

PRESS RELEASE

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Scandinavian Film Festival L.A.

THE 9TH ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL L.A. UNREELS FILMS FROM DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY, AND SWEDEN AT WRITERS GUILD THEATER JANUARY 5,6,12,13 DURING PRE-OSCAR "WINTER FILM SEASON"

SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL L.A. JAN. 5, 6, 12, 13 spans two weekends at the Writers Guild Theater (135 S. Doheny/at Wilshire in Beverly Hills) for a Nordic "weigh-in" during L.A.'s peak winter film season prior to Oscar nominations. The festival focuses on work of Nordic film makers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden including Nordic Oscar contenders, additional current features, and a sampling of shorts and documentaries.

"We've been written up as the place where Nordic film 'winters in Southern California'." says festival Founder/Director Jim Koenig. "Eager to see the latest in Northern 'lights, camera, action', our devoted audience of film lovers, industry professionals, and Nordic ex-pats have also witnessed six Academy Award 'Best Foreign Language Film' nominations. Whether King "Oscar" is in the picture or not— Nordic films are captivating audiences all over the globe. There are around eight hundred films made in Europe each year. Eighty of those films are from the Nordic countries! That's 10% of all European film." This is our chance in the "film capital" of the world— to show what the fuss is all about.

The festival has become an important annual opportunity for Hollywood to keep up with what's going on in Nordic film making. Nordic film makers in both Europe and working in the United States have enjoyed the fertile networking and "introduction" opportunities the festival affords.

The festival "Opening Day" program begins with the Icelandic Oscar submission Baltasar Kormákur's JAR CITY AT NIGHT. A Danish short—shortlisted for this year's "Oscar" competition follows, preceding the Danish feature and Oscar submission Peter Schønau Fog's THE ART OF CRYING, and the opening gala and buffet. For dessert— Danish Actor/Director Paprika Steen is THE SUBSTITUTE in Ole Bornedal's fast paced, fun, delicious sci-fi comedy combination of "The Little Rascals" meets "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

The first weekend continues on Sunday with a reprise of THE ART OF CRYING followed by Oscar entry YOU THE LIVING from brilliant Swedish director Roy Andersson. This is Anderson's first film since his critically acclaimed "Songs from the Second Floor" Replete with black humor, surreal situations, he runs the gamut from the outright depressing to the wildly humorous to the joyously uplifting. Next is the Finnish Oscar contender-- A MAN'S JOB, Director Aleksí Salmenpera's tale of an unemployed man who becomes a male prostitute. (Salmenpera's debut film "Producing Adults", Finland's 2004 Oscar submission, has been featured on cable and the Logos channel.) The day concludes with Norway's Oscar entry GONE WITH THE WOMAN. The film's director, Petter Naess, gave us the Oscar nominated "Elling" in 2000.

The second weekend kicks off on Saturday Jan 12 with PARENTS—Icelandic director Ragnar Bragason’s sequel to his film “Children” followed by talented Danish Director Christian E. Christiansen’s debut feature LIFE HITS. Then we have the Norwegian epic feature MIRUSH from director Marius Holst. The day concludes with Paprika Steen in the directorial role of the Danish film WITH YOUR PERMISSION.

Two Danish shorts open the final day of the festival—Sunday Jan 13—SOPHIE and BLOOD SISTERS. Hisham Zaman’s WINTERLAND continues the day. Zaman is a Kurdish immigrant to Norway and his beautiful film about a Kurdish immigrant couple whose lives come together through an arranged marriage warms the heart. Then we have Finnish Director Olli Saarela’s romantic drama, THE YEAR OF THE WOLF. The festival closes with Director Klaus Haro’s THE NEW MAN. Haro’s Swedish film follows his success with a Finnish film “Mother of Mine” which was a festival audience favorite.

Parent organization of Scandinavian Film Festival is the American Scandinavian Foundation of Los Angeles. Support for the festival begins with Scandinavian Film, an umbrella organization of the Nordic film institutes funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Danish Film Institute, various Nordic consulates, individuals and organizations. The festival welcomes Sons of Norway International as a major sponsor this year, joining SWEA and others in the effort to offer Nordic film culture to the Los Angeles/Hollywood cultural scene. For more information and for ordering tickets logon to www.asfla.org or call 323 661 4273.

The festival schedule runs as follows:

Saturday January 5 1:00 JAR CITY (Iceland) Baltasar Kormákur
Saturday January 5 4:00 AT NIGHT (Denmark/short) Christian E. Christiansen
Saturday, January 5 4:30 THE ART OF CRYING (Denmark) Peter Schønau Fog
OPENING GALA 6:30 Buffet
Saturday, January 5 8:00 THE SUBSTITUTE (Denmark) Ole Bornedal
Champagne dessert reception
Sunday, January 6 1:00 THE ART OF CRYING Peter Schønau Fog
Sunday, January 6 3:00 YOU THE LIVING (Sweden) Roy Anderson
Sunday, January 6 5:00 A MAN'S JOB (Finland) Aleks Salmenpera
Sunday, January 6 7:30 GONE WITH THE WOMAN (Norway)
Saturday January 12 11:30 PARENTS (Iceland) Ragnar Bragason
Saturday January 12 1:30 LIFE HITS (Denmark) Christian E. Christiansen
Saturday January 5 4:00 MIRUSH (Norway) Marius Holst
Saturday January 12 7:00 WITH YOUR PERMISSION (Denmark) Director Paprika Steen
Sunday January 13 1:00 SOPHIE (Short/Denmark) Birgitte Staermose
Sunday January 13 1:30 BLOOD SISTERS (Denmark/short) Louise N.D. Friedberg
Sunday January 13 2:15 WINTERLAND (Norway/long short)Hisham Zaman
Sunday January 12 4:00 THE YEAR OF THE WOLF (Finland) Olli Saarela
Sunday January 13 6:30 WHEN ELVIS VISITED (Swedish short) Magnus Akersted
Sunday January 13 7:00 THE NEW MAN (Sweden) Klaus Härö