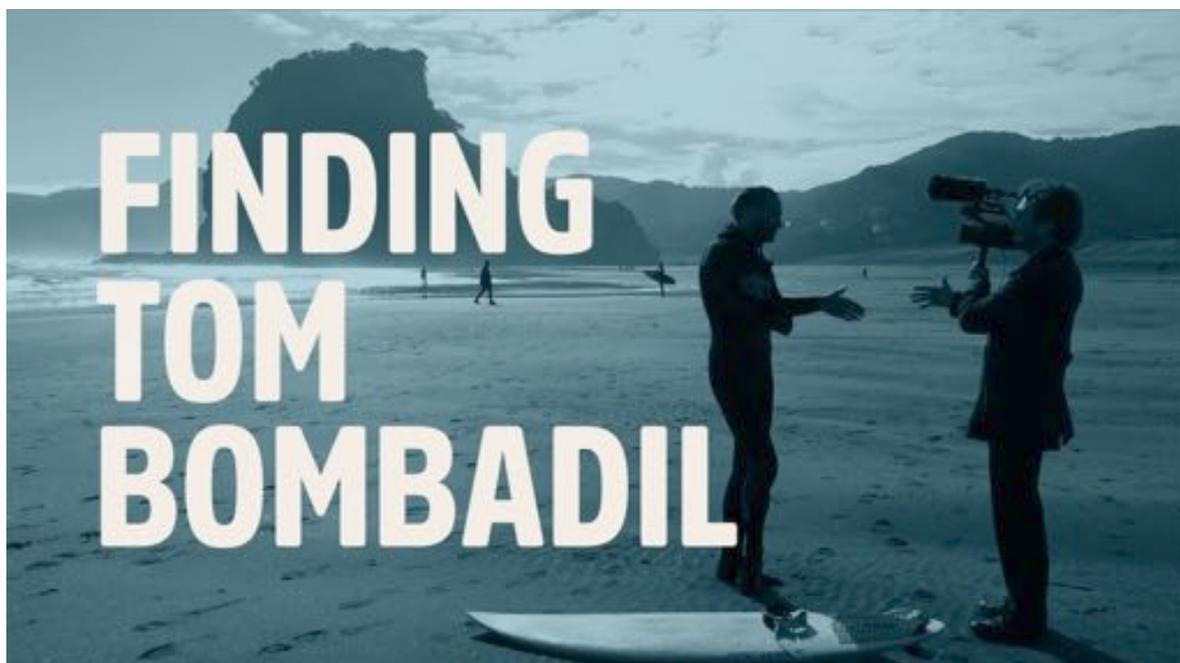


++ FINDING TOM BOMBADIL LIVE: SYNOPSIS, FACT SHEETS AND BIO ++

THE SUSTAINABLE SUNSHINE COMPANY PRESENTS
AN ONGOING HOLISTIC DETECTIVE DOCUMENTARY EXPERIENCE

DIRECTED, FILMED, WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY JOOST VAN DE LOO



To search for somebody like this is very exciting.
Prof. David Hand, author of The Improbability Principle

Courageous.
Bernward Koch, musician and composer

There's not enough whimsy in the world.
Mark Lee Hunter, investigative journalist

One hell of a man, one hell of a search.
Dr. Mark Benecke, international forensic investigator

Strange coincidences.
Timo Vesala, candidate #6

I'm much happier now.
Maarten Westerveen, researcher

2019 / NL / 90 min LIVE performance (incl. 46 min. holistic detective documentary)

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Project website: <https://www.findingtombombadil.com/>
Director bio: <https://imdb.me/joostvandeloo>

Finding Tom Bombadil Live on stage

Scope

Finding Tom Bombadil Live tours the world to mobilise audiences to join the search for Tolkien's most mysterious fantasy figure. The performance is a holistic detective experience that fuses documentary, comedy, music and philosophy. Director and holistic detective Joost van de Loo presents a documentary film about his first 3.5 years of searching, appeals to the public for help and explores the joys, and pitfalls, of finding your favourite fiction character in the real world.

Duration: 90 minutes

Programme

HOW I STARTED AND WHY

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE SEARCH – documentary film 46 mins

CHASING THE IMPROBABLE

BEING A HOLISTIC DETECTIVE

Some questions that the performance raises

Who is Tom Bombadil? How do you find a fictional character in the real world? How do you chase an extremely rare event? How do you investigate the improbable? What is like to be a holistic detective? Does the universe belong to a fantastic genre? Is it true that we can't create anything new; that we can only discover what is already out there? What if writers do not create new characters, but instead sense their existence? Is it possible to establish that someone is literally a fiction character? How do you prove that someone is a magical, supernatural being? What do you do when you experience miraculous coincidence? What happens if we find Tom Bombadil?





Logline (46 min. documentary)

After years of investigating across five different continents, a holistic detective on a quest to find his favourite fiction character in the real world realises that the search is only just beginning.

Synopsis (46 min. documentary)

Finding Tom Bombadil

Holistic detective and film director Joost van de Loo appeals to the public for help with the worldwide search for Tolkien's most mysterious fantasy figure.

How do you recognise a superbeing? This question haunts Finding Tom Bombadil, a detective documentary about a man on a coincidence-powered quest to find his favourite fiction character in the real world.

Tom Bombadil is a nature-loving, minor character in The Lord of the Rings, who mostly sings nonsensical songs. He's also the only one unaffected by the Ring. In 2015, Joost van de Loo became a holistic detective dedicated to finding Tom Bombadil. He's been searching for years, investigating across five different continents.

Joost says: "Somehow Tom Bombadil always stood out for me. He's so positive and unique; the oldest and maybe most powerful person in the universe, but power leaves him cold. My project assumes that he actually exists. We're assuming that somewhere, Tom Bombadil is living and walking amongst us."

Finding Tom Bombadil tracks the early stages of the worldwide search for Tolkien's most mysterious fantasy figure. Coincidences and chance encounters lead Joost – who gets help from a host of volunteers, field researchers and advisers - to investigate candidates in Shetland, Germany, England, New Zealand, South Korea, Tanzania, Finland and the United States.

After more than three and a half years of searching, Tom Bombadil; a 13.7 billion year old whimsical, musical superbeing who is keen on pleasing his girlfriend; has not yet been found. But Joost is undaunted. Through one of his advisers, professor of mathematics David Hand, author of the Improbability Principle, he has learnt about the Law of Truly Large Numbers.

So now, Joost is appealing to the public for help. He is inviting thousands of people around the world to become holistic detectives too and join the search for Tom Bombadil.

Fact sheet - Finding Tom Bombadil, the detective documentary

Synopsis short	Finding Tom Bombadil is a detective documentary about a man on a quest to find his favourite fiction character in the real world. The film tracks the early stages of his worldwide search for Tolkien's most mysterious fantasy figure. Coincidences and chance encounters lead Joost van de Loo – a holistic detective helped by a host of volunteers, field researchers and advisers - to investigate candidates in Shetland, Germany, England, New Zealand, South Korea, Tanzania, Finland and the United States. After years of searching he realises that the search is only just beginning.
Premise	Our documentary assumes that Tom Bombadil actually exists. We're assuming that somewhere, Tom Bombadil is living and walking amongst us.
Countries	Since 2015, our investigation has taken us from The Netherlands, to Iceland, India, Oregon, Finland, Italy, Tanzania, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Korea, New Zealand, England, Washington DC and Shetland. We have been filming the process, as we go from one lead to the next. This 46-minute documentary includes many, but not all, of these destinations.
Tom Bombadil in The Lord of the Rings	Tom Bombadil is a nature loving character in The Lord of the Rings books who can control nature with his voice, mostly by singing nonsensical songs. He's also the oldest creature in that entire universe and the only character who's completely unaffected by the Ring.
Tom Bombadil in popular culture	Tom Bombadil is J.R.R. Tolkien's most mysterious character, a cult figure. The question 'who is Tom Bombadil?' has become a classic amongst fans of The Lord of The Rings. There were protests when Peter Jackson left him out of the trilogy films, because he thought Tom Bombadil did not enough to advance the plot.
Tom Bombadil in the real world	The person we're looking for is charismatic, free spirited and close to nature. He's a gregarious recluse, prone to spontaneous singing, rhyming or riffing to melody. He is 13.7 billion years old and has magical powers, but is totally uninterested in power or control. His most pressing concern seems to please his wife/girlfriend/partner.
Holistic detective method	We're using story-based inquiry (an investigative journalism method) and holistic detective techniques, such as Zen navigation, to harness coincidence and pursue a highly improbable, fantastic hypothesis.
Investigative advisers	Investigative advisers on the project are Prof. David Hand (author of the Improbability Principle), Mark Lee Hunter (author of Story-Based Inquiry), Dr. Mark Benecke (international forensic investigator)
Global tour	In 2019, Joost van de Loo embarked on a global tour to invite audiences to join the search for Tom Bombadil. We're now touring the world with this film. If thousands, or even millions, of people across the world become holistic detectives too – then maybe, someday, someone is going to meet Tom Bombadil. See www.findingtombombadil.com .
Media contacts	Heleen Ririassa, +31 (0)6 462 464 26, heleen.ririassa@findingtombombadil.com

Key cast & crew

Professor David Hand	Investigation adviser
Dr. Mark Benecke	Investigation adviser
Mark Lee Hunter	Investigation adviser
Aidan 'King Rah' Collins	Candidate #13
Corbinian Beitelstein	Candidate #8
Ryan Shelford Henriks	Candidate #12
Thomas Bear Bombadil	Candidate #3
Espen 'Mzungu Kichaa' Sørensen	Candidate #5
Robert Beets	Owns the most beautiful bay in the world
Liz Mullane	Casting director The Lord of the Rings
Joost van de Loo	Director, camera, writer, producer
Nick Rozenberg	Editor
Renger Koning	Music composer and sound designer
Bobby Wessels	Animator
Daniel Lawson	Narrator
Wendy Ishii	Narrator
Lynette Darleen	Colour grading
Maarten Westerveen	Research and second camera
Gillian Murdoch	Research and second camera
Henriëtte Poelman	Research
Bernward Koch	Field detective
Stephanie Benecke	Field detective
Bernward Koch	Field detective
Leon Linto	Field detective
Norbert Linto	Field detective
Tommy Shin	Field detective
Jizelle St. Fleur	Field detective
Maurice Williamson	Field detective
Herman Heyn	Field detective
Akim Reinhardt	Field detective
Marc Veerkamp	Tom Bombadil profiler
Rik Peels	Tom Bombadil profiler
Auke Hulst	Tom Bombadil profiler
Kai Dieho	Additional camera
Koen Hogewoning	Communication and Title design
Iлона van de Laarschot	Communication and Title design
Martijn Nieuwenhuis	Billboard design
Bruno Sellés	Investigation room concept
Mary Crow	Poetry translation

Bio Joost van de Loo

<https://imdb.me/joostvandeloo>



Photograph by Robert Tjalondo

Joost van de Loo is a holistic detective and film director who specialises in detective documentary; a cocktail of humour and serious investigation. He combines film with design, journalism and improbable research to create things that first make people laugh, and then think.

Currently, Joost is conducting a coincidence-powered quest to find Tom Bombadil, Tolkien's most mysterious fantasy figure, in the real world. Joost has also helped to launch a new programme for BBC Four television, designed the Sunshine Steak, created Castrato Superstar (an Augmented Reality documentary sculpture based on the true story of Paul Texel, a natural castrate opera singer with a soprano voice, who was discovered by Andy Warhol and then lost his voice) and wrote a series of features about contemporary hermits in the UK, India and The Netherlands.

He has a mechanical engineering MSc degree from the Delft University of Technology, as well as a MA International Journalism from City University London. Joost is also a trained camera journalist and a practitioner of Story-Based Inquiry, the investigative method developed by Mark Lee Hunter (INSEAD) and taught at the Centre for Investigative Journalism (CIJ). Also, he is registered as a certified provocative film director at the Institute for Eclectic Psychology (IEP).