Je n’accuse pas

No stranger to controversy, nor to the idea of ruffling a few feathers, maverick auteur Jeanette Groenendaal will present excerpts from her new project Reformation this afternoon to an audience of Paradocs devotees. The project will depict the fundamental Christian orthodoxy that Groenendal, dubbed “the daughter of the devil” by local villagers, allegedly suffered while growing up in rural Holland in the 1970s.

“It is a return to the past”, she emotes. “Not for revenge, nor to accuse, but to research the roots of a past that is coming back – the religion, the conservatism, the judgmental moral standards. The village becomes a film set for my memory, and when the village itself begins to remember, that’s the point at which I turn on my camera and the documentary begins.”

Using three screens within the Escape Club, Groenendaal will show excerpts from the 120 hours of footage shot so far. “I will try to interweave a movie, so the audience can witness the filmmaking progress”, she comments. “And I will invite them to edit the film in their heads.”

“The major theme of Reformation will be the scapegoat mechanism,” she continues. “That is what I was. That is how I was perceived. Christian fundamentalism is very dangerous as it excludes people from society – it affected me and I think it still happens today. It is a very exclusive and judgmental form of politics.”

                                                                                                            Nick Cunningham