

# WASTE BOOK SCENES

Director Frans van de Staak has a long career making films on the fringe of poetry and essay. His feature films almost always focus on text and chance. Instead of telling a story, Van de Staak chooses to cut scenes to give a kaleidoscopic, multi-faceted and always-intriguing picture of his subject.

*Waste Book Scenes* looks at George Christoph Lichtenberg, the 18th-century German physicist. Lichtenberg keeps trying to escape from the tasks imposed on him, such as giving lectures, and leaves much to his English assistant and pupil Dave, who is studying physics and philosophy with him. He has an undefined relationship with Mrs Von Lukacs and corresponds with someone called Sophie. Are they one and the same woman? In any case they represent well-educated free women, of which more are known in the 18th century. Like many of their contemporaries, they counterpoint in an intimate and unconventional bond the free spirit that Lichtenberg must have been. The film just shows how important these contacts were.

Van de Staak is both stylised and sketchy. Careless details are deliberately introduced in a décor that has been kept as simple as possible. Most scenes are set in Lichtenberg's small room, where he performs all kinds of experiments, some murky and apparently of little significance, and discusses them with Dave. These conversations form the core of the film, that is above all an intellectual pleasure.

The outdoor shots in the well-conserved old centre of Maastricht undeniably give the film poetic power. Alongside his work as poet and film-maker, Van de Staak is also an untiring producer for novice or contrary film-makers. He gathers them as a family around his editing table and the other facilities he makes available to them. Many of these 'relatives' have contributed to the result of *Waste Book Scenes*.

English title: Waste Book Scenes  
Original title: Kladboekscenes  
Director: Frans van de Staak  
Producer: Frans van de Staak  
Screenplay: Frans van de Staak,  
Hanneke Stark  
Cinematography: Jan Wich  
Sound: Marcus Nijssen  
Editor: Frans van de Staak,  
Hanneke Stark

Music: J.S. Bach  
Art Directors:  
Serge van Opzeeland,  
Alfred Bueno  
Cast: Rik van Uffelen,  
Michiel Nooter, Marlies Heuer

Release date: 29 January 1994  
Running time: 98'  
Format: 16mm, colour

Language versions: Dutch  
(English subtitles)

**INFORMATION/FOREIGN SALES:**  
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