

# THE DREAMER

BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN





**THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN**  
IS A SIX-PART DRAMA SERIES SET IN THE  
1930S AND TELLS THE STORY OF HOW KAREN  
BLIXEN BECAME A WORLD-FAMOUS WRITER.





Connie Nielsen (WONDER WOMAN, 2017) plays "Out of Africa" author Karen Blixen. The series follows Karen Blixen's return to her childhood home in Denmark after many years in Kenya. Penniless, sick, divorced and with her dreams in ruins, THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN shows **BLIXEN'S JOURNEY FROM HER LOWEST POINT TO BECOMING A RENOWNED WRITER.**

The series is created by Dunja Gry (NORSKOV, 2015-17), directed by Jeanette Nordahl (WILDLAND, 2020) and based on an idea by Connie Nielsen and Karoline Leth. It is inspired by Karen Blixen's life and letters with excerpts from her short story "The Dreamers".

THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN is produced as a Viaplay Original by Zentropa Episode and producers Marie Cecilie Gade, Karoline Leth and Charlotte Hjordt in collaboration with Belga and Stage 5 with support from Public Service Fund, Nordisk Film & TV Fond, Wallimage, the Belgian Federal Government Tax Shelter and co-funded by The European Union. Executive producer from Viaplay is Marlene Billie Andreasen. International sales by TrustNordisk and Viaplay Content Sales.

Cinematography is carried out by Aske Alexander Foss, production design by Nikolaj Danielsen, edited by Nicolaj Monberg and Rasmus Gitz-Johansen and sound design by Eddie Simonsen and Kasper Rasmussen.

With a budget of EUR 9.8M, THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN was filmed on locations in Denmark and South Africa and with studio shootings in Belgium.

**THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN WILL PREMIERE ON VIAPLAY LATER THIS YEAR AND BE READY FOR DELIVERY IN Q4 2022.**







## SYNOPSIS

After 17 years in Kenya, Karen Blixen moves back to her childhood home in Denmark. She has lost everything – love, money, health, and her home. In front of her awaits a life deeply dependent on the alms of the family. We follow Karen as she regains her will to live and takes up her author dreams from her youth as a path to gain independence. To set herself free, Karen must also find the courage to stand by herself and take a stand against her family and the ghosts of the past.

The series draws threads to Karen's years in Kenya, her inner thoughts, and visualizations of the magical universe from her short story "The Dreamers".







# FILMOGRAPHIES

## DUNJA GRY CREATOR

Dunja Gry is a Copenhagen-based screenwriter and creator known for NORSKOV (2015-17), QEDA (2017) and TERRIBLY HAPPY (2008). Her work includes documentaries, shorts, features and prime time series, and she has won several awards and nominations, including The Danish Film Award for 'Best Screenplay'. Since 2018, Dunja Gry has been working on THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN.

## JEANETTE NORDAHL DIRECTOR

Jeanette Nordahl graduated from the Danish independent film school Super16 in 2012, and her thesis film WAITING FOR PHIL was nominated for a Danish Film Award for 'Best Short Film' in 2013. She has worked as a second unit director and assistant director on acclaimed Danish films, such as THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES (2013), THE ABSENT ONE (2014) and the multiple award-winning TV series BORGEN (2010). She also directed two episodes of the TV series WHEN THE DUST SETTLES (2020). Her debut feature WILDLAND had its world premiere in the Panorama section at Berlin International Film Festival in 2020.

## CONNIE NIELSEN KAREN BLIXEN AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Connie Nielsen can now be seen starring in CLOSE TO ME (2021) for Viaplay, AMC and UK Channel 4, and in Martha Coolidge and Fred Roos' feature I'LL FIND YOU (2019) opposite Stellan Skarsgård. Connie starred as 'Queen Hippolyta' in Warner Brothers' blockbuster hits WONDER WOMAN (2017), JUSTICE LEAGUE (2017), WONDER WOMAN 1984 (2020) and the Snyder cut of JUSTICE LEAGUE (2021). Recently, she was seen in Universal's hit feature NOBODY (2021), in THE INHERITANCE (2020), in TNT's limited series I AM THE NIGHT (2019) and in the Danish mini-series LIBERTY (2018) created by Asger Leth. Other film credits include SEA FEVER (2019), CATCHER WAS A SPY (2018), ALI AND NINO (2016), STRATTON (2017), LE CONFESSIONI (2016), THE LION WOMAN (2016) and Lars von Trier's NYMPHOMANIAC (2013). Connie was the female lead in the Golden Globe-nominated series BOSS (2011), she was the femme fatale series regular on FOX's THE FOLLOWING (2014) and had a recurring arc on CBS' THE GOOD WIFE (2009).







**HANNE ULDAL**  
**INGEBORG**

Hanne Uldal is a revered Danish actress and singer. Her five-decade long career spans a range of dynamic roles in film, television, and theatre - from the world-tour of Robert Wilson and Tom Waits' production of WOYZECK to her portrayal of Fraülein Schneider in CABARET at the Royal Theatre of Copenhagen, for which she received a Reumert Award in 2015, Denmark's most prestigious performing art prize. Uldal is a passionate, authentic storyteller who, regardless of the medium, effortlessly expresses her artistry.

**JOACHIM FJELSTRUP**  
**TOMMY**

Joachim Fjelstrup is an acclaimed actor, who graduated from The Danish National School of Performing Arts in 2013 and was appointed Shooting Star at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2015. His resume includes the features WILDLAND (2020), THE BLUE ORCHID (2020) and ITSI BITSY (2014), and the drama series RIDE UPON THE STORM (2017) and GREYZONE (2018).

**LENE MARIA CHRISTENSEN**  
**ELLE**

Lene Maria Christensen is a critically acclaimed Danish actress educated from The Danish National School of Performing Arts in 1995. Lene Maria has portrayed many different characters in film and TV always showcasing her great dramatic and comic talent, for which she has been highly recognized by critics and has received many nominations and awards. She has starred in TV productions, including LEGACY (2014-17), DELIVER US (2019), PROS AND CONS (2018) for Viaplay and TOD VON FREUNDEN (2021), as well as features, including THE EXCEPTION (2019), ROSE (2022), TERRIBLY HAPPY (2008), NORTHWEST (2013) and THE CARTEL (2014).

**LARS MIKKELSEN**  
**KNUD**

Lars Mikkelsen graduated from The Danish National School of Performing Arts class of 1995 and has since appeared in numerous Danish and international projects. Lars has played many roles, including Viktor Petrov in the Netflix series HOUSE OF CARDS (2015-18), Troels Hartmann in THE KILLING (2007) and Magnussen in the third series of BBC's SHERLOCK (2014). Other credits include his role as Stregobor in THE WITCHER (2019-21) for Netflix, as Daniel Duval in DEVILS (2020) and as Johannes in RIDE UPON THE STORM (2017-18), for which he won an Emmy Award for 'Best Performance by an Actor' in 2018.







**SOLBJØRG HØJFELDT**  
**BESS**

Since Solbjørg Højfeldt graduated from Aalborg Theatre in 1977, she has appeared on stage and starred in several TV series and films. Notably, she has appeared in i.a. ZAPPA (1983), THE BOYS FROM SANKT PETRI (1991), Lars von Trier’s THE KINGDOM (1994-97), TAXI (1997-99), SOMMER (2008) and RIDE UPON THE STORM (2017). In 2010, Solbjørg was nominated for a Bodil Award for her role as Lise in the feature film THE BLESSING and has since starred in projects such as DITTE & LOUISE (2015-16), THE DAY WILL COME (2016) and RIDE UPON THE STORM (2017-20). Recent works include SUICIDE TOURIST (2018) and SOMMERDAHL (2020), as well as TV series GROW (2020) and THOSE WHO KILL (2020).

**LOCHLANN Ó MEARÁIN**  
**DENYS**

Lochlann Ó Mearáin is an acclaimed Irish actor. In 2021, Lochlann starred opposite Olivia Colman in the feature project JOYRIDE. Other screen credits include all four episodes of HOLDING (2022), the ITV series directed by Kathy Burke, THAT DIRTY BLACK BAG (2022), SMOTHER (2021) and JOYRIDE. His feature films include ROSIE (2018).

**JOHANNES KUHNKE**  
**BLIX**

Johannes Kuhnke is a Swedish actor, best known for his lead performance in feature film FORCE MAJEURE that won the 2014 Critics Choice Awards at Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for the 2015 Golden Globe for ‘Best Foreign Film’. In 2015, Johannes starred in his first UK feature film THE CHAMBER. Johannes is also known for his work on popular TV series, including THE BRIDGE (2018), THE RAIN (2018-20) and JÄGARNA (2018-21). Recent projects include DUNE DREAMS (2021), RED DOT (2021) and Netflix hit series LOVE AND ANARCHY (2020) and the Swedish feature film JAG KOMMER HEM IGEN TILL JUL (2019) for which Johannes was nominated as ‘Best Male Actor’ at the Swedish Film Academy Awards in 2020.







## KAROLINE LETH PRODUCER

Karoline Leth has produced lots of documentaries and some short films and feature films before she fell in love with and started to produce drama series.

Karoline Leth was the producer of the first two seasons of the series RITA (2012-13) for TV2 Denmark, a huge success at Netflix with remakes having been made in France as SAM (2016) and in Holland as TESSA (2015-16). RITA received the Monte Carlo Award for ‘Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series’ in 2012. Together with Dunja Gry, Leth developed the disruptive crime series NORSKOV (2015-17).

Karoline Leth has produced the multiple award-winning series THE LEGACY (2014-17) for DR (Danish Broadcasting Corporation). At DR, Leth produced the mini-series LIBERTY (2018), created by Asger Leth. LIBERTY was selected for and had its world premiere at the Berlinale Drama Series Days in 2018.

Leth’s latest work is the Canneseries world premiering drama series THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN.

## MARIE CECILIE GADE PRODUCER

Producer Marie Cecilie Gade has more than 25 years of experience within the film industry. For the last many years, Marie has developed projects and co-operations with international and local talents. Marie also holds a long track-record within financing of international co-productions and has been a key figure in many of Zentropa’s international features, serving both as producer and executive producer.

Some of Gade’s most recent credits include THE OTHER LAMB (2019), DARLING (2017), THE PURITY OF VENGEANCE (2018) and OUT STEALING HORSES (2019). Gade’s past producing credits include i.a. DEAR WENDY (2005) directed by Thomas Vinterberg and written by Lars von Trier, NYMPHOMANIAC (2013) by Lars von Trier, WE ARE THE BEST (2013) by Lukas Moodysson and Andrea Arnold’s multi award-winning and Cannes Jury Prize recipient, RED ROAD (2006), which she co-produced.

## CHARLOTTE HJORDT PRODUCER

Charlotte Hjordt graduated from the producer’s programme at the National Film School of Denmark in 2019. Prior to attending film school, Hjordt worked at Zentropa and as an assistant to Susanne Bier, where she worked on several international productions, including THE NIGHT MANAGER (2016) and SERENA (2014). In 2019, she returned to Zentropa and is currently producing her first feature film MADAME IDA.

THE DREAMER – BECOMING KAREN BLIXEN is Hjordt’s first drama series.



A group of people in formal attire (tuxedos and evening wear) are gathered in a dimly lit room, possibly a ballroom or a formal event space. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a sophisticated atmosphere. In the foreground, a woman with short, curly hair, wearing a white dress and a dark fur vest, looks towards the camera with a slight smile. She is holding a small object in her hands. To her left, a man in a tuxedo is looking towards the camera, and another man is partially visible behind him. To her right, a man in a tuxedo is looking away, and another man is partially visible behind him. In the background, other people are visible, some holding glasses, suggesting a social gathering.

## CAST

**CONNIE NIELSEN**  
**HANNE ULDAL**  
**JOACHIM FJELSTRUP**  
**LENE MARIA CHRISTENSEN**  
**LARS MIKKELSEN**  
**SOLBJØRG HØJFELDT**  
**LOCHLANN Ó MEARÁIN**  
**JOHANNES KUHNKE**

Karen  
Ingeborg  
Tommy  
Elle  
Knud  
Bess  
Denys  
Blix

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# C R E W

Creator **DUNJA GRY**

Director **JEANETTE NORDAHL**

Idea by **CONNIE NIELSEN & KAROLINE LETH**

Cinematographer **ASKE ALEXANDER FOSS**

Production Design **NIKOLAJ DANIELSEN**

Editors **NIKOLAJ MONBERG & RASMUS GITZ-JOHANSEN**

Sound Design **EDDIE SIMONSEN & KASPER JANUS RASMUSSEN**

Score **MARTIN DIRKOV & YVES GOURMEUR**

Costume Design **CATHERINE MARCHAND**

Make-up & Hair Design **SOILE LUDJOI**

Producers **MARIE CECILIE GADE, KAROLINE LETH & CHARLOTTE HJORDT**

Executive producers **MARLENE BILLIE ANDREASSEN, CAMILLA RYDBACKEN, FILIPPA WALLESTAM, CONNIE NIELSEN, ANDERS KJÆRHAUGE**

Co-producers **ALAIN-GILLES VIELLEVOYE, FABRICE DELVILLE, DYLAN VOOGT, MARCELLE DU TOIT**

# T H E D R E A M E R – B E C O M I N G K A R E N B L I X E N

Produced by

**ZENTROPA EPISODE**

Co-produced by

**BELGA PRODUCTIONS**

**STAGE 5 FILMS**

With support from

**PUBLIC SERVICE FUND**

**NORDISK FILM & TV FOND**

**THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**WALLIMAGE (LA WALLONIE)**

**BELGIAN TAX SHELTER SYSTEM OF THE BELGIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VIA BELGA FILMS FUND**

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# TECHNICAL DATA

Genre **DRAMA**

Spoken languages **DANISH & ENGLISH**

Country of Origin **DENMARK**

Year of Production **2022**

Production Company **ZENTROPA EPISODE, VIAPLAY**

Shooting format **ARRIRAW UHD 3840X2160**

Final format **UHD 3840X2160 – 2:1 BORDERS**

Duration **6 X 45 MINUTES**

Screen Ration **1:2**

Sound **WAV**

Budget Eur **9,8 MILLION**



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