

**CINEMAVULT RELEASING INTERNATIONAL**

**Presents...**

# **Blind Date**

**A film by Stanley Tucci**

**MEDIA KIT**



## **DISTRIBUTION CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## SYNOPSIS

Controversial filmmaker Theo van Gogh was, to say the least, a celebrated talent. He directed 13 highly acclaimed films and was awarded the Dutch Academy Award for best direction a record four times. Sadly, however, he has become most famous for his shocking murder. He was shot and killed in cold blood on 2 November 2004 by a religious fundamentalist angered over the portrayal of Islam in his short film *Submission Part 1*.

After his tragic death, producers Bruce Weiss and Gijs van de Westelaken decided to fulfill Theo's dream of remaking three of his original films in English with Hollywood stars.

**Blind Date**, the second in the trilogy, is a remake of van Gogh's 1996 Dutch Academy Award winner for best actor, best actress, and best director. The remake is written by David Schechter and Stanley Tucci. David Schechter also collaborated with Steve Buscemi for the remake on Theo Van Gogh's "Interview." Stanly Tucci (*Big Night*, *The Imposters*) directs and stars in the lead role originally played by Peer Mascini. Patricia Clarkson (*Good Night & Good Luck*, *The Station Agent*) plays the role of Jana original played by Renée Fokker.

**Blind Date** is the story of two parents who talk, flirt, and fight with each other to try and cope with the loss of their young daughter. They go on a series of "blind dates," each placing personal ads in the paper and pretending to be strangers when they meet. They do this over and over again, both playing a series of different roles, in a desperate attempt to overcome their buried grief and rebuild their shattered relationship.

Producer Bruce Weiss says, "We are thrilled that Stanley and Patty have joined us on this second installment of the van Gogh trilogy. To be able to work with two actors and a director of this caliber is always a producer's dream. We are looking forward to working with John Turturro on number three."

## **FILMMAKERS:**

Director	Stanley Tucci
Writer	David Schechter & Stanley Tucci
Based on the film by	Theo van Gogh
And the original screenplay by	Valerie Boutade & Kim van Kooten
Producer	Bruce Weiss
Producer	Gijs van de Westelaken
Executive Producer	Nick Stiliadis
Cinematographer	Thomas Kist
Editor	Camilla Toniolo
Production Designer	Loren Weeks
Costume Designer	Vicki Farrell
Original Music	Evan Lurie
Line Producer	Ellen Havenith
Assistant Director	Doesjka van Hoogdalem

## **CAST:**

STANLEY TUCCI.....DON  
PATRICIA CLARKSON.....JANNA  
THIJS ROMER.....WAITER

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **STANLEY TUCCI (Actor/Director)**

Not one to sit still for too long, Stanley Tucci has appeared in over 50 films and countless television shows. In the past few years he has appeared in films such as THE TERMINAL, THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PETER SELLERS and ROAD TO PERDITION. He is no stranger to the theater; and has appeared in over a dozen plays, on and off Broadway.

Recently, he starred in the Golden Globe Nominated Film, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA alongside Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway. He just wrapped filming on WHAT JUST HAPPENED alongside Bruce Willis, John Turturro and Robert Di Nero. And after seven years, Stanley is once again behind the camera, as he has directed and co-wrote, as well as stars in the upcoming Van Gogh remake, BLIND DATE. Also in the post-production stage for Stanley is SWING VOTE with Kevin Costner and Dennis Hopper and KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL with Abigail Breslin and Joan Cusack.

Currently, Stanley is filming THE LOVELY BONES opposite Mark Wahlberg and Susan Sarandon. In addition to his accomplishments in movies this year, his appearance on this season's "Monk," received critical attention as well as an Emmy award in the category of Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series.

Tucci remained active in 2004 taking on five films. Fox Animation's feature, ROBOTS, was released in March of 2005. In this picture, Tucci offered his voice for the character "Herb Copperbottom." In THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PETER SELLERS, Tucci played the role of renowned director Stanley Kubrick. The Stephen Hopkins drama premiered on HBO in December of 2004, starred Stephen Gry, John Lithgow and Miriam Margolyes and tied for the most Emmy nominations with 16 bids. Tucci starred opposite Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez in the romantic comedy SHALL WE DANCE, which opened in October 2004 and was directed by Peter Chelsom. Also released in October was the James Redford film SPIN, with Dana Delany and Ruben Blades. Tucci also worked alongside Tom Hanks in Steven Spielberg's THE TERMINAL, released in June 2004.

In 2002 Tucci received critical acclaim for his work in DreamWorks' ROAD TO PERDITION, co-starring Tom Hanks, Jude Law and Paul Newman. The film directed by Sam Mendes was about a

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## **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **STANLEY TUCCI (Actor/Director)**

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hit man who takes things personally after his wife and son are murdered, was released in theaters in July of 2002. Stanley can also be seen in the ever-popular Disney comedy *BIG TROUBLE*, co-starring Tim Allen, Rene Russo, Omar Epps, Janeane Garofolo and Jason Lee, among others. The Barry Sonnenfeld-directed film, about the lives of several Miami citizens intersecting with hilarious and dangerous results, opened in April of 2002. Tucci also graced screens in Paramount Classics' *SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK*, written and directed by Edward Burns and starring Heather Graham and Brittany Murphy and Sony's *AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS*, opposite Julia Roberts, John Cusack, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Billy Crystal. He also appeared alongside Kenneth Branagh and Colin Firth in the highly acclaimed HBO drama, *CONSPIRACY*, a film for which Tucci earned both an Emmy and Golden Globe nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Made-for-TV-Movie or Miniseries.

Tucci's multiple talents have led to a very diverse career. Not only an accomplished and gifted actor, he is also a writer, director and producer. His most recent directorial effort was USA Films' *JOE GOULD'S SECRET*, which starred Ian Holm as bohemian writer 'Joe Gould' and Tucci as 'Joseph Mitchell,' the famed writer for *The New Yorker*. The film, set in New York's Greenwich Village in the 1940s, tells the story of the strange meeting and long lasting friendship between Gould and Mitchell, as well as the stories Mitchell wrote about Gould and his life.

*BIG NIGHT*, Tucci's first effort as co-director, co-screenwriter and actor on the same film, earned him numerous accolades, including the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival, a recognition of Excellence by the National Board of Review, an Independent Spirit Award, The Critics Prize at the 1996 Deauville Film Festival and honors from the New York Film Critics and the Boston Society of Film Critics.

Tucci's second project, *THE IMPOSTERS*, a film which he wrote, directed, co-produced and starred, was an Official Selection at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival and was acquired by Fox Searchlight Pictures later that year. The 1930's farce starred Tucci and Oliver Platt as a pair of out-of-work actors who find themselves aboard a cruise ship passengered by Steve Buscemi,

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## ABOUT THE CAST

### **STANLEY TUCCI (Actor/Director)**

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Billy Connolly, Alfred Molina, Lili Taylor and Hope Davis.

Tucci's previous film credits include Woody Allen's DECONSTRUCTING HARRY, William Shakespeare's A MID SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, THE ALARMIST, A LIFE LESS ORDINARY, THE DAYTRIPPERS, KISS OF DEATH, MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE, IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU, THE PELICAN BRIEF, PRELUDE TO A KISS, BILLY BATHGATE, IN THE SOUP and SLAVES OF NEW YORK.

In 2002, Stanley won a Golden Globe Award for his brilliant portrayal of Lt. Colonel Adolf Eichmann in the television film entitled, "Conspiracy." This was the dramatic recreation of the Wannasee Conference where the Nazi Final Solution phase of the Holocaust was devised. He also received a Golden Globe, as well as an Emmy Award for his portrayal of Walter Winchell, a founder of American gossip, in the HBO original film, WINCHELL. His performance as the fast-talking tattler, whose exposure of secrets and scandals turned politically-left audiences and critics alike singing his praises. WINCHELL, directed by Paul Mazursky, provided Tucci with one of the juiciest roles of his diverse career.

Tucci's work on television includes his appearance as a re-occurring guest star on TNT's "Bull." He played 'Hunter Lasky,' a charming, conniving, power-player, one of Wall Street's best negotiation 'sharks.' His other television credits include appearances on "Equal Justice," "Wiseguy," "The Equalizer," "Thirtysomething" and "The Street." Tucci also starred as 'Richard Cross' in the Steven Bochco drama "Murder One," a performance for which he earned an Emmy Nomination.

Tucci, no stranger to the theater, has appeared in many plays including Execution of Hope, The Iceman Cometh, Brighton Beach Memoirs and The Misanthrope. He has also performed in a number of off-Broadway plays, at Yale Repertory Theater and SUNY Purchase, where he first studied acting.

Tucci resides in New York with his wife and three children.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **PATRICIA CLARKSON (Actress)**

The roles that Academy nominated actress Patricia Clarkson plays, are as varied as the platform in which she plays them. Her comfort in taking on roles from motion pictures, television and the theatre has earned her great accolades and success, and has become one of today's most respected actresses in the entertainment industry.

Clarkson recently wrapped production on several films including Stanley Tucci's "Blind Date" in Belgium, Daniel Banz's directorial debut "Phoebe in Wonderland" and Woody Allen's "Untitled Spanish project" in Barcelona opposite Scarlett Johanson and Javier Bardem.

"Blind Date" centers around a couple (Tucci and Clarkson) who have lost a child and tries to rebuild their relationship by pretending to be other people by meeting on blind dates. In "Phoebe in Wonderland" she stars opposite Felicity Huffman, Bill Pullman and Elle Fanning. Clarkson plays the role of an unconventional drama teacher who tries to guide a rebellious little girl (Fanning).

Currently, Clarkson can be seen in "Lars and The Real Girl" opposite Ryan Gosling and Emily Mortimer. "Lars" is the story of a timid man (Gosling) whose life changes dramatically when an Internet friend comes to visit. The beautiful, religious missionary is in fact an inanimate replica of a woman. Clarkson plays the town doctor who tries to help him with his "delusion."

Next, Clarkson will be seen in "Elegy" and "Married Life". "Elegy" is directed by Isabel Coixet, and stars Ben Kingsley and Penelope Cruz. The film is based on the novel by Philip Roth about a cultural critic, played by Kingsley, who's life is thrown into disarray after an encounter with a student. MGM is scheduled to release the film in the spring of 2008.

"Married Life" is a romantic drama set in the 1940s about an adulterous man (Chris Cooper) who plots his wife's (Clarkson) death instead of putting her through the humiliation of a divorce. Directed by Ira Sachs, "Married Life", the film also stars Pierce Brosnan and Rachel McAdams. Sony Picture Classics is set to release the film next summer.

Additional credits include: "All The King's Men", "Goodnight, and, Good Luck", "They Dying Gaul" and "The Woods", "Far from Heaven", "Pieces of April", "The Station Agent", "Miracle", "High

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## ABOUT THE CAST

### **PATRICIA CLARKSON (Actress)**

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Art", "Dogville", "Welcome to Collinwood", "The Pledge", "The Green Mile", "Everybody's All-American", "The Dead Pool", "Rocket Gibraltar", "Tune in Tomorrow", "Joe Gould's Secret", "Wendigo" and Brian De Palma's "The Untouchables", her film debut.

In 2003, Clarkson's work in two independent films earned her unparalleled recognition. She was nominated for an Academy Award, Golden Globe, SAG Award, Broadcast Film Critics Award and an independent Spirit Award for her role in "Pieces of April".

In addition, the Sundance Film Festival awarded her the Jury Prize for Outstanding Performance in "Pieces of April", "The Station Agent" and "All the Real Girls". Her performance in "The Station Agent" earned her a SAG Award nomination for Best Actress and Best Ensemble Cast. The National Board of Review and the National Society of Film Critics named her Best Supporting Actress of the Year for her work in "Pieces of April" and "The Station Agent".

She also won best-supporting-actress awards from the New York Film Critics Circle and National Society of Film Critics for her performance in Todd Haynes' "Far From Heaven". That role also earned her a nomination from the Chicago Film Critics.

Her performance as Greta in Lisa Cholodenko's "High Art" earned her a nomination for an IFP Independent Spirit Award. At the

On television, Clarkson won an Emmy in 2006 and 2002 for her guest-starring role on HBO's acclaimed drama, "Six Feet Under".

Clarkson made her professional acting debut on the New York stage. Her theatre credits include "Eastern Standard" (on and off-Broadway), "Maidens Prayer" (for which she received Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Award Nominations), "Raised in Captivity", "Oliver Oliver", "The House of Blue Leaves", and "Three Days of Rain". Her regional credits include performances at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, South Coast Repertory, and Yale Repertory."

Born and raised in New Orleans, Clarkson currently lives in New York.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **THIJS ROMER (Actor)**

Being a grandson of the famous Dutch actor Piet Romer, and nephew of several other well known actors Thijs Romer's career as an actor may seem a little predictable. The past years however he has proven his talents in a series of productions in theatres as well as on the big screen and on television.

Thijs has worked together with director Theo van Gogh for a number of times now. He played a part in the television drama "Najib & Julia," and is featured in Van Gogh's movies "Cool" and "Medea."

## **ABOUT THE FILMAKERS**

### **Bruce Weiss (Producer)**

Bruce Weiss has been producing film and television for the past twenty years. His work has encompassed all areas of production including feature films, commercials, documentaries, and television programs. He began his career producing films for director Hal Hartley including his first two features "The Unbelievable Truth" and "Trust." "The Unbelievable Truth" was released domestically by Miramax during the summer of 1990 and received widespread critical acclaim. The Weiss-produced "Simple Men," also directed by Hartley, was released by Fine Line in the fall of 1992 and was in official competition at the Cannes Film Festival that same year. In 1995 Weiss co-produced a film adaptation of Sam Shepard's "Curse of the Starving Class" starring James Woods, Kathy Bates, and Louis Gossett Jr., and in 1998 he produced with Ismail Merchant the film "Side Streets." His most recent projects include "The Mantis Murder," "Cupidity," and "Island of the Dead," a psychological thriller starring Malcolm McDowell, Talisa Soto and Mos Def. Mr Weiss' production company, Ironworks Productions, based in the TriBeCa film district of New York City specializes in International Co-Productions and is currently producing the Theo Van Gogh Trilogy of films being directed by Steve Buscemi, Stanley Tucci and John Turturro. "Interview" was released in 2007 by Sony Classics.

## **ABOUT THE FILMAKERS**

### **Gijs van de Westelaken (Producer)**

Feature Film and Television producer Gijs van de Westelaken has his roots in publishing and journalism. In the seventies, he was a film critic for the Dutch newspaper 'De Volkskrant,' was managing editor of the weekly newsmagazine 'HP' and editor and publisher of the Dutch edition of 'Esquire Magazine.' In 1995 he switched to television, at first to production company IDTV, and since 1999 as CEO of Column Productions/Column Film, an independent television and feature film production company he founded together with director Theo Van Gogh.

Column Film focuses mainly on producing drama series for TV and feature films for the cinema. Among other projects, Column produced the drama series "Najib & Julia" (awarded with the 'Golden Calve', the Dutch Academy Award, for Best TV Drama), and "Medea" (Golden Calve-nomination; awarded with the German TV Spielfilm Preis for best European TV Drama 2006). In 2003, Column produced the feature film Interview (Official Selection Toronto International Film Festival), to be followed in 2004 by "Cool" (Best Direction Award Philadelphia Film Festival, Golden Calve Best Direction Nomination, Official Selection Toronto International Film Festival), and in 2005 by "The Sixth of May," a thriller evolving around the murder of controversial Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn (Golden Calve Best Actor in a Leading Role, Official Selection Toronto International Film Festival, Official Selection AFI Fest Los Angeles). In between the filming of "Medea" and "The Sixth of May," the short film Submission was made by Theo van Gogh and Ayaan Hirsi Ali. On November 2 2004, Theo Van Gogh was murdered by an Islamic extremist.

In 2005, Column produced the feature film "Masterclass," directed by Hans Teeuwen (Golden Calve nomination), and in 2006 the feature film "Quiet Wars," directed by Doesjka van Hoogdalem. In 2007, at Sundance, the remake of "Interview," directed by Steve Buscemi and starring Steve Buscemi and Sienna Miller, premiered; "Interview" was released in the US on July 13 by Sony Pictures Classics. Besides "Blind Date," directed by Stanley Tucci and starring Stanley Tucci and Patricia Clarkson, several TV series, documentaries and feature films are in pre-production, among them "1-900," to be directed by John Turturro.

## **ABOUT THE FILMAKERS**

### **Doesjka Van Hoogdalem (Assistant Director)**

Born in the city of Utrecht and raised in the North of Holland, Doesjka Van Hoogdalem has been working freelance in the Film and Television Industry since 1997. She has her masters degree in Cultural Management at the University of Amsterdam. After a traineeship as a producer for the Dutch Public Broadcasting Company VARA, she worked in various disciplines, as a producer, line producer, editor, camera-operator, and directors-assistant to finally become a director herself in 2005 when she directed her first feature film "Oorlogsrust." Her filmography combines Features, Television-dramas, and Documentaries.

In 2000 she met Dutch Director Theo van Gogh and worked for him as his assistant director. Since then they made four feature Films: "Baby Blue", "Interview", "Cool" and "06-05", 2 television mini-series, television shows and a couple of single plays. Doesjka Van Hoogdalem was involved from the start as a Creative consultant, keeping an eye on the Van Gogh method of filming with the three cameras. This resulted in her working on Steve Buscemi's "Interview" shot in 2006 on location in Manhattan and Stanley Tucci's "Blind Date" in 2007.

### **Thomas Kist (Cinematographer)**

Born and raised in Amsterdam, Thomas Kist has been a Freelance Cinematographer since 1986. He left High school to become a Photographer. Through lighting he moved into Cinematography. His filmography combines Features, Television-dramas and Documentaries. In 2002 he hooked up with Dutch Director Theo van Gogh. Together they made three feature Films, one television mini-series and a couple of single play's which were all shot in van Gogh's preferred way of shooting simultaneously with 3 video cameras allowing actors to play scenes in one long take, a technique which Thomas Kist first used for the big theatrical screen in van Gogh's "Interview", and later refined for van Gogh's "06." After Theo's murder in 2004, his co-producer Gijs Van de Westelaken started the "Triple-Theo" remakes, Thomas Kist was involved from the start as Director of photography. Thomas Kist is a member of the N.S.C. (Netherlands Society of Cinematographers)

## **ABOUT THE FILMAKERS**

### **Loren Weeks (Production Designer)**

For the past nine years, Loren has been working in the art department as an art director and assistant art director. Loren has worked on the sets of "Trinity," "The Object of My Affections," "Witness to the Mob," "A Perfect Murder," "54," "Analyze This" "Big Daddy" "Third Watch," "30 Rock," "Lenexa, 1 Mile," "Hard Luck," "Interview," and "Life Support."

### **Vicki Farrell (Costume Designer)**

For the past ten years, Farrell has been working as a costume designer for a variety of different films. These include, "A Dog Year," "Delirious," "Interview," "Lonesome Jim," "Strangers with Candy," "Winter Passing," "My Suicidal Sweetheart," "Palindromes," "World Traveler," "Happy Accidents," "Boys Don't Cry," "High Art," "I Think I Do," "There's No Fish Food in Heaven," "All Over Me," "Kiss Me Guido," "Lover Girl," and "Rescuing Desire."

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

"Blind Date" was shot on location in Ghent, Belgium in the summer of 2007.

For Theo Van Gogh and his producers, it was always a dream to re-make their films with American actors. During Van Gogh's last trip to the Toronto International Film Festival in 2003 that goal started to materialize. Producer Gijs van de Westelaken was with Van Gogh in Toronto that year for the premiere of "Interview" when they were approached by several producers about an English-language remake of the film. Despite several offers for collaboration, Westelaken and Van Gogh wanted to bring "Interview" to America themselves and began pre-production soon after the festival. Interview was an ideal first foray into American cinema as a typical Theo Van Gogh film. Westelaken describes it as "dialogue-driven with full attention on the acting, made in a frantic, uncompromised style."

### **A.D.**

After Theo Van Gogh's untimely death in 2004, Westelaken and his American counterpart, Bruce Weiss, decided to continue the project as an homage to Van Gogh, even going so far as to expand it to three English-language adaptations of three of Van Gogh's earlier Dutch films. Westelaken explains that "with Theo's death, we felt it would be a shame to let his language of filmmaking come to an end." The project was named Triple Theo. In addition to "Blind Date," the two other van Gogh films selected were "06" and "Interview." For Weiss, these relationship driven films epitomized Theo's sensibilities, and would translate well. "I think anyone who's ever been in a relationship can identify with something in Theo's film. Whether the language is English, Dutch, French, it doesn't really matter. I think the themes are very universal." The first film to re-make was "Interview," directed by Steve Buscemi and starring Sienna Miller and Buscemi. The film premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by Sony Pictures Classics for a 2007 summer release. The second film is "Blind Date." All three films focus on two main characters, a man and a woman, who have complex, dynamic and fiery relationships. Weiss describes these films as "a sort of psychological boxing match," and he found that "one of Theo's favorite things to do was to take a man and a woman and lock them in a room, and let them fight it out." In "06," an anonymous connection is made over a phone-sex line, "Blind Date" explores two people who are pushed together through the shared experience of losing a child, and in "Interview," a battle of wits begins after a mundane celebrity interview.

## **Working with the Three-Camera System**

A high-priority for Weiss and Westelaken in *Triple Theo* was replicating Van Gogh's unorthodox triple camera shooting system. For each scene, Van Gogh would shoot with three digital cameras: one camera focused on the male lead, one camera focused on the female lead, and one master camera, which captured both actors and the set. One critic wrote that Van Gogh had invented a new film language. Westelaken notes that Van Gogh's technique created a dramatically different feeling on set, and ultimately an untraditional final film, with "the three digital cameras provided us not only with a very short shooting schedule but also with an abundance of shots." Van Gogh's system allowed him to stay within budget, keep his actors on their toes and end up with a massive amount of footage for the editing process. "The quantity of footage enabled us to edit the film to feel as tense as in real life," said Westelaken. "Also, the actor does not have to follow the camera and the light anymore. We do it the other way around, the actors act, and the cameras follow".

Tucci comments, "I loved working with the Van Gogh system and the whole Van Gogh crew. You can shoot a lot of stuff simultaneously, and therefore shoot a full-length film in a very short period of time and it still looks beautiful." He did find the process exhausting and adds, "Even though our shoot is only seven days, it's still incredibly intense and you're shooting 15 pages a day, with a lot of set ups. It takes a lot out of you and I can't imagine doing more than seven days!"

Patricia Clarkson had her own take on the shooting process explaining, "I have shot on 35 with two cameras before, but this is really a dream for an actor. You don't have to keep repeating to get the close-ups, to get everything in one shot, and you really can work very quickly with an enormous amount of freedom. That freedom is rare when you are shooting in 35 in a very structured way. There is no acting required here, we can just play!"

## **ACTORS ON EACH OTHER**

Clarkson reflects on her co-stars, "Stanley and I keep pinching ourselves. We have a huge Dutch star (Thijs Romer) ... the Brad Pitt of Holland, schlepping in our film, playing the waiter. We are very lucky to have him...he is just a fine, wonderful, beautiful actor. It has been a real journey with Stanley an incredibly intimate, painful journey. He has been there every step of the way and I would not have wanted it any other way."

Tucci adds, "Patty is a friend of mine and I think she is an extraordinary actress. She can do anything and Thijs came on the suggestion of the Dutch producers and is just perfect."

Thijs was one of Van Gogh's muses and worked with Westlaken in the past. When asked about his first English language role, he offered, "It is difficult to be spontaneous, but very nice and it gets better every day. I was very honored to be chosen by Stanley Tucci and Patricia Clarkson."

## **WORKING WITH A DUTCH CREW**

As previously requested by Van Gogh himself, Weiss and Westelaken chose to use many of the original Dutch crew members, who worked on Van Gogh's films and again in New York on "Interview." The director of photography, camera operators and script supervisor were all members of Van Gogh's film crews in the Netherlands. The Dutch crew maintained the authenticity of Van Gogh's style, and also helped translate his sensibilities to an American setting.

The Dutch camera operators were well-versed in Van Gogh's unorthodox three-camera system. During the past few years of his life, they worked with Van Gogh to perfect the technique, creating a fluid new language where the fast-paced verbal battles of Van Gogh's scripts relied on his camera technique.

## **SHOOTING IN BELGIUM**

Westelaken explains that "Interview" was shot in New York because they needed the city as a backdrop, but "Blind Date" is confined to a small space, so they could shoot it anywhere in the world. They scouted locations in Holland but found that most of the old buildings had been renovated and they were looking for something a bit more "decrepit" and timeless. Weiss explains that in blind date just as in interview, finding the right location was vital because the location almost becomes another character in the film. Weiss enlisted production designer Loren Weeks again and went to Belgium with Westelaken and Kist to scout locations. Even though this location was more run down than we expected, we knew that Weeks could make it work. Once they found the location in Ghent they jumped on it and the transformation was amazing!

# **Blind Date**

**A film by Stanley Tucci**

**BACK**