

NORDIC TALENTS 2019

04.09.19 - 05.09.19

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THE FUTURE IS NOW

One of the most exciting times of the year is June, when we at Nordisk Film & TV Fond receive the submissions of the graduation students for Nordic Talents. The interest is always huge, and even this year we received more than 40 applications. Local issues in the film schools may reflect the number of submissions from each country but these trends come and go, and every year we are surprised by the diversity of projects.

During my six years at the helm of Nordisk Film & TV Fond the projects have become more personal. We also see more hybrids between documentary and fiction, and many more drama series suited for platforms and streaming. Moreover, the Nordic region has become more transnational, where young people from different cultural backgrounds choose to cross borders to study their passion profession.

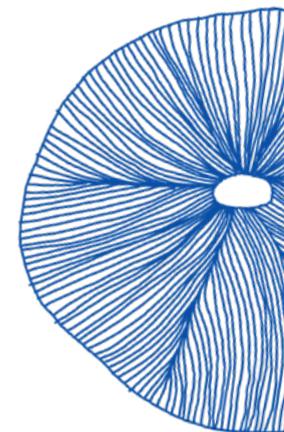
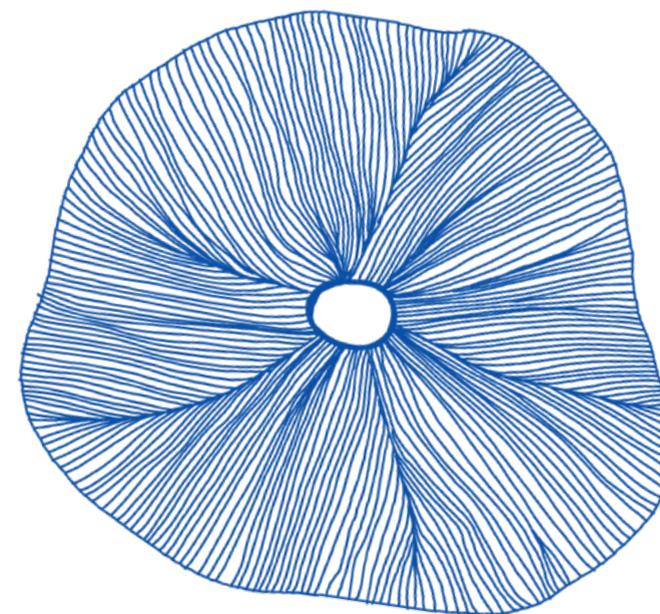
One significant aspect has changed over these six years. Majority of submissions comes from female filmmakers or teams combining both female and male, and this has been reflected also in the selection of the final 15 chosen to pitch. Hearing this genera-

tion speak their mind and present their project has made me very confident in my view that a change in expression, perhaps even a dogmatic change, is really taking place, in a most natural way.

We have experienced many previous Nordic Talents winners from the past 18 years became names in the international and Nordic arena – including many nominated for the prestigious Nordic Council Film Prize – but I should remind that some who did not perform so well in NT have also become celebrated filmmakers!

My message to the selected 15 is that pitching is always a nerve-wracking challenge, but your life won't be over after it! Enjoy it, support and cherish your peers, as making great films and TV is teamwork and a craft that takes time and patience to master.

I want to thank this year's jury, they are not going to have it easy either. For some years we have had the habit of inviting a combination of previous NT alumni together with other more established industry representatives, and this is reflected in our jury even this year.



My special heartfelt thanks go to Benedikt Erlingsson, who has kindly accepted to hold the Master class this year. The talk moderated by the sparkling Silje Riise Næss will be on the use of music this year. Benedikt Erlingsson once said to me that one should not make a film unless there is a message to deliver. Easier said than done, but clearly, this is what he has achieved to master in *Woman at War*. Hats off!

My staff and colleagues at Nordisk Film & TV Fond deserve a big hug

and public thank you for their professionalism and fellowship. The collaboration with the National Film School of Denmark has always been excellent. Together we have been very fortunate in creating an event where students and the professional Nordic industry want to come together. I welcome you and thank everyone for attending – many of you return and that is very valued! I wish you all an amazing 19th edition of Nordic Talents.

Petri Kemppinen
CEO, Nordisk Film & TV Fond



THE MODERATORS

©Nordisk Film & TV Fond, Birgit Solhaug



KAROLINA LIDIN

As always, we are 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.

©Det Danske Filminstitut



NOEMI FERRER SCHWENK

The Producer's Pitch Wednesday evening will this year be moderated by Noemi Ferrer, Head of International at the Danish Film Institute (DFI). Noemi has experience in film production and distribution having worked for renowned companies such as Prokino Filmverleih in Germany and Zentropa in Denmark. Additionally, she has a background in both public national and international film funding from the Irish Film Board (Dublin) and Eurimages (Strasbourg). DFI International encompasses the international festival department, minor coproductions and Creative Europe.

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SILJE RIISE NÆSS

For the Master Class Thursday afternoon Silje Riise Næss will engage in a conversation with award winning writer/director/actor Benedikt Erlingsson (*Woman at War, Of Horses and Men*). Silje is a film commissioner at The Danish Film Institute, where she also serves as DFI's steering committee member for the Public Service Pool, supporting drama, documentaries and children and youth content. In 2014, she left the Artistic Director position at Oslo's House of Literature to become Film & Drama Series commissioner at the Norwegian Film Institute. Her experience ranges from art film distribution via head of communication to film festival president. Næss is a previous member of the Nordic Council Film Prize Jury, and is currently president of the Bergman Estate on Fårö Foundation.

THE AWARDS

Prior to the event Nordisk Film & TV Fond invites Nordic graduation students within film- and TV, at BA or MA-level, to apply for the pitching competition.

Among the applicants we pre-select those who pitch during the event and compete for the awards. The selected projects was announced online and in our newsletter in June and are presented in this catalogue together with information about the graduation films made by those who pitch.

THE NORDIC TALENTS PITCH PRIZE

The Nordic Talents Pitch Prize is handed out to the best project pitched during the pitching sessions at Nordic Talents. It is The Nordic Talent's Jury who each year motivates and hands out The Nordic Talents Pitch Prize. The jury makes its decision based on the project information sent to them prior to the event, the student's graduation film(s) that they see during the event and the on-stage pitch.

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 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 prior to the event, the student's graduation film(s) that they see during the event and the on-stage pitch.

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

©Søren Rønholt



MAY EL-TOUKHY

Director May el-Toukhy is born and brought up in a suburb of Copenhagen, by her Danish mother and Egyptian father. She graduated from The Danish National School of Performing Arts in 2002, before she moved on to film and graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2009 - the same year she won the Nordic Talents Pitch Prize. Her 1st feature film *Long Story Short* won several awards. She has also been working in theatre, directed radio-plays and episodes of the award-winning DR TV series *The Legacy* and *Ride Upon the Storm*. *Queen of Hearts*, her 2nd feature, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this year. It has been honoured with numerous recognitions and is currently touring festivals and premiering around the world.

©ST Kankaanpää



ULLA SIMONEN

Ulla Simonen has worked in several fields of filmmaking after graduating as an editor in 1994. Ulla worked as a producer for short and feature films, docs and fiction and tutored renowned workshops such as Dok.Incubator, Sources2, Docs by the Sea and Berlinale Talents. She started in her current position as the director of AVEK in March 2019. She has previously worked for AVEK as a commissioner for short films and documentaries from 2004 to 2008. When not working with film, Ulla is a beekeeper, gardener and an avid football fan.

©Netop Films



GRÍMAR JÓNSSON

Grímar Jónsson is the founder and owner of Netop Films. Grímar has produced acclaimed Icelandic features such as *Brim* (2010), *Rams* (2015), *Under the Tree* (2017) and *The County* (2019). Grímar started working for Zik Zak Filmworks in 2006, then moved to Oslo working as Project Manager for fiction at Nordisk Film & TV Fond in 2010. In 2013 Grímar left his job at the Fund to pursue his career as an independent producer to make great content for the discerning viewer.

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STÅLE STEIN BERG

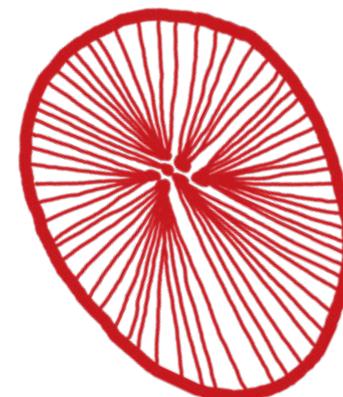
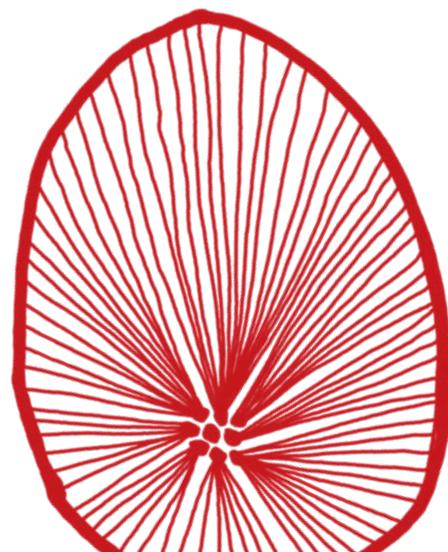
Ståle Stein Berg graduated in screenwriting from The Norwegian Film School in 2000. Since then he has written numerous feature films and drama series, including titles like *Kissed by Winter* (dir. Sara Johnsen), *Zwei Leben* (dir. Georg Maas) and *Occupied* (created by Nesbø/Lund/Skjolberg). In 2009 he defended his practice based doctoral dissertation in screenwriting. Nowadays he is in his third year as feature film and drama series commissioner at The Norwegian Film Institute.

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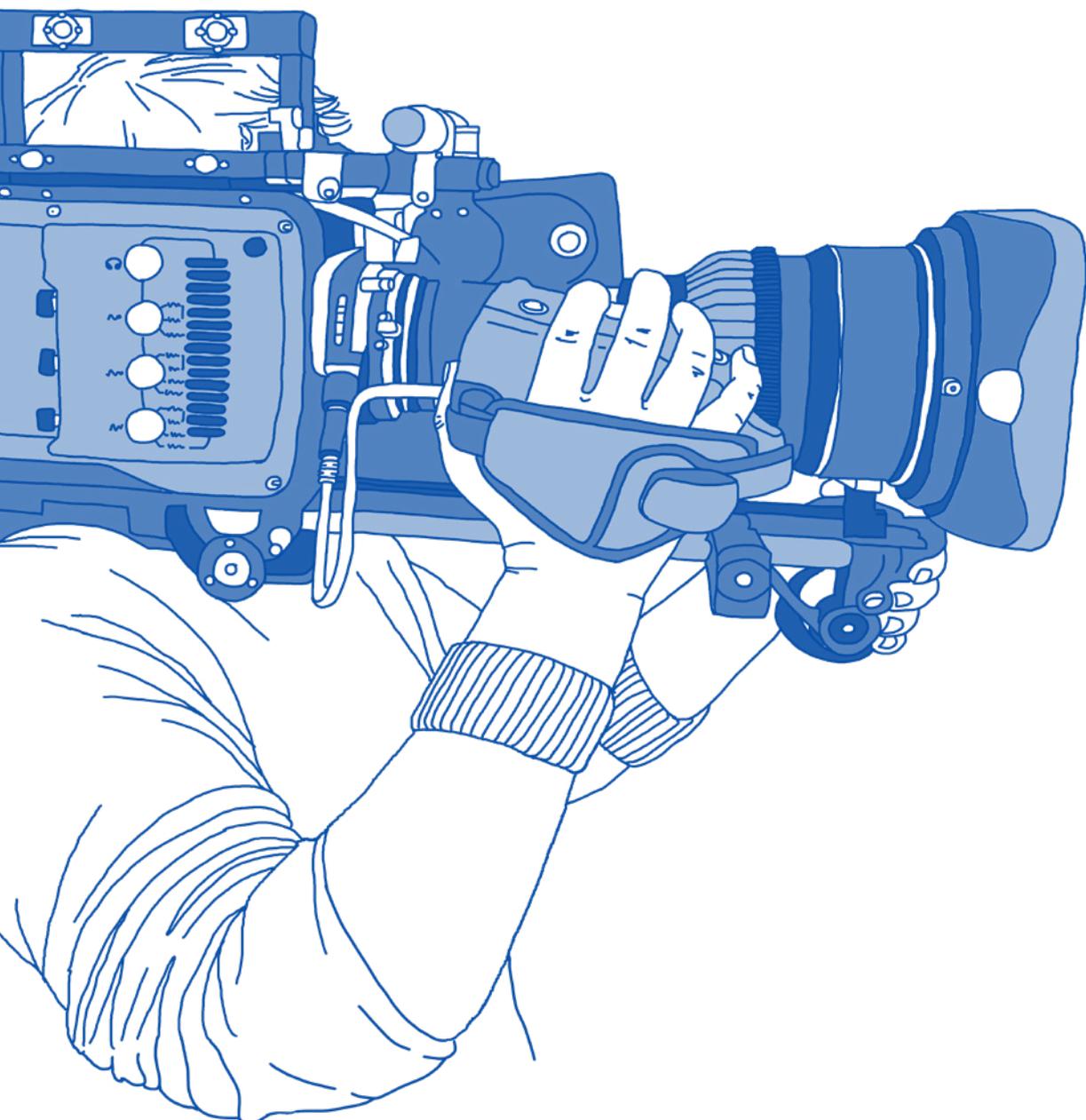


CHRISTIAN WIKANDER

Christian is currently Head of Drama – Europe at Twelve Town, where he drives co-production strategy outside of the UK, working with production companies, broadcasters and OTT providers to develop, produce and finance high-end drama series. Christian was formerly Head of Drama with SVT where he and the team commissioned international sensations including *The Bridge* and *Real Humans*. Prior to this, Christian created one of the first independent production companies in Sweden, and also served as Creator, Producer, Writer, and Director on a number of series that are still the most watched in Scandinavian television history: *Hotel Caesar*, *Seven Sisters*, and *Three Crowns*.



PRODUCER'S PITCH



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

A dozen of the attending professionals will introduce their companies and themselves during the popular Producer's Pitch.

The Producer's Pitch takes place in the TV Studio during dinner on Wednesday evening. We are happy to have Noemi Ferrer, Head of International at the Danish Film Institute, host this part of the program.

The bar will be open; have fun, mingle and create new networks – Nordic Talents is the place to meet!

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
www.filmskolen.dk

The Animation Workshop
www.animationworkshop.via.dk/en

FI

ELO Film School Helsinki
www.aalto.fi/en/department-of-film-television-and-scenography

NO

Westerdals
www.kristiania.no/westerdals

SE

Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts
www.uniarts.se/om-skh/stockholms-dramatiska-hogskola

Akademin Valand
www.akademinvaland.gu.se

PITCH SESSION 1

4 September 12:45-14:00

See their graduation films in

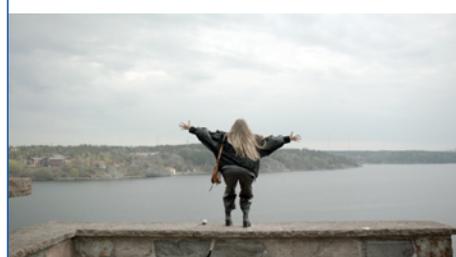
FILM SCREENING I: 4 September 09:45-11:35

PITCH

HYSTERIKA (FIC)

Pitched by: [Amanda Adele Björk](#) (writer/director) & [Kajsa Haidl](#) (producer)
School: Academy of Dramatic Arts (SE)

Ingrid vanishes from life into mental illness, she is institutionalised and put in a mental ward where she eventually finds her true self.



AMANDA & KAJSA'S GRADUATION FILM: TO DISCHARGE (FIC)
TO DISCHARGE (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 30
Director: [Amanda Adele Björk](#)
Producer: [Isabelle Björklund](#), [Kajsa Haidl](#)
Scriptwriter: [Amanda Adele Björk](#)
Cinematographer: [Josephine Owe](#)
Editor: [Georg Bundgard](#), [Amanda Adele Björk](#)
Sound Designer: [Ljudbang](#)

A couple, Ingrid & August, travels to an alternative psychology camp to fix their relationship problems, they can't communicate any longer and want to fix that with a psychologist who is a fake and through primal play. They meet a group of middle-class people who is on the last step on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, they are all into themselves and their small problems. It all comes down to: who is sane and who is sick?

PITCH

THE BEETLE HUNTERS (DOC)

Pitched by: [Assa Rytter](#) (director)
School: The National Film School of Denmark (DK)

We, people, often only care about what is of our size or bigger. But we don't realize that our human existence relies on the smallest of creatures, the glue that holds it all together: The insects.



ASSA'S GRADUATION FILM
MANIFEST (DOC)

Length (in minutes): 25
Director: [Assa Rytter](#)
Producer: [Josefine Pil](#)
Cinematographer: [Stephanie Stål Axelgård](#)
Editor: [Ane Mikkelsen](#)
Sound Designer: [Asger Midjord Rasmussen](#)

MANIFEST is a film about wanting to be free and rebellion against personal and collective legacy. Freedom to have the power over your own body, freedom to express yourself and be true to who you are. The film depicts a daughter, who investigates where her anger comes from. She does this while her mother paints her portrait, and while conversations and diary recordings, about shame and sexuality, combines a picture of the legacy, we all endure.

PITCH

SOUL FOR A HOT DOG (ANI)

Pitched by: Myra Hild (director)
School: The Animation Workshop (DK)

Lonely people and creatures walk the midnight streets, making strange deals with a mysterious hot dog vendor. That is, until a young and hungover man stumbles upon the kiosk, and the real stakes of the bargains are uncovered: Their souls.



MYRA'S GRADUATION FILM

OF ASKA (ANI)

Length (in minutes): 8
Director: Myra Hild
Producer: Michelle Nardone, Anja Per
Scriptwriter: Myra Hild, Emei Olivia Burell
Cinematographer: Myra Hild
Editor: Myra Hild, Maria Blowers, Sif Pert Savery
Sound Designer: Ronny S. Mikkelsen, Laura E. Hasseldahl

Two women, Aska and Embla, are living in the forest together, content and happy with their life. Or so it seems. Slowly, Aska starts to change, to transform. Growing stronger and more agile, their daily rhythm is threatened. When their inability to work together puts their lives on the line, Embla has to decide: Can she live with a person she can barely recognize, or will she try to undo the change?

PITCH

THE TRIAL OF A CHAMELEON (HYBRID)

Pitched by: Shahab Mehrabi (director)
School: Akademin Valand (SE)

A chameleon was exceptional at adjusting to its surroundings. One day, it got putten in a dark room with no external eyes to care about. Immediately, it got identity crisis. A story about eleven years of integration.

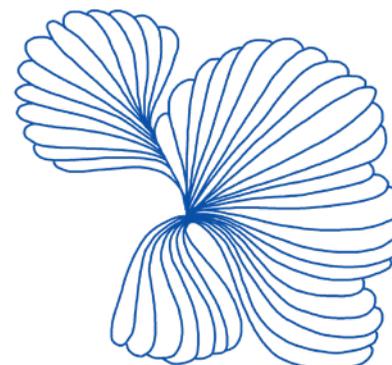
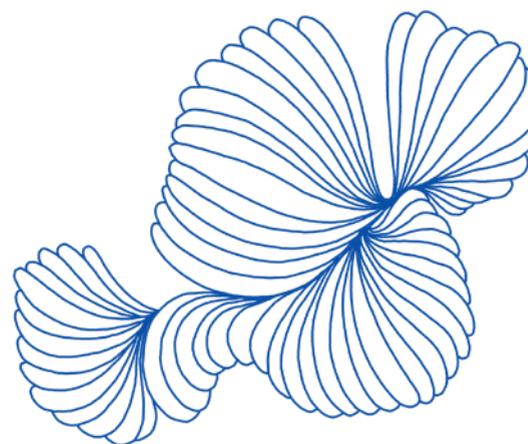
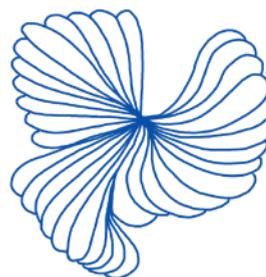
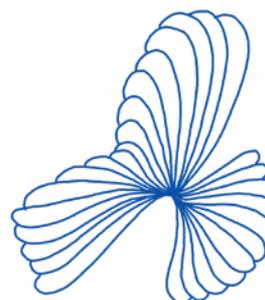


SHAHAB'S GRADUATION FILM

THE TRIP TO ISTANBUL (DOC)

Length (in minutes): 14
Director: Shahab Mehrabi
Producer: Shahab Mehrabi
Cinematographer: Tahlia Govender, Shahab Mehrabi
Editor: Shahab Mehrabi

For the first time in eleven years, our family was going to celebrate the Kurdish new year with my mother's family. Before that we celebrated it together every year. My mom hasn't seen her mom in eleven years in order to give me better opportunities in life. The film is about me arranging the whole trip with our family in Sweden, my uncle's families in Norway and my aunt's family in England. The movie starts with me starting to arrange the trip and ends with us, sitting together in Istanbul and all the meetings in between, that has been forced to wait for too long.



PITCH

SOFA SURFER (TV)

Pitched by: Denise Kræmer (scriptwriter)
School: The National Film School of Denmark (DK)

Armed with a maxed-out credit card, a skateboard, and a bag of clothes, 17-year old Max arrives in Copenhagen. He seeks to pursue a career in professional skating by winning an important competition in three weeks' time. But to do so he must cut the ties to his mentally unstable mom.



DENISE'S GRADUATION FILM

BELOW THE WAVES, ABOVE THE CLOUDS (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 30
Director: Katrine Brocks
Producer: Pernille Thornøe
Scriptwriter: Denise Kræmer
Cinematographer: Mia Mai Dengsø Graabæk
Editor: Nikoline Løgstrup
Sound Designer: Anders Ankerstjerne

The two best friends, Helene and Theo, travel to Crete to reunite Helene with a past holiday romance. Life is great and the sky is the limit. But when their plans capsize the girls are faced with unknown inner demons they have to battle together.

PITCH SESSION 2

5 September 09:30-10:55

See their graduation films in
FILM SCREENING II: 4 September *14:15-15:40, **16:00-17:15

PITCH

PROJECT RIP (ANI)

Pitched by: Katarina Lundquist (Director)
 & Tobias Dahl Orderud (Art Director)
 School: The Animation Workshop (DK)

Two young women find themselves trapped in limbo after dying in separate accidents. As they get to know each other, the truths about their previous lives begin to unravel in the pursuit of moving on to the afterlife.



KATARINA'S GRADUATION FILM

FORGET-ME-NOT (ANI)*

Length (in minutes): 7
 Director: Katarina Lundquist
 Producer: Anja Perl & Michelle Nardone
 Cinematographer: Katarina Lundquist
 Editor: Katarina Lundquist
 Sound Designer: Mette Skjøttgaard, Jeppe Lindskov

Deep in the Norwegian forest, an old man is living a quiet life together with his lifelong friend, a troll - when suddenly - one morning, the troll is gone. The old man leaves his home in search of the troll, only to find himself getting lost in his own mind, entangled in his fears. In his darkest moment, he realises that in order to find peace, he needs to accept the fate of his friend.

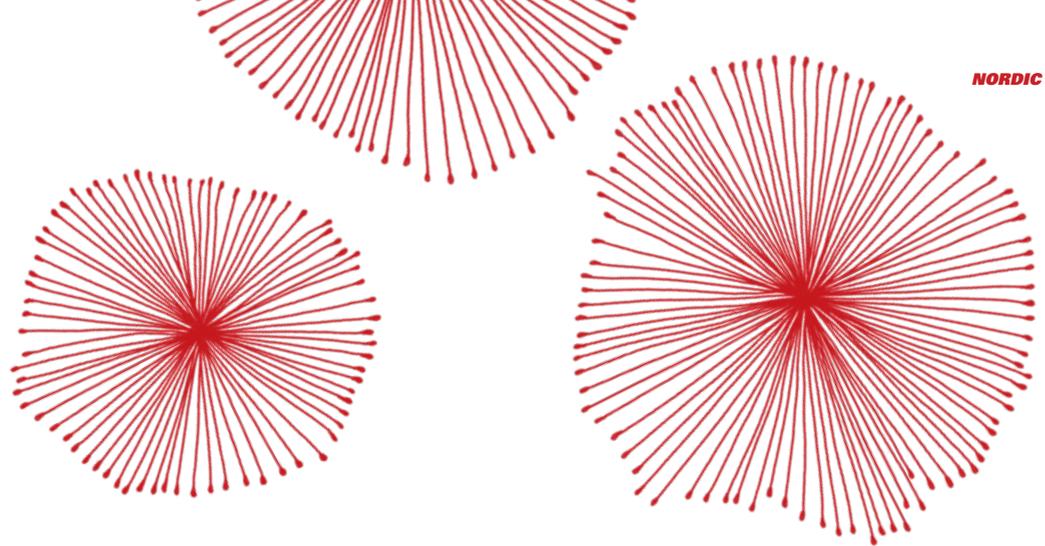
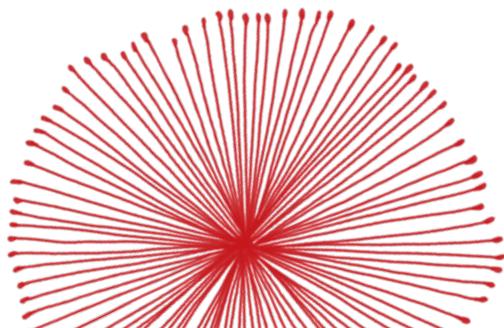


TOBIAS' GRADUATION FILM

REVERIE (ANI)*

Length (in minutes): 8
 Director: Philip Piaget
 Technical Art Director: Tobias Dahl Orderud
 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.



PITCH

LETTER OF COMMITMENT (WORKING TITLE) (FIC)

Pitched by: Mads Mengel (director) & Christian Bengtson (scriptwriter)
 School: The National Film School of Denmark (DK)

The Copenhagen-based couple SIMON (30) and CLARA (30) have invited friends over to celebrate Clara turning thirty today. They are a seemingly stable and average middleclass couple, but that is about to change when Clara receives a letter from the county's office.



MADS'S GRADUATION FILM

FOR JULIANE (FIC)*

Length (in minutes): 38
 Director: Mads Mengel
 Producer: Victor Cunha
 Scriptwriter: Sara Isabella Jønsson
 Cinematographer: David Bauer
 Editor: Louis Emil Ramm Seeberg
 Sound Designer: Andreas Sandborg

Acclaimed theatre director Erik Werner is setting up a stage play dramatizing memories from his marriage to his wife Juliane who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. During the process Erik discovers that he and Juliane have had vastly different experiences of their shared life together. Experiences that will make Erik see his marriage in a new light.



CHRISTIAN'S GRADUATION FILM

A TREATISE OF THE HUMAN ANIMAL NO. 38: HEARTACHE (FIC)*

Length (in minutes): 30
 Director: Jacob Møller
 Producer: Charlotte Hjordt
 Scriptwriter: Jacob Møller, Christian Bengtson
 Cinematographer: Stroud Rohde Pearce
 Editor: Allan Funch
 Sound Designer: Mia Joanna Koskela Michaelson

A comical and life-affirming depiction of the human being and its eternal tendency to have its heart broken. In eight standalone chapters, we meet the patients, at the Sanatorium for Heartache, in their assiduous attempt to cure themselves of this terrible disease. Meanwhile, on Antarctica, we join the penguin Edgar on an epic journey, as he traverses snowy plains and stormy mountains, in an attempt to once again be reunited with the love of his life.

PITCH

AYDA QUEEN OF HÖGLUNDA RESORT (FIC)

Pitched by: Lisa Meyer (writer/director)
School: Akademin Valand (SE)

Ayda's six year old life takes a turn when she moves in to a hostel. On a place where life's put on pause, she's challenged by two years older Bryan to test the limits of the grown up world.



LISA'S GRADUATION FILM

MELANIE (FIC)**

Length (in minutes): 14
Director: Lisa Meyer
Producer: Lisa Meyer
Scriptwriter: Lisa Meyer
Cinematographer: Jan Soja, Malin Nicander, Eyal Schachar, Lisa Meyer and more
Editor: Lisa Meyer, Eyal Schachar
Sound Designer: Thomas Andersson, Simon Johansson

Melanie is 16 years old and lives on the country side. With her moped as her companion, she moves between her home in the forest and the social activities offered in the small village. Trying hard to gain respect from the grown-up world around her but hasn't yet decided if that's where she wants to be from now on.

PITCH

FREJA (TV)

Pitched by: Nilas Lindgren (scriptwriter)
School: Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts (SE)

14-year-old Freja writes an essay in school about her situation in Gothenburg and why she is a proponent of segregation. The school and her mother demands she distance herself from the essay. But why did Freja write this essay? Freja has good reasons.



NILAS' GRADUATION FILM

POLARIS (FIC)**

Length (in minutes): 29
Director: Kajsa Haidl, Lucas Fratini
Producer: Nilas Lindgren
Scriptwriter: Vana Medeiros
Cinematographer: Manolo Diaz Rämö
Editor: Kajsa Haidl, Lucas Fratini
Sound Designer: Evelyn Santos, Alandson Silva

In São Paulo, Erica is told that her older sister, Laura, who lives in Stockholm, may be suffering from severe heart disease. While Laura tries to digest the information away from her family and her country, Erica decides that she wants to get back in touch with her sister, whom she has not talked to for years.

BETTER I GO SUFFER (DOC)

Pitched by: Patricia Bbaale Bandak (director)
School: The National Film School of Denmark (DK)

My mother's brutal murder has affected my entire life. By talking to murderers and witnesses, I will get to know my mother through her death. Ultimately it will set myself and my daughter free; past, present, future combined.

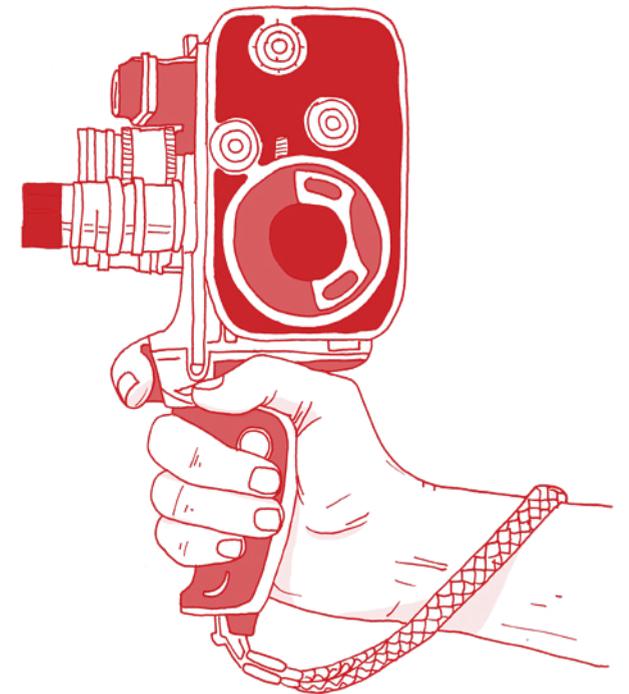


PATRICIA'S GRADUATION FILM

VILLA VILLEKULLA (DOC)**

Length (in minutes): 30
Director: Patricia Bbaale Bandak
Producer: Victor Cunha
Cinematographer: Loui Ladegaard
Sound Designer: Loui Ladegaard

In Villa Villekulla we meet 8 siblings from Uganda on the island of Falster. We experience an intertwined culture, where Danish traditions for games and meals exchanges with Ugandan traditions for prayer and song. Through small cracks in the conversations we slowly experience the trauma, pain and lack of adults while they were growing up.



PITCH SESSION 3

5 September 13:45-15:00

See their graduation films in
FILM SCREENING III: 5 September 11:05-12:45

PITCH

QUEEN INGRID (TV)

Pitched by: Katrín Björgvinsdóttir (director) & Mie Skjoldemose (scriptwriter)
School: The National Film School of Denmark (DK)

Ingrid is a single, 33-year-old alpha-female who has never been in a relationship. When her best friend moves out to start a family, Ingrid feels all alone and decides she wants to find love before it's too late.



KATRÍN & MIE'S GRADUATION FILM

QUEEN INGRID (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 26
Director: Katrín Björgvinsdóttir
Producer: Josefine Pil
Scriptwriter: Mie Skjoldemose
Cinematographer: Stephanie Stål Axelgård
Editor: Cathrine Odgaard
Sound Designer: Mia Terry

When Ingrid turns 34, she has to admit to herself that her life has not turned out as she had hoped; she has been single since she was 17, she has a dead-end-job in a lingerie shop and now her parents are getting a divorce. For the first time in her life she understands that she is actually just like everyone else and her greatest desire is banal and unoriginal: she wants a boyfriend.

PITCH

DOWNS OF THE DEAD (FIC)

Pitched by: Even Husby Grødahl (director) & Jesper Breen Frilseth (scriptwriter)
School: Westerdals (NO)

You wouldn't want to be stuck at work when the Zombie Apocalypse breaks out. Especially if you work at a housing for the mentally retarded.



EVEN & JESPER'S GRADUATION FILM

DOWNS OF THE DEAD (FIC)

Length (in minutes): 23
Director: Even Husby Grødahl
Producer: August Jorfald
Scriptwriter: Jesper Breen Frilseth, Even Husby Grødahl
Cinematographer: Petter Brenni Gulbrandsen
Editor: Angelica Hovland
Sound Designer: Michael Jæger, Nora Mamdu

In a forgotten institute for mentally challenged people, Morten, a part-time care assistant, has to work the night shift, when a zombie-apocalypse breaks out. With the help of a band of brave residents, he has to fight his way out of the institution and choose between self-rescue and odd friendships.

PITCH

FAST & FRIGHTENING (WORKING TITLE) (DOC)

Pitched by: Marja Pihlaja (producer)
School: ELO Helsinki Film School (FI)

Fast and Frightening is a documentary film of menopause, bad-ass people and motorcycles. The mid-life crises of women is usually described through menopause problems, wrinkles, hot waves and dry genitals. But it can be also something amazing!

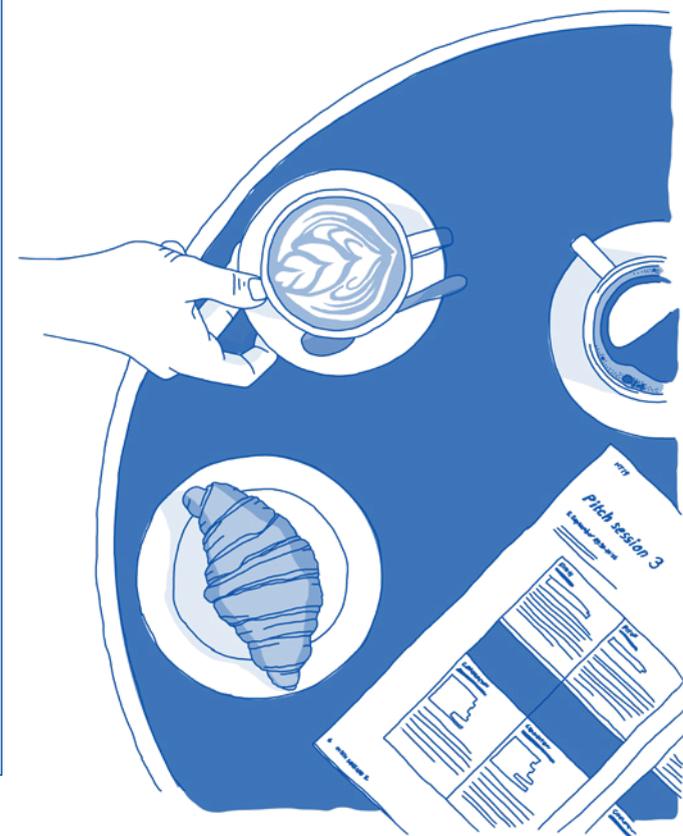


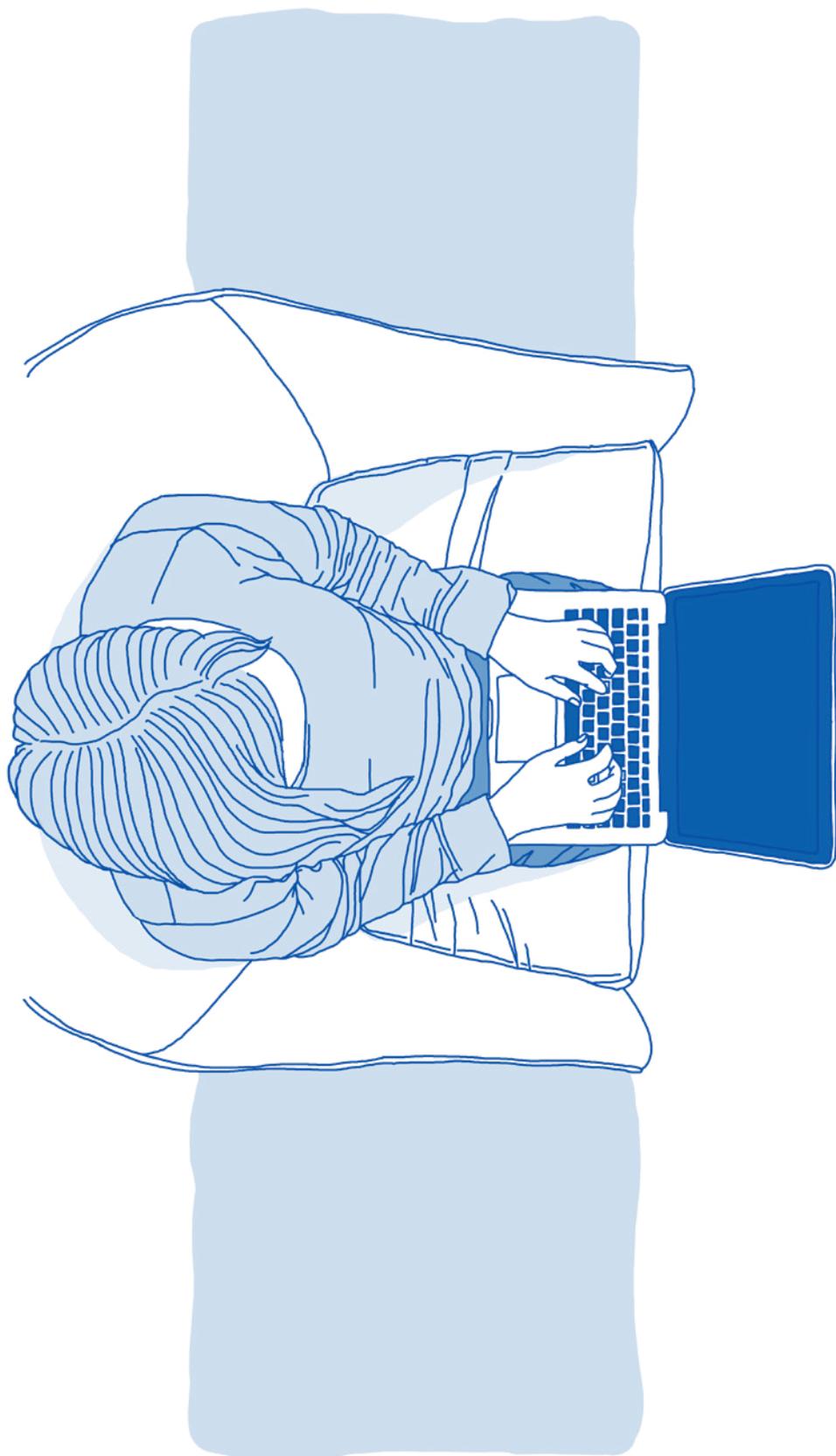
MARJA'S GRADUATION FILM

UNTITLED (BURNED RUBBER ON ASPHALT, 2018) (DOC)

Length (in minutes): 20
Director: Tinja Ruusuvoori
Producer: Marja Pihlhaja
Cinematographer: Pietari Peltola
Editor: Inka Lahti
Sound Designer: Juuso Oksala

In a remote Norwegian village the weaving roads have become the subject of controversy. Assuming the role of detective, the documentary investigates the bewildering phenomena of car skid marks and their mysterious appearance. Winding, looping, curving, the hypnotising patterns reveal unexpected frictions in the village. Some brand the skid marks as an irresponsible and dangerous act, while others view the mesmerizing marks as a form of art.



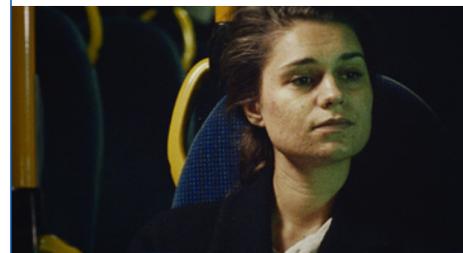


PITCH

LUCKY (HYBRID/FIC)

Pitched by: Nitesh Anjaan (director)
 School: The National Film School of Denmark (DK)

Three migrants live together inside a Scandinavian country but outside its society. A father without his kids, a mother saving up money for her daughter in The Philippines and a young man with big dreams of a future in Europe.



NITESH'S GRADUATION FILM

NIGHT BUS (DOC)

Length (in minutes): 27
 Director: Nitesh Anjaan
 Producer: Emily Nicoline Quist
 Scriptwriter: Nitesh Anjaan
 Cinematographer: David Bauer
 Editor: Cathrine Odgaard
 Sound Designer: Andreas Sandborg

It's night in the city, but not everyone is asleep. Our society consists of institutions, transportation systems and complex communication lines that are maintained by people, we never see. They begin work when the rest of us go to bed, and they make sure life can continue the way we left it.

PITCH

TALES OF ZALE (ANI)

Pitched by: Sif Savery (director)
 School: The Animation Workshop (DK)

In a world where overgrown, abandoned human structures tower above the trees, a young, bright-eyed fox named Zale, sets out to uncover his past - and in the process ends up learning a bit about life, death, and everything in-between.



SIF'S GRADUATION FILM

OF ASKA (ANI)
 (NOTE: SHOWN IN FILM SCREENING I)

Length (in minutes): 8
 Director: Myra Hild
 Producer: Michelle Nardone, Anja Perl
 Scriptwriter: Myra Hild, Emei Olivia Burell
 Cinematographer: Myra Hild
 Editor: Myra Hild, Maria Blowers, Sif Perlt Savery
 Sound Designer: Ronny S. Mikkelsen, Laura E. Hasseldahl

Two women, Aska and Embla, are living in the forest together, content and happy with their life. Or so it seems. Slowly, Aska starts to change, to transform. Growing stronger and more agile, their daily rhythm is threatened. When their inability to work together puts their lives on the line, Embla has to decide: Can she live with a person she can barely recognize, or will she try to undo the change?

MASTER CLASS



Benedikt Erlingsson ©Juan Camillo Estrada

With fear of playing with stereotypes: to bystanders, every Icelander seems to be an admirable multi-talent. You are not only a singer, you are also an actor and perhaps an accountant. A top-level soccer player and a high school teacher. News reporter, history professor and president of the republic. You get it. Benedikt Erlingsson came into film directing through acting and stage directing. His feature film debut earned him the Nordic Council Film Prize, whereas his second feature earned him a prize in Cannes last year. Since then, hundreds of thousands of moviegoers have been amused and engaged by a *Woman at War*.

What is the success recipe? Not to speak of: what kind of cake / film is this really? Deeply emotional drama with a stylistic hint of Greek tragedy? Serious Dramatic bid on Nordic eco activism on film, or absurd comedy featuring on screen musical raptuses à la Emir Kusturica?

Music stands out of *Woman at War*, and will play a central role in the masterclass, as will Erlingsson's slightly absurdist and humorous touch on melodrama. *Woman at War's* rise to international fame is an example to follow for other Nordic films. It's just that Erlingsson, in all his uniqueness, may not be that easy to follow. At least without following his Masterclass at Nordic Talents 2019.

Welcome to an undoubtedly entertaining, sincere and humorous two hour session, featuring former actor and stage director, current actor, film and stage director and climate activist Benedikt Erlingsson. We present to you a masterclass on the art of being a bit at war with contemporary film conventions and appealing to an audience at the same time. Bonus tracks from the uncomparable debut *Of Horses and Men* may occur.

The master class will be moderated by Silje Riise Næss and takes place in the afternoon Thursday 5 September while the jury makes their final decisions.

Woman at War ©Slot Machine



BENEDIKT ERLINGSSON

Benedikt Erlingsson (born 1969) is a director, writer, and actor.

He is well known as a stage director, as well as for his roles in theatre, television series, and film. His solo performances are some of the most successful in the history of Icelandic theatre, and were performed on stage by Erlingsson himself for six years.

Of Horses and Men – Erlingsson's first feature film as a writer and director – won more than 20 international awards including Best New Director at the 2013 San Sebastián IFF and the Nordic Council Film Prize in 2014.

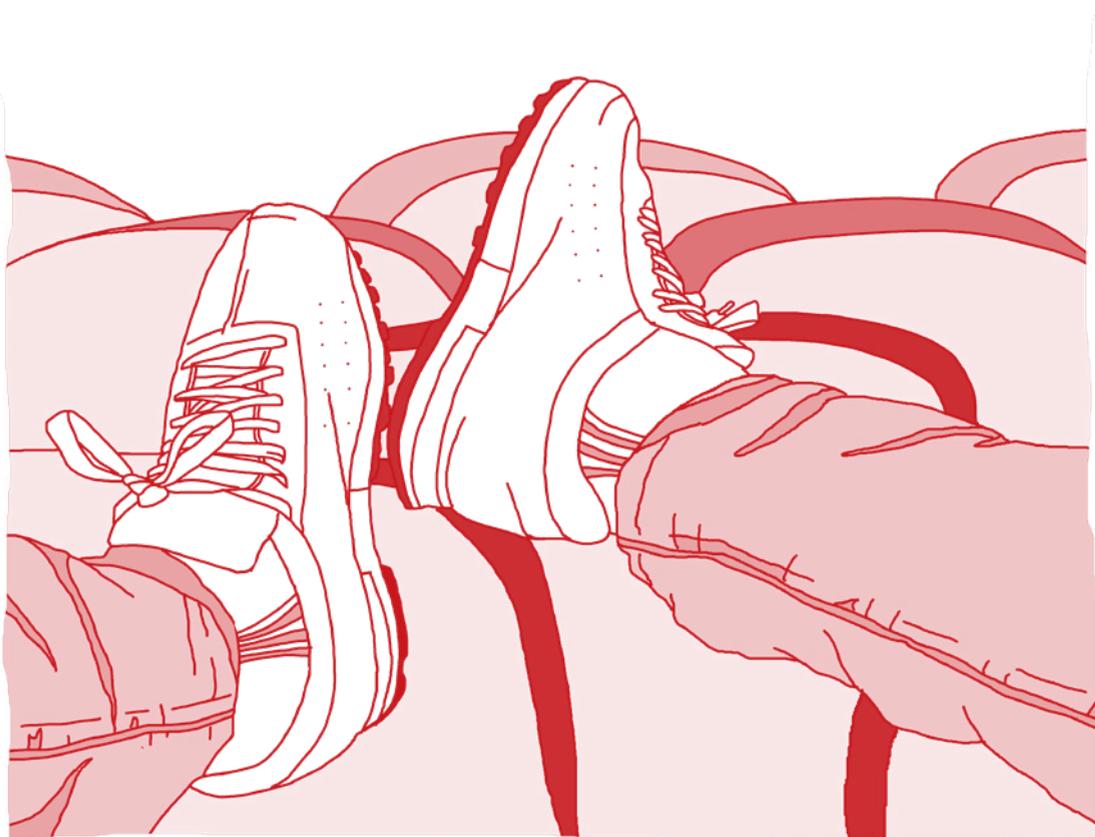
Erlingsson is a winner of the 2016 Gan Foundation for Cinema.

His 2nd feature *Woman at War* had its world premiere at the Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018 where it won the SACD Award for Best Screenplay. The film has since then been awarded several prizes such as The Nordic Council Film Prize 2018, Edda-awards and Benedikt Erlingsson and composer Davíð Þór Jónsson shared the Harpa Nordic Music Award.

WOMAN AT WAR

Halla is a fifty-year-old independent woman. But behind the scenes of a quiet routine, she leads a double-life as a passionate environmental activist, secretly waging a one-woman-war on the local aluminium industry. As she plans her biggest and boldest sabotage operation yet, she receives an unexpected letter that changes everything. Her application to adopt a child has been accepted and a little girl is waiting for her in Ukraine. As Halla prepares to abandon her role as saboteur and saviour of the Icelandic highlands to fulfil her dream of becoming a mother, she decides to plot one final attack on the aluminium industry.

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PROGRAM

NORDIC TALENTS 2019

Venue: The National Film School of Denmark,
Theodor Christensens Plads 1, 1437 Copenhagen K

WEDNESDAY 4/9

- 09.00 - 09.30 *Registration and Coffee*
- 09.30 - 09.45 Welcome by Petri Kempainen (CEO, Nordisk Film & TV Fond)
- 09.45 - 11.35 Film Screening I:
To Discharge (30), Manifest (25), Of Aska (8), The Trip to Istanbul (14), Below the Waves, Above the Clouds (30)
- 11.35 - 12.45 *Lunch*
- 12.45 - 14.00 Pitch session I:
HYSTERIKA, The Beetle Hunters, Soul for a Hot Dog, The Trial of a Chameleon, Sofa Surfer
- 14.00 - 14.15 *Short break*
- 14.15 - 15.40 Film Screening II:
Forget-Me-Not (7), Reverie (8), For Juliane (38), A Treatise of the Human Animal no.38: HEARTACHE (30)
- 15.40 - 16.00 *Coffee and Cake*
- 16.00 - 17.15 Film Screening II continues:
Melanie (14), Polaris (29), Villa Villekulla (30)
- 17.20 - 18.00 *Apéritif (outside the TV-studio)*
- 18.00 - 22.00 Dinner, Producer's Pitch and Mingling (in the TV-studio)

THURSDAY 5/9

- 09.00 - 09.30 *Coffee*
- 09.30 - 10.55 Pitch Session II:
Project RIP, Letter of Commitment (working title), Ayda Queen of Höglunda Resort, Freja, Better I Go Suffer
Presentation of the Nordic Council Film Prize Nominees
- 10.55 - 11.05 *Break*
- 11.05 - 12.45 Film Screening III:
Queen Ingrid (26), Downs of the Dead (23), Untitled (burned rubber on asphalt, 2018) (20), Night Bus (27)
- 12.45 - 13.45 *Lunch*
- 13.45 - 15.00 Pitch Session III:
Queen Ingrid, Downs of the Dead, Fast & Frightening (working title), Lucky, Tales of Zale
- 15.00 - 15.20 *Coffee and Cake*
- 15.20 - 17.20 Master Class with Benedikt Erlingsson
- 17.30 - 18.15 Award Ceremony – And the winner is....