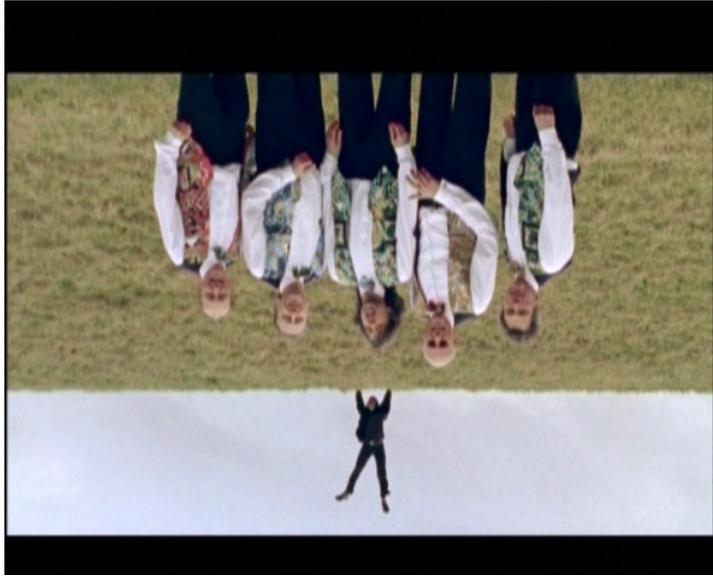


# NUMMER VIJF (B)

Regisseur: Guido van der Werve



In the earlier 'numbers', the performer/film-maker Guido Van der Werve often featured ballet dancers accompanied by tranquil classical music, whether this took place in a street in a residential area, a restaurant or a forest at night. In 'Nummer vijf (b)', five singers are singing in close harmony in the middle of a grassy field: 'He's got the whole wide world in his hands', while in the background the artist himself is standing very stably on his hands. The image is upside-down. Despite this, the five singers, who are so perfectly in tune with one another, together with the man in the background do indeed create the impression of holding the world in their hands. When the song comes to an end, it is immediately followed by a repetition, sung by Van der Werve in the privacy of a small room. The image is reminiscent of a home movie, in contrast to the strict styling of his other work. He accompanies himself on a guitar, but this singer finds it noticeably more difficult to stay in tune; his face is contorted, the music falters and the lyrics stubbornly remain unconvincing. Is he intensely sad, blind drunk, or simply at his wits' end? The lightheartedness of the first part has given way to desperation. Once again, in an absurdist manner the artist gives expression to the impossible task of taking, or holding, our existence in our own hands, and to the question of how it is possible to make 'art'.

Duur	3 min
Jaar	2006
Land	Nederland

# NUMMER ZES

Regisseur: Guido van der Werve



A text against a somewhat grubby black background explains how the maker, ever since he was six years old, was in the habit of furnishing his room in only black and white; how one day a ray of sun reached his wall via a reflection from the faade of a glass building on the other side of the street, and how at night when he cannot sleep he goes for a walk and can hardly see a star in the sky. The camera zooms out and the black field turns out to be part of the black-and-white chequered floor in the artist's apartment. He is sitting on a stool at his upright piano, with his back to the keyboard, immersed in thought. The voice-over recounts the history of Steinway & Sons' grand piano, and how very few pianists are privileged enough always to be able to play on such an instrument. The quay on which the apartment without grand piano is situated comes into view, and we can see Van der Werve continuing his musing, in the window of a pub, near a bridge, in a Chinese snack bar, while the Steinway seems to get further and further out of reach. Finally, we see him gazing through the window of a famous piano retailer that for many years stood in the heart of Amsterdam. Once inside, a brief conversation takes place with an eager shop assistant about the chosen concert grand piano, its price and 'possibilities'. As viewer, your heart sinks into your shoes. But then, the dream seems to have become true: the music swells, we can see the insides of a shiny black grand piano and Van der Werve's hands playing the virginal white keys as if he has effortlessly been able to transport himself into the history just recounted. An entire chamber orchestra, conductor and all, fills the black-and-white room to accompany him in the playing of Chopin's first piano concerto.

Duur	17 min
Jaar	2006
Land	Nederland