



TROPICAL AMSTERDAM

by Alexa Oona Schulz



SYNOPSIS

The Dutch Burgher community occupy a unique place in modern Sri Lanka. Once a privileged class, their exalted status vanished on independence. Despite this, a small group stayed. Their story is a fascinating insight into the wicked and glamorous world of colonialism and its legacy. The Dutch Burghers were descendants of traders and settlers who colonised the island in the 17th century. It used to be natural for English-speaking members of the community to hold the most highly esteemed positions in the country. However, in February 1948 Sri Lanka achieved independence, Sinhala became the official language, and the Burghers lost their status virtually overnight.

Many emigrated, but a small remnant stayed. "A different sort of immigrant with a different perspective." As this warm, poignant documentary explores, they still inhabit an uncertain hinterland between coloniser and colonised.

Deloraine Brohier harks back to a more innocent time of flowing ball gowns and first-class train...

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Alexa Oona Schulz

2011

52 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Human Rights, Social issues

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

English

PREMIERE

Germany (2011)

LINKS / REFERENCE

<http://www.journeyman.tv> (world sales)

<https://alexaoonaschulz.wor...>