



PRESS RELEASE

Nordic Council Film Prize 2026 to “the instant classic of Nordic cinema” *Sentimental Value*

For the first time ever, all Nordic Council awards go to Norway. The 2026 Nordic Council Film Prize winners are Joachim Trier, Eskil Vogt, Maria Ekerhovd and Andrea Berentsen Ottmar.

Out of this year’s six films, the Nordic jury has selected *Sentimental Value* (*Affeksjonsverdi*) as the winner. Director/writer **Joachim Trier**, writer **Eskil Vogt**, producers **Maria Ekerhovd** and **Andrea Berentsen Ottmar** are awarded the Nordic Council Film Prize 2026.

The prize money of DKK 300,000 is each year equally shared between the winning film’s director(s), writer(s) and producer(s), to underscore how film as an art form is brought about by collaboration.

Sentimental Value was first nominated by the national jury on August 24. All winners of Nordic Council prizes are selected by pan-Nordic juries. The five awards that were announced today are: The Film Prize, the Music Prize, the Literature Prize, the Children & Young People’s Literature Prize, and the Environment Prize. For the first time ever all awards went to one and the same country: Norway. As the Literature Prize went to Sámi Norwegian writer **Sigbjørn Skåden**, the win marks a triumph for the Sámi region as well.

The Award Ceremony will be hosted by the Nordic Council on October 27, and distributed on norden.org. The “Nordlys” prize statuettes are delivered during the ceremony.

The members of the Nordic film jury were **Jacob Ludvigsen** (Denmark), **Jan Berg Jørgensen** (The Faroe Islands), **Jóna Finnsdóttir** (Iceland), **Anne Gjelsvik** (Norway), **Jonas Holmberg** (Sweden), and the chair **Marjo Pipinen** (Finland). After its decision, the jury agreed that Trier and his team have created “an instant classic of Nordic cinema”. The jury motivation reads as follows:

“This year’s winner of the Nordic Council Film Prize is a rich, mature, and complex film that explores broad themes, including family, history, the meaning of home, and the possibilities of art. The film draws inspiration from the European film tradition of the 1960s and 1970s without ever feeling old-fashioned. Director Joachim Trier has

created a film characterised by a cinematic musicality, employing a range of narrative choices and visual ideas that ultimately come together to form a meaningful whole. *Sentimental Value* is a film with many narrative layers, in which every second feels charged with meaning, and which continues to grow with every watch. Through a strong screenplay, beautiful cinematography, and powerful performances from all of its central cast, the film succeeds both in casting a satirical eye on filmmaking and in offering a subtle portrayal of complex family relationships. Together with his long-standing collaborators, Trier has created his most mature work to date with *Sentimental Value*, developing a cinematic language which allows a story to be told that feels both personal and universal.”

Sentimental Value is the highest-grossing Norwegian film of all time internationally. The film, which is top financed by Nordisk Film & TV Fond, has received a remarkable number of awards, with 85 wins and 314 nominations, according to IMDb. In addition to the director, scriptwriters and producers that win the Nordic Council Film Prize 2026, the film’s international team includes the Norwegian actresses **Renate Reinsve** and **Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas**, Swedish actor **Stellan Skarsgård**, American actress **Elle Fanning**, Danish cinematographer **Kasper Tuxen**, Danish editor **Olivier Bugge Coutté**, and Polish composer **Hania Rani**, who have all been recognised in different ways for their contribution to the film's success.

Trier and Vogt won their first Nordic Council Film Prize in 2016 with *Louder than Bombs*, while producers Ekerhovd and Berentsen Ottmar receive the award for the first time. After the national nominations were announced in August, all film nominees spoke with Nordisk Film & TV Fond. For the interview with Joachim Trier, Eskil Vogt, Maria Ekerhovd and Andrea Berentsen Ottmar: [**CLICK HERE.**](#)

The Film Prize was established in 2002, and has been delivered annually since 2005. It is one of the region’s most esteemed cultural honours, awarded to a Nordic-produced feature film or documentary with cinema distribution. Greenland did not submit a film for the Nordic Council Film Prize 2026. This year, five feature films and one documentary were nominated. The other nominated titles were:

- *Beginnings (Begyndelser, Denmark)*
- *Birita (The Faroe Islands)*
- *A Light That Never Goes Out (Jossain on valo joka ei sammuu, Finland)*
- *The Love That Remains (Ástin sem eftir er, Iceland)*
- *Kevlar Soul (Kevlarsjäl, Sweden)*

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