



INTRO → WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH YDWER FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS NOW. THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO REALLY BOND WELL WITH TOP LEVEL FREESTYLE RIDERS. LIKE WILLIAM MILNE, HE'S A GOOD RIDER HIMSELF, SUPER-EASY TO WORK AND TRAVEL WITH AND BUSTS OUT SUPER-CONSISTENT RESULTS. HE GOT HIS FIRST KITELIFE COVER ON ISSUE #46

CAPTION → During my trip to South Africa earlier this year I got to see Aaron Heide in real life for the first time. He truly brings the same style to journalism and is pushing through the lines and through possible

Where did you grow up?

In the Netherlands where I still live. During the summer it's great but in winter it's time to travel.

Where do you live?

Friesland in the north. It's totally flat with lots of lakes.

How old are you?

32.

What was your first camera?

A Nikon F3 and some cheap but good quality prime lenses, perfect equipment to learn the basics of photography with. My first digital camera was a Canon 400.

What is your current camera set-up?

Just before my Canon 400 got stolen I had bought a 1D Mark II. After that I bought a Canon 7D as a back up and to get into filming. My lenses vary from fish-eye to prime 300mm telephotos, some of the best Canon lenses - essential for shooting high-quality watersports images. About a year ago I also bought an Aquatex waterhousing for my 1D.

How did you get into photography?

My father was always a fanatical amateur photographer I played around with his camera a bit and got hooked. After I started kiting, when I was studying, it was an easy reason to grab my camera and start shooting. Meeting some people in the kite industry gave me a huge boost, I invested in good material and started getting shots published in magazines.

Can you remember the first shot you got published?

It was in a Dutch windsurfing magazine from a speed event at Sandy Point, Australia, shot on film. I was standing in a sandstorm but got a free magazine and all the hair was sanded from my legs for my efforts.

Which is your favourite shot ever and why?

There are a few, but last year I got my first cover shot for a Dutch magazine. It's a kite loop with late back roll set against the typical back drop at one of my home spots. The light wasn't great but sometimes the sun would come through and I was shooting with a 24-70mm lens; a lens that I find really hard to take good kitesurf shots with because it's not a wide angle and doesn't have a big zoom, so everything has to be in the right place at the right time.

Who is your favourite rider to shoot with and why?

Bas Kooke. He's a good friend and also a very talented rider with an amazing style. He breaks his body more than most other riders and holds his grab at least three to four frames of the sequence, where other riders might only be able to do so for one or two. Plus, he's always willing to experiment.

Where is your favourite place to shoot and why?

In my home country because I know exactly where and when to go. We have lot of days with poor light, but it's helped me to react quickly in different light settings. When you go somewhere with perfect lighting it's suddenly all so easy.

Where is the most terrifying (if not terrifying, then difficult) place you've shot and why?

At the Dutch Kiteboard Championship last year it was cold, raining and I was stood there in a long rain jacket. When a fly first hot storm hit, that was the first time that I thought, what am I doing here?



CAPTION → My first cover shot for a kitesurfing magazine with Bas Kooke doing a kite loop into a late back roll, really for the typically cold Dutch look, which really adds to the action.

What do you hope to be shooting in kiting in the future?

I'd like to keep shooting for magazines and also do more photo shoots for brands. It would be cool to be able to make a full living out of this.

Do you have any advice for aspiring photographers?

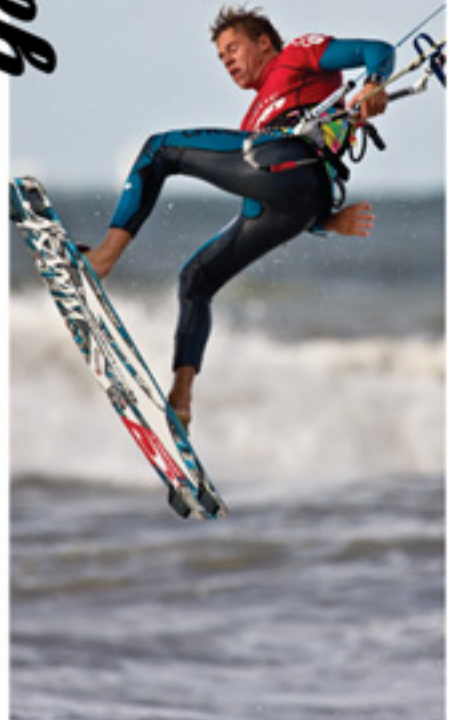
Keep taking pictures. You don't need the most expensive equipment to freeze the best moments. Think different, find new angles, cross boundaries and enjoy what you are doing.

See more of Ydwer at www.ydwer.com

Ydwer Van Der Heide



WOMEN MASTER



CAPTION → During the 2008 Dutch Championships two of Holland's top pro kiteboarders had to fight for the title. It's very rare that Ydwer Zoon and Kevin Langereus are in The Netherlands during this competition, so along with a lot of spectators, I was honoured to capture this unique moment.