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## ROTTERDAM 2: SAFETY NET

A FEW CRACKS APPEAR IN ROTTERDAM'S HITHERTO DEPENDABLE PROGRAMMING

WRITTEN BY ROBERT KOEHLER

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To get that real Rotterdam mojo, visitors had to go to the Bright Future section, which surveys mostly second-feature filmmakers. Here were films that justified the festival's reputation as a safe harbor for cinema made exactly as the filmmakers intended and utterly resistant to mainstream taste and conformity. Case in point: José Maria de Orbe's astonishing *Aita*, a hypnotic document (with some possibly scripted dialogue) concerning the caretaker of an ancient Basque estate facing his own mortality. It's a flat-out masterpiece of cinematography—a poem of light on the screen.

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