhorst
and producer Nicky Onstenk*



*Director Emma Branderhorst, lead actress Alicia Prinsen
and producer Nicky Onstenk*

CAST

Alicia Prinsen	Ruby
Astrid van Eck	Barbara
Wendy Ruijfkrook	Tessa
Ilva Los	Marie
Zjon Smaal	Security guard
Thomas Höppener	P.E. teacher

CREW

Director
Screenplay
Screenplay contributions
DOP
Production Design
Sound on set
Costume Design
Hair & Make-up
Line Producer
Production Manager
Composer
Sound Design
Editor
Project Supervisor
Producers

Production Company

Emma Branderhorst
Milou Rohde
Emma Branderhorst
Myrthe Mosterman
Noa van Nielen
Gijs Domen
Zoë Scheffer
Sharon de Ruijsser
Julie Janssen
Marrit Greidanus
Hans Nieuwenhuijsen
Gijs Domen
Tessel Flora de Vries
Eline van Hagen
Nicky Onstenk
Marc Bary
IJswater Films



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Screening Format	DCP, ProRes, H264
Shooting Format	Digital
DCP resolution	2K
Aspect Ratio	1:66
Sound	5.1
Spoken language	Dutch
Subtitles	English
Colour / B&W	Colour



CONTACT / INFO

Production Company

IJswater Films

Kromme Mijdrechtstraat 110/2 - 1079 LD Amsterdam

Tel +31 (0)20 4421760

films@ijswater.nl - www.ijswater.nl

Festival distribution and sales

Kapitein Kort

Hidde de Vries

info@kapiteinmedia.nl - www.kapiteinkort.nl

Instagram

@spotlessthefilm



IJSWATER FILMS PRESENTS

ALICIA
PRINSEN

ASTRID
VAN ECK

SPOTLESS

A FILM BY EMMA BRANDERHORST

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MYRTHE MOSTERMAN NSC PRODUCTION DESIGNER NOA VAN NIELEN COSTUME DESIGNER ZOE SCHEFFER HAIR & MAKEUP SHARON DE RIJSSCHER EDITOR TESSEL FLORA DE VRIES
SOUND MIX SET & SOUND DESIGN GIJS DOMEN MUSIC HANS NIEUWENHUIJSEN COLORIST REMI LINDENHOVIUS POSTPRODUCTION SERVICES STORM POSTPRODUCTION FIRST AD BO VAN DER MEER LINE PRODUCER JULIE JANSSEN
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR ELINE VAN HAGEN PRODUCERS NICKY ONSTENK & MARC BARY SCREENPLAY MILOU ROHDE DIRECTOR EMMA BRANDERHORST

WITTEKOPPEN
LINDA
essity
KAPTEIN
STORM
CAMHAWLOT
LICHTFUNIT
BORGMAN & AUGUSTINUS
IJSWATER
WWW.IJSWATER.NL