



# LIVING TOGETHER

## THE STORY OF DE WARREN

WITH MUZIEK BY WEVAL ZITAKULA SEAN GASCOIGNE WOZELS VALVETRONIC BRASSBAND PORT OF CALL LEWIN THE LASSES FOLK ROAD SHOW  
 THE COO MEDEMENS DAPHNE MOBY COCO BONGO AND THE BONFIRE RANCH OF LOVE COLLECTIEF EXPLOESIEF BRAM VAN LANGEN AND PONY MACHINE  
 CAMERA ERIK LOOTS SOUND DESIGN POUL SVEN DE HAAN GRADER SERHAN MEEWISSE CREATIVE PRODUCER CHANDAR VAN DER ZANDE A FILM BY SAM VAN ZOEST

stimulerings  
 fonds  
 creatieve  
 industrie



x Gemeente  
 x Amsterdam





# General information

Title Living Together: The Story of De Warren

Genre Documentary

Duration 75 minutes

Premiere November 15, 2023, at LAB111

Website [www.samenwonendefilm.nl](http://www.samenwonendefilm.nl)

Email [info@samenwonendefilm.nl](mailto:info@samenwonendefilm.nl)

Instagram [www.instagram.com/wonenindewarren](https://www.instagram.com/wonenindewarren)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/dewarrencentrumeiland](https://www.facebook.com/dewarrencentrumeiland)

LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com/company/wooncooperatie-de-warren](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wooncooperatie-de-warren)

Soundtrack [open.spotify.com/playlist/3yh6kDviAfXefvXOEih4nV](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3yh6kDviAfXefvXOEih4nV)

Trailer [vimeo.com/872116044](https://vimeo.com/872116044)

Format 1920x1080 H.265, 2K DCP

Framerate 25 fps

Audio 5:1 and stereo

Director and Producer Sam van Zoest

Distribution, PR and sales Wooncöoperatie De Warren



# Logline and synopsis

## Logline (55 words)

*Living Together: The Story of De Warren* follows a group of young people during the establishment of a housing cooperative that aims to be sustainable, social, and affordable. The project is ambitious: it is the first of its kind in the Netherlands, and none of the young housing pioneers have ever built a house before.

## Synopsis (76 woorden)

*Living Together: The Story of De Warren* is a documentary about the establishment of Housing Cooperative De Warren. The film begins with KONIJN, a group of friends who organize parties and festivals. After founding a permaculture farm in Portugal, the idea of living together arises. The idea of De Warren is born. The project is ambitious, being the first of its kind in the Netherlands, and none of the young housing pioneers have ever built a house.

## Extended synopsis (225 words)

It all began with KONIJN, a group of friends who organize parties and festivals. When one of the friends inherits some land in Portugal, they decide to establish a permaculture farm. They live together for a month and the group grows to over a hundred people. Upon returning to Amsterdam, they face a lonely late summer and miss their communal way of life. They decide to live together in an creative hub in Amsterdam. Unfortunately, they have to leave the building that was intended for demolition after a few years. The group of friends want a lasting situation and discover a tender from the Municipality of Amsterdam, which aims to have 10% of their housing provided by housing cooperatives by 2030. They submit an application. To their disbeliefs they are chosen to be pilot participants in this program. Then the real adventure begins: they must quickly secure financing, find an architect, agree on a design, and find a contractor willing to work with inexperienced young people. *Living Together: The Story of De Warren* is a documentary created by Sam van Zoest, a filmmaker and resident of De Warren. It is a mosaic film composed of footage shot by residents of De Warren during the process, supplemented by interviews with the board. The music consists mostly of songs created by artists associated with the friend group.



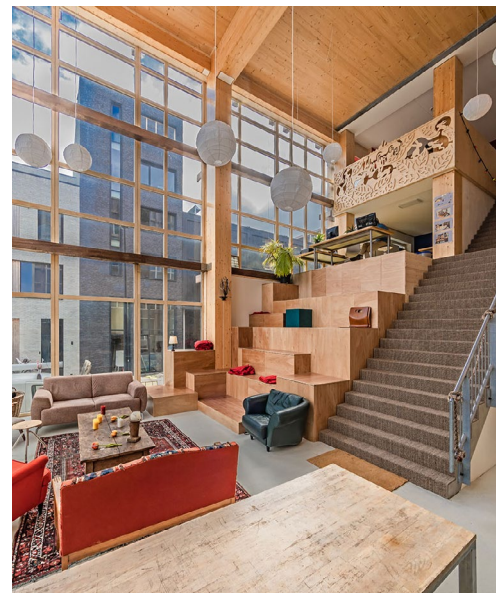
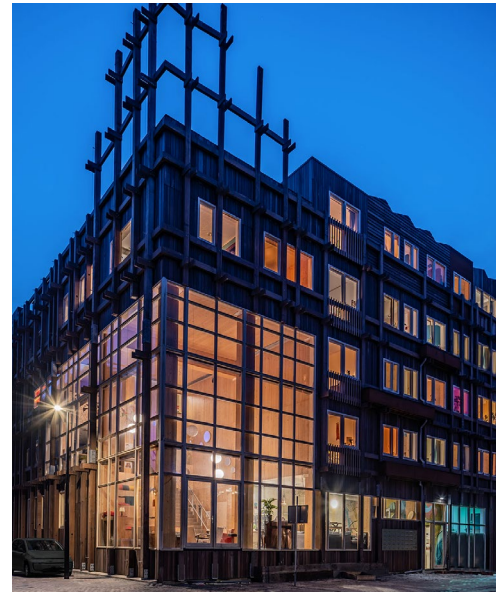
# Housing Cooperative De Warren

The enthusiastic group of Housing Cooperative De Warren has been working together for years on cultural events through Collectief KONIJN. Additionally, they established a sustainable farm in Portugal and contributed to the construction and success of De Ceuvel, a sustainable incubator space in Amsterdam Noord. The core group consists of designers, sustainable, social, and cultural entrepreneurs with experience in circular construction and area development, social innovations, and communal living.

The group has used its knowledge and experience to realize a housing cooperative for today's and tomorrow's inhabitants of Amsterdam. De Warren aims to create an affordable future where there is room for looking after one another, for the environment and for the city. The housing cooperative has built 16 social housing and 20 mid-segment apartments on Centrumeiland.

Making it the first self-built housing cooperative in Amsterdam. While primarily created for the cooperative's members, it also benefits Amsterdam in a broader sense. De Warren shares the lessons learned from the construction project through a knowledge base on its website, making this knowledge available to future groups with similar housing dreams.

More info: [www.dewarren.co](http://www.dewarren.co).



Pictures: John Lewis Marshall



# Director's statement

For years, I have had the desire to live more sustainably and communally. Through my girlfriend, I heard about De Warren – a group of friends who knew each other from festivals and wanted to live together. I was immediately sold.

To get to know the group, I joined them on a vacation. Chandar, the then chairman of De Warren, talked about his idea to make a documentary about the project. He asked me to direct it. At first, I hesitated. Was the story even suitable for a documentary? What would be the theme? And did I want to work on a project about the place where I would live?

Chandar's enthusiasm convinced me. What followed was hours of reviewing old footage. It took months to determine the film's central theme. Eventually, I found it in the shared desire to live together. Because what does that mean: living together? I discovered that it is more than just physically being under the same roof. On the contrary, it is about emotional presence in each other's lives. It is about commitment. Sharing moments together.

It was special to create a film about the house from within that house. The old footage revealed that it was not always certain whether it would all work out. It was amazing getting to know the group even better this way. I had joined the project as one of the last to be involved and got a unique behind-the-scenes look. The former board overcame many setbacks. They undertook something no one had done before, faced misunderstandings, and the limits of their own experience. And of course, it was heartwarming to see how the group rallied around them.

*Living Together: The Story of De Warren* is a story about the housing market, loneliness versus collectivity, sustainability, and construction. But more than that, it is about friendship. I look forward to sharing the film with the world. All those people looking for a different way of living need to know that it is possible. How? Sustainable, affordable, and social!

– Sam van Zoest, director



# About the director

Sam van Zoest is a Dutch writer and filmmaker. He works in various genres and media, ranging from documentary and VR films to audiovisual installations and interactives. Sam is interested in science, and his work focuses on visualizing the human aspect of themes such as climate change, healthcare, and the migrant crisis. *Living Together: The Story of De Warren* is Sam's first feature-length film.

Sam studied Film & Television at the University of Edinburgh. His documentary *In the Right Place*, a portrait of a volunteer in a refugee camp, was broadcasted on 2Doc in 2021. Sam's interactive climate film *Grandfather's Century* received awards at the 2022 BNP Paribas Green Film Festival. Currently, Sam is working on a novel about the sailing trip he undertook with his family at the age of 8.



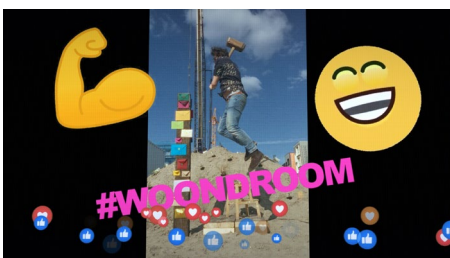
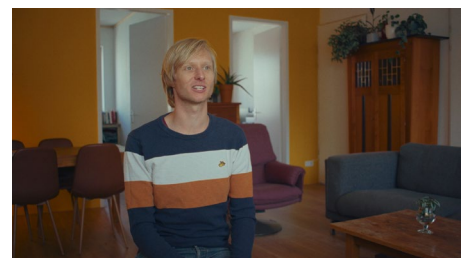
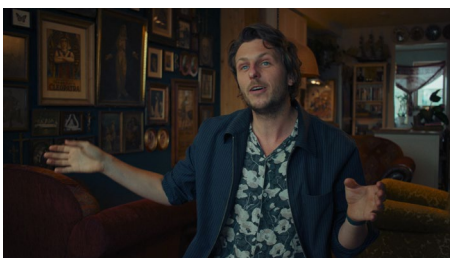
Picture: Roeltje van de Sande Bakhuijzen

## Filmography

Living Together: The Story of De Warren	2023	Documentary
Invitation	2023	Video installation
All That Could Be	2022	Fiction
LATER	2021	Documentary
In the Right Place	2021	Documentary
Grandfather's Century	2020	Interactive film
The Woman Who Feared to Vanish	2020	Fiction
Undercurrent	2020	Audiovisual installation

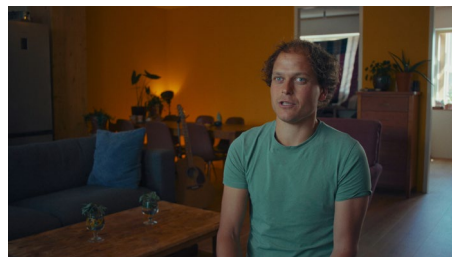
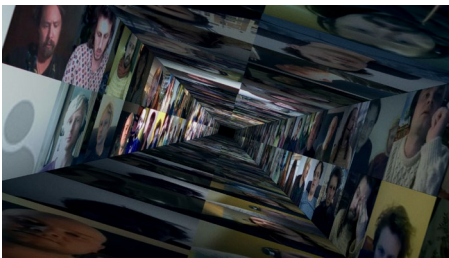
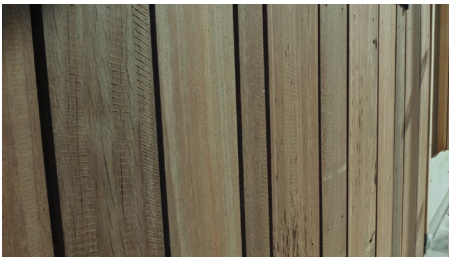
# Stills

Click on the stills to download them.



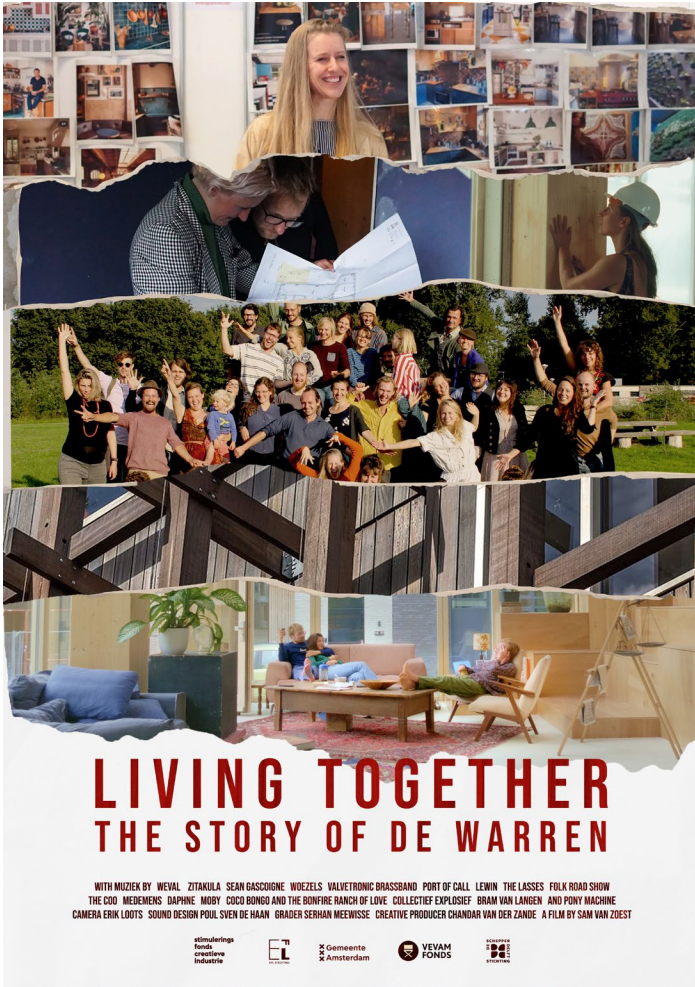
# Stills

Klik op de stills om ze te downloaden.





# Poster en photos



**LIVING TOGETHER**  
**THE STORY OF DE WARREN**

**LIVING TOGETHER**  
**THE STORY OF DE WARREN**



# Credits

## Interviewees

Kim Otten  
Joey Hodde  
Chandar van der Zande  
Gerard Roemers  
Jacob-Jan Koopmans

## Director and Editing

Sam van Zoest

## Creative Producer

Chandar van der Zande

## Camera

Erik Loots  
Sam van Zoest  
Chandar van der Zande  
Irene del Carmen

## Rerecording Mixer / Sound design

Poul Sven de Haan

## Sound design

Thom Verbree

## Grader

Serhan Meewisse

## Subtitles

Jessica Koopmans

## Makeup Artist

Sarah Teixeira St-Cyr

## With music by

Weval  
Moby  
Valvetronic Brassband  
The Coo  
Port of Call  
Folk Road Show  
Collectief Explosief  
Lewin  
Bram van Langen  
Pony Machine  
The Lasses  
Woezels  
Sean Gascoigne  
Zitakula  
Daphne  
StudioMedemens



# Contact

General

[info@samenwonendefilm.nl](mailto:info@samenwonendefilm.nl)

Press and bookings

Wooncoöperatie De Warren

Nydia Ecurystraat 18

1087VV Amsterdam

[pers@samenwonendefilm.nl](mailto:pers@samenwonendefilm.nl)

[boekingen@samenwonendefilm.nl](mailto:boekingen@samenwonendefilm.nl)

Director and Producer

Sam van Zoest

06-12251078

[sam@samvanzoest.com](mailto:sam@samvanzoest.com)