

ARGOT PICTURES

PRESENTS



FIVE SEASONS: THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF

Directed by Thomas Piper

Running Time: 75 minutes

In English & Dutch with English subtitles

Bookings & Press

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“For me, garden design isn’t just about plants, it is about emotion, atmosphere, a sense of contemplation. You try to move people with what you do. You look at this, and it goes deeper than what you see. It reminds you of something in the genes — nature, or the longing for nature.”
– Piet Oudolf

Short Synopsis

Revolutionary landscape designer Piet Oudolf is known for designing public works like New York City’s popular High Line and the Lurie Garden in Chicago’s Millennium Park that redefine our conception of gardens as works of art in themselves. This gorgeous, meditative documentary immerses viewers in his work, taking us inside Oudolf’s creative process. From his aesthetic theories to his strikingly abstract sketches to the ecological implications of his ideas, the film poetically reveals how Oudolf upends conventional notions of nature, public space, and, ultimately, beauty itself.

Long Synopsis

After completing a feature documentary on New York’s High Line, award-winning filmmaker Thomas Piper met the inspirational designer and plantsman, Piet Oudolf, and the idea for a new project was born. *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf* immerses viewers in Oudolf’s work and takes us inside his creative process, from his beautifully abstract sketches, to theories on beauty, to the ecological implications of his ideas. Intimate discussions take place through all four seasons in Piet’s own gardens at Hummelo, and on visits to his signature public works in New York, Chicago, and the Netherlands, as well as to the far-flung locations that inspire his genius, including desert wildflowers in West Texas and post-industrial forests in Pennsylvania. As a narrative thread, the film also follows Oudolf as he designs and installs a major new garden at Hauser & Wirth Somerset, a gallery and arts center in Southwest England, a garden he considers his best work yet. Piet Oudolf has radically redefined what gardens can be. As Rick Darke, the famous botanist, says to Piet in the film, “your work teaches us to see what we have been unable to see.” Through poetic cinematography and unique access, *Five Seasons* reveals all that Piet sees, and celebrate all that we as viewers have been unable to see.

Bios



Piet Oudolf

Piet Oudolf was born in 1944 in Haarlem, Netherlands. Since 1982, he has lived and worked in Hummelo, a tiny village in east Netherlands, where he started a nursery with his wife Anja, to grow perennials. His garden has since become renowned for its radical approach and ideas about planting design.

Oudolf also co-founded Future Plants, a company specialising in selecting, growing, breeding and protecting plants for landscaping and public areas. Oudolf's recent projects include No. 5 Culture Chanel, Paris, France; The High Line, New York NY; Lurie Garden, Millennium Park, Chicago IL; Serpentine Gallery, London, England, and the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.

Oudolf is also a successful author, having co-written numerous books such as; "Planting: A New Perspective" (2013); "Landscapes in Landscapes" (2011); "Gardening with Grasses" (1998); "Designing with Plants and Planting Design" (1999); "Dream Plants for the Natural Garden" (2000); "Planting the Natural Garden" (2003), and "Planting Design: Gardens in Time and Space" (2005). In his 35-year career, Oudolf has achieved international acclaim, and has recently been awarded an Honorary Fellowship from RIBA for developing radical ideas in Planting Design (2012) and the Prince Bernhard Cultural Foundation Award (2013).

Thomas Piper

Thomas Piper is an award-winning non-fiction filmmaker, specializing in documenting the contemporary arts. He has directed, photographed and edited over 30 films on subjects including the visual artists Pablo Picasso, Ellsworth Kelly, Sol LeWitt, Alex Katz, and Kiki Smith; architects including Frank Lloyd Wright, Peter Eisenman, Jeanne Gang, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Thom Mayne, Jean Nouvel, and Steven Holl; and the writer James Salter.

Thomas is Director of Production for the Checkerboard Film Foundation, responsible for directing, shooting, and editing long-format documentaries on individuals who have made important contributions to the contemporary arts.

Credits

Producer & Director: Thomas Piper

Director of Photography: Thomas Piper

Editing: Thomas Piper, Sara Pellegrini, Rachel Shuman, Corinne van der Borch

Music: Davíð Þór Jónsson, Charles Gansa

Sound Design: Bill Donnelly

Title Design: Work-Order

Timelapse Animation: Triplenode

Additional Cinematography: Oral User, David Sampliner, Santiago Posada, Martin Hampton

Drone Photography: Joshua Edkins/Dronescope

Co-producer: Checkerboard Film Foundation

Associate Producers: Malcolm Wyer, Grace Zinnel, Chase Damon, Amanda Rosen

Legal: Pat Ryan, Innes Smolansky

Distribution Consultants: Peter Broderick, Monique Busman, Elena Hill