

# All The Vermeers In Prague

A video by Michael Pilz  
Austria 1994, 121'

## Part 1

Reminiscences to

International Film Festival Rotterdam 1988 –

Huub Bals, Artavazd Pelechian,

Rezo Esadze, Sergei Paradianov,

Hans Hurch, Peter Vandermeer

and others

(1/88) ..... 18 min

Train to Prague

(11/87) ..... 6 min

All the Vermeers in Prague –

Jack Garfein, Vaclav Havel,

Miloslav Chloupac, Bedrig Dlouhy

(11/87) ..... 15 min

Night Train, Love departed

(11/87) ..... 4 min

Budapest, Tracking shot, Masik Janos

(12/87) ..... 13 min

Winter Light, Piss into cold water

(1/88, 7/87) ..... 4 min

Total time Part 1 ..... 60'20"

## Part 2

Everything's expressive –

Jack Garfein on Samuel Beckett

(10/87) ..... 14 min

Children's dance, Snow dance, Danger

(2/88, 7/88) ..... 14 min

Filmmaker's funeral (Ernst Schmidt jr.)

(3/88) ..... 6 min

Snow birds, Sunset at parent's home,

Papa! Train is leaving, Family holidays,

Kasperl is kaputt

(2/88, 8/88) ..... 15 min

$e = m \cdot c^2$

(2/88) ..... 4 min

Joseph's spirit

(11/92) ..... 8 min

Total time Part 2 ..... 60'44"

Michael Pilz has made films and for several years – since December 1987 to be precise – he has made video diaries. He does that as a part of a project he calls Private Eyes. He now has an archive of more than 240 hours of video.

Pilz started filming on super8 in the early sixties and he wants to adopt specific details of his approach – for instance editing in the camera – for his video work too. He is very fond of the immediacy of the amateur medium

in approaching reality as open-mindedly as possible.

In his opinion this technique can enrich the language of cinematography.

Pilz's videos are mainly about looking and listening to more or less everyday and personal events. He compares working with video like this with making notes in a notebook, but then with the added value of the visual language. In the face of the large stream of contemporary films that concentrate on superficial issues, he wants to develop a way of film-making that is also introspective. Pilz will talk about his work and his approach when presenting the video fragments.

During the presentation Pilz will draw on his archive and screen specially-selected fragments, including shots of the Rotterdam Film Festival itself, where he has regularly been a guest along with his video camera.

23rd International Rotterdam Film Festival 1994

Im Sommer 1993 rief mich Gertjan aus Rotterdam an und erzählte von Festival-Plänen eines speziellen „home-movie“-Programms. Er wußte von meinen älteren Rotterdam-Tapes, die ich anlässlich mehrerer Festivalbesuche gefilmt hatte. Und er animierte mich dazu, ein eigenes Home-Movie-Programm zusammenzustellen.

Ich zögerte lange, vor allem aus privaten Gründen, die mich daran hinderten, das alte Video8-Material zu sichten, das sich sei 1986 angesammelt hatte, bis Gertjan mich endlich im Dezember überredete und mir einen „home-movie-master“-Platz für Rotterdam 1994 reservierte.

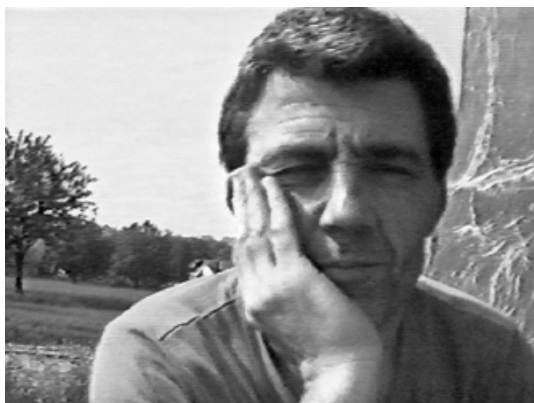
Michael Pilz, Wien, Jänner 1994

In January, 1994, a first sighting of video tapes from 1987 and 1988 prompted me to edit them without further preparations. Working away for 24 hours, I produced a chronicle of more or less confidential perceptions, which originally were not meant for publication: Festival events at Rotterdam including, among others, entertaining press conferences with Esadse and Paradianov, a trip to Prague with Jack Garfein, a short private visit with Vaclav Havel, and Janos with his new music in Budapest. Gradually, I added some private footage: Various scenes of my two kids, Johannes and Rosemarie, who were small at the time, and the winter funeral for Ernst Schmidt Jr. at the Grinzing cemetery. Finally, Josef Fabich's distillery at Weitzendorf made an appearance in an episode filmed in November, 1992.

Michael Pilz, Vienna, January 1994







Original title .....	<b>All The Vermeers In Prague</b>
First version title .....	Private Eyes
Country of production .....	Austria
Years of production .....	1987/1994
Date of completion .....	19 January 1994
Producer .....	Michael Pilz
Production .....	Michael Pilz Film
Concept & Realization .....	Michael Pilz
Cinematography .....	Michael Pilz
Original sound .....	Michael Pilz
Editing .....	Michael Pilz
Original format .....	Video-8 & Video Hi8
Tape format .....	Umatic HB/SP, DV, PAL, 4:3, colour
Running time .....	121 minutes (2 parts)
Dialogues .....	English, Russian, German, Czech
Music .....	Anonymous
First screening .....	January 1994, International Film Festival Rotterdam – Home Movie Master
Festivals .....	Rotterdam, International Film Festival 1994 – Home Movie Master Salzburg, Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Films 1995
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