



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE  
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2023  
Official Selection

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**tiff**  
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL 2023



**SSIFF**  
Donostia Zinemaldia  
Festival de San Sebastián  
PERLAK

MADS  
MIKKELSEN

AMANDA  
COLLIN

SIMON  
BENNEBJERG

KRISTINE KUJATH  
THORP

GUSTAV  
LINDH

# THE PROMISED LAND

A FILM BY NIKOLAJ ARCEL WRITTEN BY ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN & NIKOLAJ ARCEL

BASED ON THE NOVEL THE CAPTAIN AND ANN BARBARA BY IDA JESSEN

## **SYNOPSIS**

In 1755, the impoverished Captain Ludvig Kahlen sets out to conquer the harsh, uninhabitable Danish heath with a seemingly impossible goal; to build a colony in the name of the King. In exchange, he'll receive a desperately desired Royal name for himself. But the sole ruler of the area, the merciless Frederik de Schinkel, arrogantly believes this land belongs to him. When de Schinkel learns that the maid Ann Barbara and her serve husband have escaped for refuge with Kahlen, the privileged and spiteful ruler swears revenge, doing everything in his power to drive the captain away. Kahlen will not be intimidated and takes up the unequal battle - not only risking his life, but also the family of outsiders that has formed around him.



## **DIRECTORS STATEMENT**

When I had the utterly transformative experience of becoming a father a few years ago, I began viewing my past films, including the memories of making them, through a new lens. While I remain proud of the work (most of it, anyway!), it reflects the outlook of a man with a single purpose; a passionate dedication to creating stories and art... but not much else. "The Promised Land" grew out of that existential reckoning, and is, by far, my most personal film to date. Aided by Ida Jessen's brilliant novel, Anders Thomas Jensen and I wanted to tell a grand, epic tale about how our ambitions and desires will inevitably fail if they are all we have. Life is chaos; painful and ugly, beautiful and extraordinary, and we are often helpless to control it. As the saying goes, "We make plans and God laughs".



# NIKOLAJ ARCEL

SCRIPTWRITER & DIRECTOR

Arcel has written a large number of scripts including the adaptation of the first film in the highly acclaimed Millennium-trilogy, "The girl with the Dragon Tattoo". (2009) The film based on the bestselling book by, Stieg Larsson earned him a BAFTA-nomination in 2011.

His feature film "A Royal Affair", which he both wrote and directed, won the Silver Bear for best script at Berlin International Film Festival in 2012 and was nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language category in 2013.

Since then Arcel has directed, "The Dark Tower", and has written a number of critically acclaimed films, which makes him one of the most sought after both writers and directors in Scandinavia.

## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2023	<b>THE PROMISED LAND</b>	Director & Co-writer
2020	<b>RIDERS OF JUSTICE</b>	Idea
2018	<b>THE PURITY OF VENGEANCE</b>	Co-writer
2017	<b>THE DARK TOWER</b>	Director & Co-writer
2016	<b>A CONSPIRACY OF FAITH</b>	Co-writer
2014	<b>THE ABSENT ONE</b>	Co-writer
2013	<b>THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES</b>	Co-writer
2012	<b>A ROYAL AFFAIR</b>	Director & Co-writer
2009	<b>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</b>	Co-Writer
2007	<b>ISLAND OF LOST SOULS</b>	Director & Co-writer
2004	<b>KING'S GAME</b>	Director & Co-writer
2002	<b>CATCH THAT GIRL</b>	Writer

... and more



# ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN

SCRIPTWRITER

Anders Thomas Jensen is one of the most talented and prolific writer/directors in Danish cinema. He has written a substantial number of the most successful Danish films for directors like: Susanne Bier, Lone Scherfig and Niels Arden Oplev including three DOGME films: "The King is Alive", "Mifune's Last Song" and "Open Hearts", three Academy Award® Nominees: "After the Wedding", "The Duchess", "Land of Mine" and Golden Globes® and Academy Award® Winner "In a Better World".

In 2000, Anders Thomas Jensen wrote and directed his first feature film "Flickering Lights" followed by "The Green Butchers" (2003) which received its world premiere at The Toronto International Film Festival and "Adam's Apples" (2005) which also premiered at TIFF and won the prestigious Nordic Council's Film Award. In 2020 Anders Thomas Jensen wrote and directed the action comedy "Riders of Justice", which was a tremendous hit theatrically, despite the pandemic, and sold to 85+ territories worldwide.

## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2023	<b>THE PROMISED LAND</b>	Co-writer
2020	<b>RIDERS OF JUSTICE</b>	Director & Co-writer
2019	<b>AFTER THE WEDDING</b>	Co-writer
2017	<b>THE DARK TOWER</b>	Co-writer
2014	<b>THE SALVATION</b>	Co-writer
2012	<b>LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED</b>	Co-writer
2006	<b>AFTER THE WEDDING</b>	Co-writer
2005	<b>ADAM'S APPLES</b>	Director & Co-writer
2004	<b>BROTHERS</b> (Susanne Bier)	Co-writer
2003	<b>THE GREEN BUTCHERS</b>	Director & Writer
2002	<b>OPEN HEARTS</b>	Co-writer
2000	<b>THE KING IS ALIVE</b>	Co-writer

... and more



# LOUISE VESTH

## PRODUCER

Louise Vesth is one of Denmark's most prominent film producers. In 2011, Louise Vesth produced Lars von Trier's "Melancholia," and since then she has been the producer of all Trier's films.

This year, selected for the official competition at The Venice Film Festival, Louise Vesth is the producer of "The Promised Land" (2023) by Nikolaj Arcel, starring Mads Mikkelsen. Previously she worked with Arcel on "A Royal Affair" (2012) that received an Oscar nomination in 2013.

Among the more than 25 titles that Louise Vesth has worked on, she produced the first four films in the massively successful Department Q series from 2013 to 2018. Other notable producer credits include Peter Schønau Fog's "You Disappear" (2016) and Christoffer Boe's romantic drama "A Taste of Hunger" (2021).

In recognition of her significant contributions, Louise Vesth is also named one of the top 40 most influential women in the film industry by The Hollywood Reporter.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2023	<b>THE PROMISED LAND</b>	(Nikolaj Arcel)
2023	<b>AGENT</b> (TV series, 8 episodes)	(Nikolaj Lie Kaas)
2022	<b>THE KINGDOM EXODUS</b> (TV-series, 5 episodes)	(Lars von Trier)
2020	<b>A TASTE OF HUNGER</b>	(Mr. Boe)
2018	<b>THE PURITY OF VENGEANCE</b>	(Mr. Boe)
2018	<b>THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT</b>	(Lars von Trier)
2017	<b>YOU DISAPPEAR</b>	(Peter Schønau Fog)
2014	<b>NYMPHOMANIAC</b>	(Lars von Trier)
2013	<b>THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES</b>	(Mikkel Nørgaard)
2012	<b>THE SECRET SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS</b>	(Anders Rønnow Klarlund)
2012	<b>A ROYAL AFFAIR</b>	(Nikolaj Arcel)
2011	<b>MELANCHOLIA</b>	(Lars von Trier)
2011	<b>I:DA</b>	(Christian E. Christiansen)

... and more







## **MADS MIKKELSEN**

• LUDVIG KAHLEN •

Selected filmography

**INDIANA JONES  
AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY 2023**

**FANTASTIC BEASTS 2022**

**ANOTHER ROUND 2020**

**HANNIBAL 2013-2015**

**THE HUNT 2012**

... and more

## AMANDA COLLIN

• ANN BARBARA •

Selected filmography

**RAISED BY WOLVES** 2020-2022

**THE EXCEPTION** 2019

**A HORRIBLE WOMAN** 2017

**DEPARTMENT Q:**

**A CONSPIRACY OF FAITH** 2016

... and more



## KRISTINE KUJATH THORP

• EDEL HELENE •

Selected filmography

**SICK OF MYSELF** 2022

**THE GREAT SILENCE** 2022

**NINJABABY** 2021

**THE BURNING SEA** 2021

... and more

## SIMON BENNEBERG

• FREDERIK DE SCHINKEL •

Selected filmography

**THE PACT** 2021

**LOVER** 2020-2021

**WHEN THE DUST SETTLES** 2020

**THE GUILTY** 2018

... and more

## GUSTAV LINDH

• ANTON EKLUND •

Selected filmography

**THE NORTHMAN** 2022

**THE DARK HEART** 2022

**RIDERS OF JUSTICE** 2020

**QUEEN OF HEARTS** 2019

... and more



# THE PROMISED LAND

ZENTROPA ENTERTAINMENTS4 PRESENTS A FILM BY NIKOLAJ ARCEL THE PROMISED LAND

BASED ON THE NOVEL **THE CAPTAIN AND ANN BARBARA** BY IDA JESSEN

**MADS MIKKELSEN · AMANDA COLLIN · SIMON BENNEBJERG · MELINA HAGBERG · KRISTINE KUJATH THORP · GUSTAV LINDH**

CASTING DIRECTOR **TANJA GRUNWALD** HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST **SABINE SCHUMANN** COSTUME DESIGNER **KICKI ILANDER** SOUND DESIGNERS **CLAUS LYNGE & HANS CHRISTIAN KOCK** ART DIRECTOR **JESPER CLAUSEN**

PRODUCTION DESIGNER **JETTE LEHMANN** LINE PRODUCER **MOUNS OVERGAARD** POST PRODUCER **CHARLOTTE BUCH** EDITOR **OLIVIER BUGGE COUTTÉ** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **RASMUS VIDEBÆK**

CO-PRODUCERS **FABIAN GASMIA, KATJA LEBEDJEW, LIZETTE JONJIC & TINE MIKKELSEN** WRITTEN BY **ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN & NIKOLAJ ARCEL** PRODUCER **LOUISE VESTH** DIRECTOR **NIKOLAJ ARCEL**

PRODUCED BY **ZENTROPA ENTERTAINMENTS** IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH **ZENTROPA BERLIN ZENTROPA SWEDEN** AND **FILM I VÄST**

WITH SUPPORT FROM **DANISH FILM INSTITUTE MARKEDSORDNINGEN DEN VESTDANSKE FILMPULJE EURIMAGES CZECH FILM FUND MITTELDEUTSCHE MEDIENFÖRDERUNG MOIN FILM FUND HAMBURG SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN**

**MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG DEUTSCHER FILMFÖRDERFONDS SVENSKA FILMINSTITUTET HEDESELSKABET** IN COOPERATION WITH **TV 2 NORDISK FILM & TV FOND PLAION PICTURES SVT**

DEVELOPED BY **THE CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME - MEDIA OF THE EUROPEAN UNION** DISTRIBUTION **NORDISK FILM DISTRIBUTION** INTERNATIONAL SALES **TRUSTNORDISK**

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