



NFL DISCOVERY

37th GÖTEBORG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
FRIDAY JANUARY 31 2014





Welcome

For a long time, our festival has been a meeting place for the audience, but also for those who make films. Nordic Film Market at the Göteborg Film Festival has over the years established itself as a strong international market place for films from the Nordic countries and a networking arena for the Scandinavian film industry.

In 2008 we created a special forum for talented filmmakers who are at the starting point of their careers, Nordic Film Lab. Producers, screenwriters and directors from Denmark, Norway and Sweden get together and over one year's time they meet for in-depth discussions about the art of filmmaking, creativity and each others films.

At the end of this Nordic Film Lab-year they now get the opportunity to present themselves and their upcoming projects to you, the film industry.

With a special thanks to our partners, we are proud and happy to wish you a warm welcome to Nordic Film Lab Discovery!

Tobias Åkesson, Head of Nordic Programme

Cia Edström, Head of Nordic Film Market

Marit Kapla, Artistic Director

Cecilia Måwe, Project Coordinator Nordic Film Market

Nordic Film Lab Discovery

FRIDAY JAN 31, 10.30–12.00 BIOPALATSET 9
(FOR NORDIC FILM MARKET PARTICIPANTS ONLY)



KALLE LØCHEN

MODERATOR

Chief editor for the film magazine Film & Kino 1989–2007. Worked at the Norwegian Film Institute as commissioning editor for short films 2007–2011. Is now consultant at a regional film centre in Norway, lecturer and moderator at film discussions.

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JULIE LEERSKOV PRODUCER

Julie started up her own production company Spring Kids in August 2013. After 7 years experience in documentary, and with a record of award winning films like *The Wild Hearts* by Michael Noer, *The Will* by Christian Sønderby Jepsen and the pan-nordic online concept *Doxwise*, she now enters the industry on her own.

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FILMOGRAPHY. PRODUCER: 2014 SONGS FOR ALEXIS, DOCUMENTARY; 2012 DOXWISE NORDIC, VOD SERIES DOCUMENTARY; 2012 FTM, DOCUMENTARY; 2011 THE WILL; 2008 THE WILD HEARTS, DOCUMENTARY. DIRECTOR ASS: 2007/2008 DOXWISE SEASON 1 & 2, DOCUMENTARY SERIES. PRODUCER: 2007 VESTERBRO, DOCUMENTARY.



PROJECT Bobbi Jene Smith – is it an avalanche or a parade?

After 9 years of extreme dedication, 30-year-old Bobbi Jene Smith is about to leave the Batsheva dance company in Tel Aviv. She arrived as a young girl and as the lover of the artistic director who crushed her heart, only to make her a stronger dancer and woman. Leaving the Batsheva dance company isn't only a personal loss, but also a high risk professionally.

CO-PARTICIPANT: ELVIRA LIND, DIRECTOR



From *Bobbi Jene Smith* (2014) by Elvira Lind.

JOERN UTKILEN DIRECTOR

Joern is a graduate of both the Edinburgh College of Art and Screen Academy Scotland and has written and directed several award winning comedic films. Joern is currently in pre-production with his first documentary film about Norwegian cult musician, Arvid Sletta, and developing his first feature film, funded by the Norwegian Film Institute.

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FILMOGRAPHY. 2014 EARTH OVER WIND; 2010 ASYLUM, SHORT; 2008 LITTLE RED HOODIE, SHORT; 2007 NO COKE, SHORT; 2006 MY NEW JOB, SHORT; 2005 SIZE 5, SHORT; 2004 PAPER ANNIVERSARY; 2003 TERRORIST, SHORT.



PROJECT Lake Over Fire

“A feature film, developed intuitively, where the actors play a fictionalised version of themselves”.

Lake Over Fire is the result of a new working method Joern developed through two short films; *Wind Over Lake* (Screen Academy Scotland 2010) and *Earth Over Wind* (Norwegian Film Institute 'New Paths' scheme 2014).

In *Lake Over Fire* the participating actors' own lives is the inspiration for the development of the script, which is written and shot in eight separate stages over a year. In 2013 the project received development funding from the Norwegian Film Institute. It is fully cast and the script for the first part out of eight is currently being written.

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JONAS POHER RASMUSSEN DIRECTOR AND SCRIPTWRITER

Jonas began his career as a film- and radio documentary maker at Danish Public Radio (DR) and started directing fiction after joining film collective Super16 at Nordisk Film. His latest film *Searching for Bill* was his feature film debut.

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FILMOGRAPHY. 2012 SEARCHING FOR BILL, DOCUMENTARY (GIFF 2013); 2010 HOUSE OF GLASS, SHORT; 2009 THE DAY AFTER, SHORT; 2008 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, SHORT; 2007 MARIE & OLIVER, SHORT; 2006 SOMETHING ABOUT HALFDAN, DOCUMENTARY; 2003 EASA 2002, SHORT.

PROJECT *Flee Train*



From *Flee Train* (Under development) by Jonas Poher Rasmussen.

Amin experienced a lot at an early age. He fled Afghanistan at the age of 11. He has been to prison in both Estonia and Russia, he has lived as an illegal immigrant in Moscow, been on a sinking fishing boat on the Baltic sea in the middle of a winter storm and hiding in the back of a truck through Europe, before he ended up in a tiny Danish village at age 16. We will, through a personal conversation, with his longtime friend Jonas, learn how he grew up in a privileged environment in

Kabul and how everything changed as the Taliban grew stronger. *Flee Train* is an animated documentary and the story of Amin. One story out of millions, about people who flee for their lives in the search of a better one.



IRAM HAQ ACTRESS SCRIPTWRITER AND DIRECTOR

Iram Haq (b. 1976) is an actress, writer and director. She was educated at Westerdals School of Communication. She has worked for many years as an actor, on stage and in feature and TV films. She also wrote and starred in the short film *Old Faithful* (2004) which was selected for the short film competition at the Venice Film Festival in 2004. She made her directorial debut with the short *Little Miss Eye flap* in 2009 – which had its world premiere at Sundance Film Festival and has since been selected for numerous international film festivals.

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FILMOGRAPHY. 2013 I AM YOURS; 2009 LITTLE MISS EYEFLAP, SHORT; 2004 OLD FAITHFUL, SHORT.

PROJECT *The Way Back*

The Way Back is a story about Sima, a Norwegian Pakistani girl who lives a double life. At school and among friends, she is an ordinary Norwegian teenager, while she at home lives a traditional Pakistani family life. She is balancing on a knife-edge. An innocent kiss changes everything and suddenly she is in danger. She runs away from the family and seeks help from child welfare, but is not believed. Instead, her family kidnaps her. Her father and brother take her on a long road trip that ultimately ends in Pakistan. Here she is left with relatives she does not know. Sima has only one goal: finding her way home to Norway, no matter what the cost. Unknown to her, she is about to fall in love with her own cousin and suddenly find life in Pakistan more appealing than she ever would have thought possible. Sima is experiencing a strong personal journey. She discovers her parents' culture in a new way, gets integrated in the Pakistani village life and discovers her own sexuality.

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MILAD ALAMI DIRECTOR

Milad Alami was born in Iran and grew up in Sweden. He graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2011. His graduation film, *Nothing Can Touch Me* was selected to over 40 international film festivals, amongst other numerous a-list festivals and won 10 awards. Milad will be showcased at The Directors Fortnight in Cannes 2014 with his latest short.

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FILMOGRAPHY. 2011 NOTHING CAN TOUCH ME, SHORT; 2007 ONE TWO THREE MARTYR, SHORT.

IN DEVELOPEMENT: 2014 SEX TAPE (WORKING TITLE), SHORT; 2014 MINI, SHORT; 2014 MOTHER, SHORT; 2014 FIRST KISS, SHORT.



PROJECT "The Charmer"

"The Charmer" explores issues of identity and love. Ibrahim is an Iranian living in Denmark; he lives a destructive life by charming women into love, then disappears with their money – leaving a trail of heartbroken and penniless victims behind him. Never allowing anyone to get close. But his world is turned upside down the day he meets Sara – the daughter of a wealthy woman he is working. Ibrahim can't hide behind a stereotypical disguise when with her and as he falls for Sara, he starts losing control. Meanwhile, Johan is a man who lost everything after his wife's suicide. He discovers her affair with Ibrahim, and that her suicide came as soon as he discarded her. Johan starts tracking Ibrahim down – consumed with rage and sorrow. The meeting of these two men edges ever closer – a meeting, which can only end in violence.

ELISABETH KVITHYLL PRODUCER

After graduating as film producer and broadcasting journalist at Edith Cowan University and WA Screen Academy, Elisabeth continued her film studies as a producer student at The Norwegian Film School, earning an Amanda award for Best Short Film for her graduation film, *To Guard a Mountain*. With widespread experience in producing television, documentary and short films, Elisabeth now works as a producer in Hummelfilm AS.

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FILMOGRAPHY. 2013 WAKOLDA; 2013 METAL HEAD; 2014 YES WE LOVE, SHORT; 2012 THE TRAM TO AUSCHWITZ, DOCUMENTARY.

IN DEVELOPEMENT: CAPTEIN SABERTOOTH AND THE LAMA RAMA TREASURE, POST PRODUCTION; BURN HEART BURN, POST PRODUCTION; TELAVÅG; WAITZ.



PROJECT Waitz by Gudny Hummelvoll

Grete Waitz is the greatest female marathon runner of all time, and one of the highest profile women ever in world sport. The film *Waitz* is about her dilemma in 1978. Her results are good, but she does not achieve top placements. For entirely rational reasons, notably lack on money and poor motivation, Grete chooses to set aside her dream and her passion. But her husband, Jack, can see that life without running is no kind of alternative for her, and motivates

Grete to take the step from being a good track runner to become an exceptional long distance runner. The film will touch on the dream of being greater than oneself, and the couple's deep and complex relationship. On October 22, 1978, Grete discovers how good she actually is, and the world discovers a new heroine.



From *Waitz* (Under development) by Gudny Hummelvoll.

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THOMAS WANGSMO DIRECTOR AND SCRIPTWRITER

Thomas Wangsmo has written and directed one feature and more than twenty short films. His first feature film, *Into the Dark* (orig. Inn i mørket), was released in Norway in early 2012, and had its international premiere at Montreal World Film Festival, where it won the Bronze Zenith Award.

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FILMOGRAPHY: 2012 INTO THE DARK (INN I MØRKET); 2011 THE FOREST DEEP (SKOGENS DYP), SHORT; 2010 REUNION (GJENMØTE), SHORT; 2009 THE SECRET (HEMMEIGHETEN), SHORT; 2009 AMOR, SHORT; 2007 ON THE BOTTOM (PÅ HVELVET), SHORT.

PROJECT *Travellers* (working title)

Norway, 1950. In the wake of the horrors of the Second World War, the modern Norwegian society is beginning to take shape, where there is no room for the so-called Travellers – Norwegian gypsies – and their way of life. There is a focused government effort to diminish the travelling community by taking away their children and placing them in foster homes, ensuring that they won't continue the lifestyle of their parents. Amidst a group of Travellers in the great woods near the Swedish border, a young couple give birth to their first child. Based on actual events.



IZER ALIU DIRECTOR

Izer Aliu graduated from the Norwegian Filmschool in 2012 and has since shot one low-budget feature and a shortfilm funded by the Norwegian Film Institute. With his exam film he won the highest awards in Norway and that was followed by numerous international awards and recognition as well. He has been on four of the major filmmagazines in Scandinavia as one of ten Directors to watch and is currently in writing of his second feature film.

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FILMOGRAPHY: 2014 HUNTING FLIES; 2014 DET GODA LIVET; 2014 DÄRBORTA, SHORT; 2012 TO GUARD A MOUNTAIN, SHORT; 2011 WHAT IT IS, SHORT.



From *Hunting Flies* (2014)
by Izer Aliu.

PROJECT *Hunting Flies*

Hunting Flies is a political metaphor set to a classroom setting where the teacher Ghani, after losing his job, makes one final attempt to get it back by locking his students inside the classroom to force them to resolve a generation long conflict between their villages. It's a film that sets up principles against necessity. How long would our beliefs of any kind stand intact when we are forced to choose between them and our livelihood?

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ANNIKA ROGELL PRODUCER

Producer at Story and Tangy. Educated at the Dramatic Institute, Stockholm. Her first feature, *The Black Power Mixtape* by Göran Hugo Olsson is an all time high sales documentary, premiering at Sundance and Berlinale 2011 and won two golden beetles at the Swedish Film Awards in 2012. Their next film *Concerning Violence*, will premiering at Sundance 2014, followed by Gothenburg International Film Festival and Berlinale. She has worked with the production companies such as Story, Memfis, Garagefilm, Fasad and Anagram, among different tasks as Production Manager for Avalon and Hassel. She's produced several of prize winning shorts, many together with director Sanna Lenken, their latest short *Eating Lunch* premiered at Startsladden followed by Berlinale and Tribeca. It is now nominated for best Swedish Short. Rogell is an EAVE graduate 2011.



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FILMOGRAPHY. 2013 CONCERNING VIOLENCE, DOCUMENTARY; 2013 EATING LUNCH, SHORT; 2012 DUBLIN, SHORT; 2011 THE BLACK POWER MIXTAPE, DOCUMENTARY; 2010 YOGHURT, SHORT; 2008 TRAVELMUNDE-TRELLEBORG, SHORT; 2008 VALBORG, SHORT.

PROJECT *My Skinny Sister (working title)* by Sanna Lenken

Just as Stella (12) enters the exciting world of adolescence, her big sister and role model Rebecka (16) falls into the manipulative disease anorexia – eventually tearing the family apart. A story about jealousy, love and betrayal told with warmth, depth and laughter – on and off the ice rink.

KATJA ADOMEIT PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR

After working for six years with Zentropa Katja opened her own company Adomeit Film in 2012. She also works with Philippe Bobert at the Coproduction Office Denmark. In 2013, Katja released three feature length films, *The Weight of Elephants* at Berlinale 2013, the 77 min. documentary *Pine Ridge* at Bienneale 2013 and the 65 min Hybrid film *Not At Home* at CPH.DOX.

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FILMOGRAPHY. DIRECTOR: 2013 NOT AT HOME; 2013 LONG MAY YOU RUN, SHORT DOCUMENTARY; 2012 LITTLE NIGHT HUNTER, SHORT. PRODUCER: 2012 THE WEIGHT OF ELEPHANTS; 2012 REAL MAN HUNT IN PACKS; 2013 PINE RIDGE, DOCUMENTARY; 2012 THE SECRET SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS; 2011 BRAINY, SHORT; 2011 YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, SHORT; 2010 BERIK, SHORT; 2009 BEHAVIOUR, SHORT; 2009 LARS & PETER, SHORT; 2008 THE MAN & THE ALBATROSS, SHORT.



PROJECT *Wolf and Sheep* by Shahrbanoo Sadat

In 2010 Katja was making a documentary project about the American eye doctor Tom Little. Tom travelled around Afghanistan in an "Eye camp" to help Afghan people in the villages, who don't even know that glasses exist, with their eyesight problems.

On a tour, which Katja was invited to be a part of but wasn't able to attend, he and his team were killed. At the same time Katja was selected into Cannes Film Festival's Cinefondation Script residency in Paris. Deeply depressed, as Katja lost her friend, she developed the project *Wolf and Sheep* (earlier title *Basira*), which is about a community in an Afghan village which we discover through an 11-year-old female shepherd Basira, who has an eyesight problem and whose job is to collect sheep and goats from different families and bring them every day up the mountain to graze.



From *Wolf and Sheep*
(Under development) by
Shahrbanoo Sadat.



**37th
Göteborg
International
Film Festival
Jan 24 – Feb 3
2014**

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Hjalmar Palmgren, Swedish Film Institute
Elin Erichsen, Norwegian Film Institute
Marit Kapla, Artistic Director, Göteborg International Film Festival
Turid Marthinsen, Project Coordinator, Norway Nordic Film Lab
Ulrika Nisell, Swedish Film Institute
Erik Vadholm, Kultur Akershus

Tobias Åkesson, Head of Nordic Programme, Göteborg International Film Festival
Birgitta L. Öfverholm, Göteborg & Co
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Nanna Mailand – Mercado, New Danish Screen
Kalle Löchen, Consultant and Moderator

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