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Nordic Talents 2018

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On reaching maturity

We are celebrating the 18th edition of Nordic Talents this year. Hey, we're grown-ups! And it does not feel bad at all!

The brilliant idea of former Nordisk Film & TV Fond CEO Svend Abrahamsen and the Danish Film School was quite unique at start, at a time when the communication between old and new Nordic talent, producers and financiers was much more sparse than it is today.

For several years we have had a fully booked event that has grown to a must-attend showcase on what's coming next from the Nordic countries.

Every time we ask for constructive feedback from the participants, and the usual phrase is "don't change anything in the set-up". We agree in principle, but feel that tiny developments are always needed, even with grown-ups.

It is important to lower the threshold from student to professional. Last year we had a rewarding experience with several NT alumni in the jury – to be continued this year with Marja Pyykkö and Izer Aliu – not forgetting the riper members Madeleine Ekman, Jørgen Lerdam and Wendy Mitchell. Thank you all for joining!

This year we will – at our traditional master class slot when the jury has retired to their room to come up with the decisions on the winners – screen a feature film and have a talk about it.

And that's a fresh case: *Border* by Ali Abbasi – a NT and Nordic Genre Boost alumni, winner of this year's Un Certain Regard in Festival de Cannes. So nice to be able to show this piece of brave filmmaking first hand and hear of the development process. Welcome!

After Svend Abrahamsen who started NT, it was Hanne Palmquist as the next CEO who went on. I am so honoured for Hanne accepting to come back, as a moderator of the legendary producers' pitch, where the "established" production companies really have to show off to make themselves stand out in front of the students! Thank you, Hanne!

Finally, the 15 selected projects, the main focus of these two days. What a diversity you represent! Nationalities from all the five Nordic countries are represented. We have animation, documentaries, fiction, feature length, series, web formats and hybrids. Congratulations to all the selected – you all are already winners – after being picked up from a record of almost 50 applications.

Warm thank you to our hosts and co-organisers at The National Film School of Denmark for the wonderful co-operation. Welcome to everyone – let the 18th anniversary show start!

Petri Kemppinen
CEO, Nordisk Film & TV Fond



Petri Kemppinen © Nordisk Film & TV Fond. Photo: Birgit Solhaug

The Moderators



Karolina Lidin

Once again, we are truly happy that the Fund's very own, Karolina Lidin, will moderate the Pitch Sessions and guide us through the event with a steady hand. Karolina has been Nordisk Film & TV Fond's Documentary Advisor since 2008. In addition, she is working as a tutor and moderator at international pitching and training sessions, e.g. at Sheffield Doc Fest.



Valeria Richter

Thursday afternoon Valeria Richter will lead the Master Class on the making of BORDER. She works as a script writer, creative producer, script consultant and develops workshops for Torino-FilmLab, Baltic Event and more. She was project manager for our Nordic Genre Boost-initiative, which BORDER participated in.



Hanne Palmquist

We are honoured to have Commissioning Editor & VP, Original Programming, HBO Nordic, Hanne Palmquist, host the Producer's Pitch Wednesday evening as few knows the Nordic industry better. Hanne has 25 years of work experience within TV and film, having worked as Film Commissioner at the Danish Film Institute, Commissioning Editor for Drama Series & Feature Films at SVT, CEO of Nordisk Film & TV Fond and Head of International Sales at TV2 Denmark. She has also been a producer at Fine & Mellow, Acquisition Manager at Nordisk Film, Head of PR and International Sales at Zentropa and Trust Film Sales and at Filmkontakt Nord.

The Awards

THE NORDIC TALENTS PITCH PRIZE

The Nordic Talents Pitch Prize is handed out to the best project pitched by graduation students during the pitching sessions at Nordic Talents. It is The Nordic Talent's Jury who each year motivates and decides who wins *The Nordic Talents Pitch Prize*. The jury makes its decision based on the project information sent to them previous to the event, the pitch and the student's graduation films being screened at the event.

The Nordic Talents Pitch Prize of NOK 250,000 is development support granted by Nordisk Film & TV Fond. There must be a production company attached to the winning project before the prize can be activated. Winners will be contacted after the event with details on how to request the prize.

THE NORDIC TALENTS SPECIAL MENTION PRIZE

The Nordic Talent's Jury also hands out *The Nordic Talents Special Mention Prize*. It goes to a project pitched by graduation students during the pitching sessions at Nordic Talents that the jury takes special interest in besides the winner of the main prize. The jury makes its decision based on the project information sent to them previous to the event, the pitch and the student's graduation films being screened at the event.

The Nordic Talents Special Mention Prize of NOK 50,000 is development support granted by Nordisk Film & TV Fond. There must be a production company attached to the winning project before the prize can be activated. Winners will be contacted after the event with details on how to request the prize.



The Jury

Izer Aliu@John Erling Holmenes Fredriksen



IZER ALIU

Izer is an award-winning Macedonian-born director who grew up in Sweden before settling in Norway. He graduated from the Norwegian Film School with the short film *To Guard a Mountain*. It won Best Short at the Norwegian Amanda Awards and was nominated for a Student Academy Award in Hollywood. He won an Amanda for his debut feature, *Hunting Flies*, that had its world premiere as part of Toronto International Film Festival's Discovery programme in 2016, it has been screened at dozen festivals, and was Norway's nominee for the Nordic Council Film Prize in 2017. Aliu's upcoming feature projects are the realistic drama *12 Dares* and the political period film *Song of Scabs*.

Jørgen Lerdam



JØRGEN LERDAM

Jørgen started in the animation business at Bent Barfod Film in 1977. He worked on Danish feature film, *Valhalla*. Lerdam has worked for Gerhard Hahn in Berlin and later for Don Bluth on *All Dogs go to heaven* in Ireland and in London for Amblimation on *Balto*. He co-founded A.Film in august 1988. Jørgen has directed 8 animated features, several commercials, and 3 TV series. His latest film premiere was the successful *The Incredible Story of the Giant Pear* in 2017.

Madeleine Ekman@Francy Ekman



MADELEINE EKMAN

Madeleine has been Film Commissioner for Feature Films at The Swedish Film Institute since May 2018. Before that she was CEO of Zentropa Sweden, co-producing a large number of films since 2009 such as; Lars von Trier's trilogy *Antichrist*, *Melancholia*

and *Nymphomaniac*, Oscar-winning Susanne Bier's *In a Better World*, Thomas Vinterberg's *The Hunt* and Nikolaj Arcel's *A Royal Affair* (both Oscar nominated). At Zentropa Sweden she has been important for the development and growth of the company's Swedish business and has worked with a number of Swedish filmmakers. In 2016 she received a Swedish Guldbagge as best producer for Magnus von Horn's *The Here After* that also was Sweden's Nominee for the Nordic Council Film Prize 2016.

Marja Pyykkö



MARJA PYYKKÖ

As a second-generation movie professional, Finnish Marja has been living and breathing film since early ages. Now she is an award-winning, experienced director of popular TV series and films. Marja's works include series *Hooked* and *Black Widows*, and feature films *Man and a Baby* and *Village People*. She is educated as a film director at the Finnish film school (ELO / Aalto University). In 2008 she won a Nordic Talents' award for her first feature, *Run Sister, Run!* It received several national Jussi-film award nominations in 2010. Her latest series is the Finnish version of Swedish *Sunny Side (Solsidan)*, and next she will shoot a Finnish/Spanish co-production in Spain, *The Paradise*.

Wendy Mitchell



WENDY MITCHELL

London-based Wendy Mitchell is a Film Programme Manager at the British Council, where she hosts preview screenings of British films for the world's top film festivals; and a contributing editor and the Nordic correspondent for Screen International and ScreenDaily.com. She scouts Nordic films for the San Sebastian Film Festival and consults for the Zurich Film Festival. She also hosts the works in progress of new Nordic films at Gothenburg and Haugesund.

The Schools

The students who pitch this year graduated from the following schools. Their graduation films will be screened during the event.

DK

The National Film School of Denmark
<http://www.filmskolen.dk>

The Animation Workshop
<http://www.animwork.dk/da/>

FI

Tampere University of Applied Science
<http://www.tamk.fi/web/tamken>

IS

Columbia University School of the Arts
<https://arts.columbia.edu/>

NO

The Norwegian Film School
<https://www.inn.no/studier/fagomraader/film-tv-og-kultur/den-norske-filmskolen>

SE

Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts
<http://www.uniarts.se>

Akademin Valand
<https://akademinvaland.gu.se>

Pitch session 1

5 September 13:20-14:45

See their graduation films in

FILM SCREENING I: 5 September 10:15-12:20

Pitch

Laura (FIC)

Pitched by: **Fanny Ovesen** (director)
School: The Norwegian Film School (NO)

While on a couch surfing trip through Europe, 19-year-old Laura wakes up having had sex with a stranger. She remembers nothing. Torn between guilt and innocence she sets out on a journey which will influence her self-image and close relationships forever.



Fanny's graduation film

She-pack (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 18
Director: **Fanny Ovesen**
Producer: Lotte Sandbu
Scriptwriter: Maren Skolem
Cinematographer: Magga Vala
Editor: Anni Tiainen
Sound Designer: Anna Nilsson

It's a birthday party at a public pool disco, and underdog Ronja challenges the girls' alpha female to battle for dominance. The game escalates quickly, and as the thirst for power grows, Ronja and the other girls lose control.

Pitch

Family (FIC)

Pitched by: **Tia Kouvo** (director)
School: Akademin Valand (SE)

A family gathers at the grandparents for Christmas. Grandfather drinks too much, the two middle-aged sisters nag at each other. Grandmother is overworked, and the teenagers don't talk. The two kids are planning a Christmas cabaret show. Let Christmas begin!



Tia's graduation film

Family Time (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 22
Director: **Tia Kouvo**
Producer: Aija Ronkainen
Scriptwriter: **Tia Kouvo**
Cinematographer: Jesse Jalonen
Editor: **Tia Kouvo**
Sound Designer: Tarmo Pehkonen

A Finnish family gathers together at the grandparents. As the night progresses, we realize that this is how things always goes in this family. With an empathetic and subtly humorous gaze, the film looks closely at the unspoken structures and norms inside a family.

*Pitch***The diagnosis (TV/
CROSS-MEDIA)**

Pitched by: **Ebba Stymne** (writer) and **Maja-Stina Åsberg** (writer)
School: Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts (SE)

The Diagnosis is Kafka's "The trial" explored in a reality show aesthetic with extra Ritalin on top. How bizarre can ADHD psychiatry really get? But underneath the comedy lies a deeper question – who is this society really made for?

*Ebba and Maja-Stina's graduation film*
Domesticated (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 22
Director: **Maja-Stina Åsberg, Ebba Stymne**, Milja Rossi, Marte Aasen, Theodora Flygt, Oscar Willey, Beatrice P Garcia, Edvina Koda Sander
Producer: **Maja-Stina Åsberg, Ebba Stymne**, Milja Rossi, Marte Aasen, Theodora Flygt, Oscar Willey, Beatrice P Garcia, Edvina Koda Sander
Scriptwriter: **Ebba Stymne**
Cinematographer: Milja Rossi
Editor: Marte Aasen
Sound Designer: Theodora Flygt

Young woman seeks bed for the night, finds socially awkward somewhat older woman with her own apartment.

*Pitch***Stories from the shower
(DOC/CROSS-MEDIA)**

Pitched by: **Teresia Fant** (director)
School: The Norwegian Film School (NO)

After and before PE, students gather in rooms, to change clothes, shower and put clothes back on. But something happens when young people gather, expected to be in their most their most vulnerable element; their own naked body.

*Teresia's graduation film***Viva Løten (DOC)**

Length (in minutes): 26
Director: **Teresia Fant**
Producer: **Teresia Fant**, Kari Anne Moe
Scriptwriter: -
Cinematographer: Jonathan Bjerstedt, **Teresia Fant**
Editor: Geir Fjermestad Rolandsen
Sound Designer: Adam Andersson

Viva Løten portrays a colourful universe filled with engines, alcohol, loud music and pizza. Unfolding a different aspect of the Norwegian countryside - a tender, honest and raw portrait of two young men and their everyday life. Characterized by the idle country life, their time sometimes moves slowly but is nevertheless surprising and entertaining. Both boys have a troubled past but have chosen different ways of dealing with it. These are stories of sorrow and anger, faith and comfort.

*Pitch***Princess and Partisan
(TV)**

Pitched by: **Yana Martsynkevych** (director)
School: Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts (SE)

Young aristocrat Alice moves to Eastern Europe because of love but discovers herself in the crossroads of wars and unexpected urge to take action.

*Yana's graduation film***Lost in Kyiv (FIC)**

Length (in minutes): 29
Director: **Yana Martsynkevych**
Producer: Amna Maksumic
Scriptwriter: Amanda Högberg, Axel Nygren, **Yana Martsynkevych**
Cinematographer: Josua Enblom
Editor: Milja Rossi
Sound Designer: Alexander Berggren

An adaptation of Karin Boye's novel "Adventures in Kandia". Reset into modern times, the film is about a Swedish war-photographer Karin, that dedicates herself to work and put her personal life behind. While travelling to the war in Ukraine, she meets a young couple in Kyiv and gets carried away with them - further from work, closer to confronting her private-self. *Lost in Kyiv* is a coming-of-age of a grown-up woman.

Pitch session 2

6 September 09:30-10:55

See their graduation films in
FILM SCREENING II: 5 September 15:30-17:10

Pitch

Barbara and the Jumping Genes (DOC)

Pitched by: **Karl-Oskar Gustafsson** (director)
School: Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts (SE)

Barbara & The Jumping Genes is a film project in development about Maize Geneticist, Mystic, Maverick and Nobel Prize winner Barbara McClintock. She was a highly influential and controversial scientist whose research was as unconventional as her private life.



Karl-Oskar's graduation film Star City (DOC)

Length (in minutes): 14
Director: **Karl-Oskar Gustafsson**
Producer: **Karl-Oskar Gustafsson**, Stdh
Scriptwriter: -
Cinematographer: Erik Lindeberg, Edvard Stokstad
Editor: Simon Carlgren
Sound Designer: Tanya Byrne

A hybrid documentary exploring how choreography can be used as a tool in filmmaking. Karl-Oskar explores Karlaplan in Stockholm - square built in the shape of a star. He creates a pattern where people walk in different orbits like planets, circling around and into the fountain, making encounters with each other. Interviews became the dialogue in the film.

Pitch

Simple Things (FIC)

Pitched by: **Ernst De Geer** (director) and **Mads Stegger** (writer)
School: The Norwegian Film School (NO)

When the recently divorced security guard Samir's son gets beaten up by a police officer, he decides to fight for justice, only to realize that what his son needs is his emotional attention.



Ernst's graduation film The Culture (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 25
Director: **Ernst De Geer**
Producer: Marte Hansen
Scriptwriter: Emanuel Nordrum
Cinematographer: Jørgen Klüver
Editor: Mathilde Fridlund
Sound Designer: Valeria Quezada

It's opening night at the concert house where Arvid works, but when his sister steals the spotlight, his worst sides are revealed, and he goes on a path of self-destruction.



Mads' graduation film Things we don't talk about (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 19
Director: Dan Johan Filip Svensson
Producer: Renée Hansen Modyszewski
Scriptwriter: **Mads Stegger**
Cinematographer: Jonathan Bjerstedt
Editor: Geir Fjermestad Rolandsen
Sound Designer: Thomas Pape

After surviving a car accident, thirteen-year-old Edvin isolates himself from friends and family. When his father forces him to go to rehabilitation, he can no longer avoid dealing with his trauma.

*Pitch***Sick (TV)**

Pitched by: **Lisa Ambjörn** (writer)
School: Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts (SE)

When Alice (27) survives cervical cancer, she is eager to win her old life back, but with a “short vagina” and a ton of problems from before that never really went away it turns out to be harder than expected



Lisa's graduation film

Banana Pancake Trail (FIC)

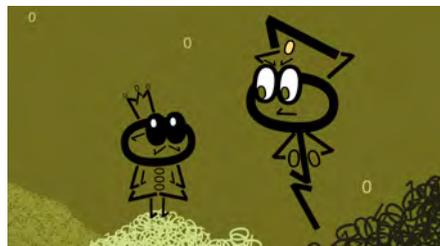
Length (in minutes): 28
Director: Johan Rosell
Producer: Lova Lilliemarck
Scriptwriter: **Lisa Ambjörn**
Cinematographer: Arpi Sahakyan
Editor: Christina Eriksson
Sound Designer: Jonathan Dakers

Maya has kept away from Sweden for the past years without any intention of ever coming back. But when she finds out the only person she's still in contact with back home only has days left to live, she quickly needs to get enough money to pay for the plane ticket. Something that will put everything at risk as Maya realise she can't trust no one, since she is the one who's fooled everybody.

*Pitch***Apple Hills (ANI)**

Pitched by: **Lowe Haak** (director)
School: The National Film School of Denmark (DK)

Apple Hills is about the two boys Trafalgar and Pulver who loves adventure. However, they live in Apple Hills, a village so boring and insignificant it's not even marked out on any map. Therefore, the two boys have to come up with their own ideas of how to entertain themselves which leads them out on a lot of strange and wild adventures.



Lowe's graduation film

The Messenger (ANI)

Length (in minutes): 8
Director: **Lowe Haak**
Producer: Pernille Törnøe
Scriptwriter: **Lowe Haak**, Sara Isabella Jønsson
Cinematographer: **Lowe Haak**
Editor: **Lowe Haak**, Louis Seeberg
Sound Designer: Anders Ankerstjerne

Flash is a successful digital messenger on the web who delivers messages between mobile phones. One day he makes a mistake and throws an important love message between two teenagers in the spam folder. He goes on a journey to the deepest corners of the web to get the message back but in the end, he is forced to choose between his own success or the teenagers love.

*Pitch***The Locker Room (FIC)**

Pitched by: **Dan Johan Filip Svensson** (director)
School: The Norwegian Film School (NO)

When David starts in a new hockey team, his old macho and masculine values are questioned, and he is forced to change his behaviour which set in conflict with his old life.



Dan Johan Filip's graduation film

Things we don't talk about (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 19
Director: **Dan Johan Filip Svensson**
Producer: Renée Hansen Modyszewski
Scriptwriter: Mads Stegger
Cinematographer: Jonathan Bjerstedt
Editor: Geir Fjermestad Rolandsen
Sound Designer: Thomas Pape

After surviving a car accident, thirteen-year-old Edvin isolates himself from friends and family. When his father forces him to go to rehabilitation, he can no longer avoid dealing with his trauma.

Pitch session 3

6 September 13:30-14:45

See their graduation films in
FILM SCREENING III: 6 September 11:05-12:20

Pitch

Almost Ready (FIC)

Pitched by: **Meri Teperi** (writer)
School: Tampere University of Applied Science (FI)

Finnish Vilja (18) wants to see the world and gets an au pair job in France. It reminds more of construction site supervision than baby-sitting, so while the house is getting built up she tries not to fall down.



Meri's graduation film

Commercial Break (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 5
Director: Samuli Ala-Lahti
Producer: **Meri Teperi**, Uppa Hynnen
Scriptwriter: Samuli Ala-Lahti
Cinematographer: Jyrimatti Holm, Kirsikka Lyhteilä, Olli Pöykiö, Juhana Sarkki, Anna-Sofia Uotila
Editor: Raine Laaksonen
Sound Designer: Samuli Ala-Lahti

May contain product placement.

Pitch

Silence (FIC)

Pitched by: **Brwa Vahabpour** (director)
School: The Norwegian Film School (NO)

In a small village in Kurdistan, lives Maria (8) on a farm with her parents, five siblings and many animals. Maria has a striking singing voice and often performs in front of big crowds. One day she catches a seemingly harmless fever. For three weeks Maria suffers from pain and the fever eventually infects her ear and takes away her ability to hear and speak.



Brwa's graduation film

The Shepherd (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 17
Director: **Brwa Vahabpour**
Producer: Aurora Huseeth Bjørnhaug
Scriptwriter: Simen August Borgnes
Cinematographer: Annicken Aasheim
Editor: Bjørn Straumsnes
Sound Designer: Peder Hammersborg

While driving to a wedding, a Kurdish family hits a wild animal. The father, Aram, is forced to decide whether he should kill the animal or attempt to rescue it. Later it becomes clear how Aram struggles to find a place both in his new country as well as within his own family.

Pitch

Hygge (ANI/CROSS-MEDIA)

Pitched by: **Philip Piaget** (director) and **Rikke Planeta** (director)
School: The Animation Workshop (DK)

A harsh winter has taken over the merry lives of the forest-dwellers. Concerned and restless, Bjørn sets forth to help her friends shed the winter-blues and bring back light and warmth into their lives, thus discovering hygge.



Philip's graduation film

Reverie (ANI)

Length (in minutes): 8
Director: **Philip Piaget**
Producer: Michelle Nardone, Anja Perl
Scriptwriter: **Philip Piaget**
Cinematographer: **Philip Piaget**
Editor: **Philip Piaget**
Sound Designer: Matias Porsborg, Per Justesen

Deep in the harsh and dreary countryside, a boy's world crumbles around him. Grief, sorrow and rage torment the boy's heart without mercy. The boy journeys to the limits of his world in a desperate attempt to stop the inescapable beast that stands between him and his flesh and blood.



Rikke's graduation film

Bacchus (ANI)

Length (in minutes): 5
Director: **Rikke Planeta**
Producer: Michelle Nardone, Anja Perl
Scriptwriter: **Rikke Planeta**
Cinematographer: -
Editor: **Rikke Planeta**
Sound Designer: Christopher McLaughlin, Emilie Søgaard
Composer: Mathias Valiant

Alex, a young woman is increasingly getting tired of adult life. Her daily routine is restricted by norms and expectations of the modern world, and human interaction has been replaced by social media. One day, she sees Bacchus, a charismatic sensual figure, who lures her into a colourful world, which is a complete opposite of her reality. In this mysterious place, you are free to follow your instincts and explore your deepest desires.

*Pitch***The Foster Family (DOC/HYBRID)**

Pitched by: **Julia Dinome** (Director)
School: Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts (SE)

I was born as a biological child into the smooth machinery that is the business of the foster family. So smooth that I understood nothing of what was really going on until twenty years later. Now I'm going all over the world to talk to my sisters and brothers. What are their tales of loss, sorry, happiness, betrayal, threats etc that was going on in our family? A hybrid film that captures dreams inside of nightmares.

*Julia's graduation film***Carina (DOC/HYBRID)**

Length (in minutes): 21
Director: **Julia Dinome**
Producer: **Julia Dinome**
Scriptwriter: **Julia Dinome**
Cinematographer: **Julia Dinome**
Editor: -
Sound Designer: -

One night where three siblings face each other and their deepest shame - all they have in coming is their quest for forgiveness. In 1984 Carina died of an overdose after being released from prison in Copenhagen. The film *Carina* is inspired of the events that took place that night.

*Pitch***Seven Balconies (FIC)**

Pitched by: **Erlendur Sveinsson** (director)
School: Columbia University (IS/US)

Tragedy strikes the inhabitants of an apartment building in the suburbs of Reykjavik, touching off an interlocking story involving people of a certain social class, colliding and interweaving stories of secrets, lies, loss and redemption.

*Erlendur's graduation film***Kanari (FIC)**

Length (in minutes): 14
Director: **Erlendur Sveinsson**
Producer: Helga Jóakimsdóttir, Daniel Raiffe
Scriptwriter: **Erlendur Sveinsson**, Connor Simpson
Cinematographer: Karl Óskarsson
Editor: Brúsi Ólason
Sound Designer: Caleb Townsend

Vala and Benni are leaving Reykjavik for a simpler life in the countryside and are struggling to find a common ground about what their future holds. Their journey comes to a violent stop when they get into a head on collision with another car. Vala must find a way out of the wreckage and come to grips with what has happened.

Producer's Pitch

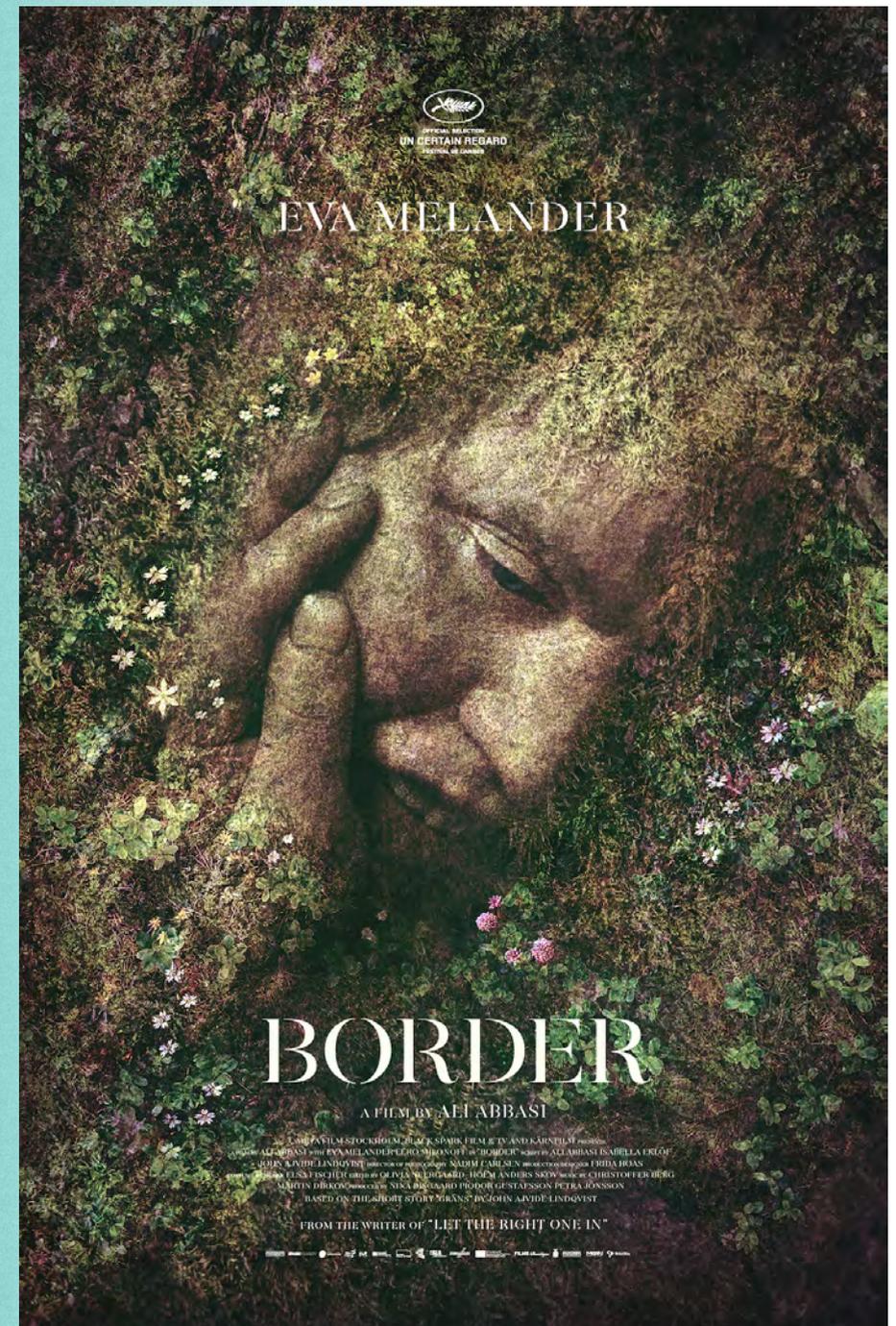
An important aim of Nordic Talents is to introduce Nordic students within film- and TV, the future talents, to established Nordic producers and financiers. At the Producer's Pitch, we turn the tables!

20 of the attending professionals will introduce themselves and with her 25 years of experience from the Nordic film

and TV industry; who better to monitor this session than Commissioning Editor & VP, Original Programming, of HBO Nordic, Hanne Palmquist.

The Producer's Pitch will take place in the TV Studio on Wednesday evening, just after dinner. The bar will be open, so have fun, mingle and create new networks – Nordic Talents is the place to meet!

Master Class



Master Class Bios

We have invited the feature film *Border/Gräns*, winner of the Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard competition this year, to be the focus of our Master Class at Nordic Talents.

The film's screenwriter, Isabella Eklöf, visual effects supervisor, Peter Hjorth and producer Piodor Gustafsson (Spark Film & TV) will join us in a talk about the gifts and challenges of the writing and development process, the magic of casting, what the extensive physical transformations of the two main characters and the additional VFX meant for the production, and much more, including how the financing was structured in the end with a budget of SEK 28,5 million.

Border is Ali Abbasi's 2nd feature film (following *Shelley*, 2016) and is based on a short story by *Let the Right One In* author, John Ajvide Lindqvist. The script was written by Abbasi in collaboration with Lindqvist and Isabella Eklöf (dir. *Holiday*). Being based on a 50-page story, the adaptation process had to create the visual, wider universe and additional mythology for the troll world.

Border is about customs officer Tina, who is known for her extraordinary

sense of smell, she can almost sniff out the guilt on anyone hiding anything. But when Vore, a suspicious-looking man, passes through, her abilities are challenged for the first time. Tina even feels a strange attraction to him. As they start to develop a bond, Tina discovers his true identity, and thereby, the truth about herself: she does not belong to this world. Now she has a choice to make - to keep up the lie of her life so far, or to embrace Vore's terrifying revelations.

As one of the buzziest titles at Cannes this year, several great reviews stated that the film is "*Destined to be a cult classic...*" (*Variety*). The film is set to premiere in Sweden on Aug. 31st, in Denmark on Sept. 27th, in Finland Sept. 28th and Norway and Iceland Oct. 19th. *Border* took part in Nordisk Film & TV Fond's development initiative, Nordic Genre Boost (NGB), in 2015 and it is therefore a particular pleasure for us to get the opportunity to go behind the scenes with the team at this year's Nordic Talents.

The event takes place Thursday afternoon and will begin with the screening of *Border* (104 min.), directly followed by the Master Class and a Q&A session, which will be moderated by former NGB project manager, Valeria Richter.



Isabella Eklöf

Isabella Eklöf is a Swedish screenwriter and director known for her incredible candor and grit. Born in Stockholm, Eklöf turned to Copenhagen to attend the Danish Film School. Upon graduating, she received the prestigious Bisballe Award for her film, "Notes From Underground". Eklöf has directed 11 short films. She wrote the screenplay for acclaimed "Border" that won Un Certain Regard at Cannes Film Festival, before heading on to write and direct her own feature debut, "Holiday". "Holiday" premiered at Sundance Film Festival and is travelling the festival circuit, so far it has won the Grand Prix at New Horizons Film Festival. Eklöf has many stories to tell and will do so with her signature move; to unapologetically expose both the beauty and depravity of human nature with a crisp and intellectual, yet tender, lens.



Peter Hjorth

Peter Hjorth is a production visual effects supervisor and 2nd unit director. He is known for his collaboration with

Lars von Trier on "Dancer in the Dark", "Dogville", "Antichrist", "Melancholia" and recently, "The House that Jack Built". He has also collaborated with other directors and supervised visual effects on films such as "Men and Chicken", "The Neon Demon", "Cairo Confidential" and "The Untamed". Peter preferably works on projects all the way from development until the premiere, and is an independent film worker. During recent years, he has also worked on mixed and virtual reality projects. He started in the film industry as film lighting assistant and has worked with on-line post production, cinematography, film editing, teaching and fine arts.



Piodor Gustafsson

Piodor Gustafsson has more than 25 years of experience within film, TV and advertising. He founded and is running the production company Spark Film & TV. Piodor worked for SVT between 2009 and 2012, holding various functions, such as member of the board of Programming and as Head of Programming. He was Commissioning Feature Film Consultant at SFI for 4 years and appointed to the board of management of Eurimages. Piodor has a long experience as producer and creative producer and was recently guest trainer at Nordic Genre Boost, as well as an EAVE expert.

Editor Ann-Sophie W. Birkenes
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Nordisk Film & TV Fond, Arbins gate 4, 0253 Oslo, Norway.
Tlf: + 47 6400 6080. Mail: info@nordiskfilmogtvfond.com
www.nordiskfilmogtvfond.com
 @nordiskfilmogtvfond

WEDNESDAY 5/9

- 09.30 - 10.00 Registration and Coffee
- 10.00 - 10.15 Welcome by Petri Kempainen (CEO, Nordisk Film & TV Fond)
- 10.15 - 12.20 Film Screening I: She-Pack (18'), Family Time (22'), Domesticated (22'), Viva Løten! (26'), Lost in Kyiv (29')
- 12.20 - 13.20 Lunch
- 13.20 - 14.45 Pitch Session I: Laura, Family, The Diagnosis, Stories From the Shower, Princess and Partisan
- 14.45 - 15.00 Presentation of the Nordic Council Film Prize Nominees
- 15.00 - 15.30 Coffee and cake
- 15.30 - 17.10 Film Screening II: Star City (14'), The Culture (25'), Banana Pancake Trail (28'), The Messenger (8'), Things We Don't Talk About (19')
- 17.15 - 18.00 Apéritif (outside the TV-studio)
- 18.00 - 22.00 Dinner, Producers Pitch and Mingling (in the TV-studio)

THURSDAY 6/9

- 09.00 - 09.30 Coffee
- 09.30 - 10.55 Pitch Session II: Barbara and The Jumping Genes, Simple Things, Sick, Apple Hills, The Locker Room
- 10.55 - 11.05 Break
- 11.05 - 12.20 Film Screening III: Commercial Break (5'), The Shepherd (17'), Reverie (8'), Bacchus (5'), Carina (21'), Kanari (14')
- 12.20 - 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 - 14.45 Pitch Session III: Almost Ready, Silence, Hygge, The Foster Family, Seven Balconies
- 14.45 - 15.00 Coffee and cake
- 15.00 - 17.30 Master Class: *Border* (104'), talk, Q&A
- 17.45 - 18.30 Award Ceremony - And the winner is...

