

"Ajax! Joden! Amsterdam!" A documentary by Frans Bromet

28-08-2013

On 25 of August, the Jewish Broadcasting Company (de Joodse Omroep) broadcasted a documentary by Frans Bromet: "Ajax! Joden! Amsterdam!"

Since several decades the well-known Amsterdam soccer club Ajax - because of its Jewish imago, has been confronted with antisemitic slogans and choruses. As a reaction the hard core of the supporters of Ajax started using 'Jews' as a honorary nickname. The documentary focuses on how, in history, the association between Ajax and Jewishness developed and how various people involved – supporters, administrators, soccer players, activists; Jews and non-Jews - relate to how Ajax supporters have appropriated this so-called Jewish identity. One of the questions is if these 'Jews' choruses should be forbidden or not. Evelien Gans is one of the interviewees. She emphasizes that, in the beginning of the eighties, antisemitic choruses and slogans started to make a direct connection between the supposed Jewishness of Ajax and the Shoah or Holocaust, for example by imitating the sound of gas and several other references to the gas chamber. By persisting in their alleged Jewish identity Ajax supporters contribute towards the continuation of the interaction between a non-existent and a-historical Jewishness and antisemitism.