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present

THE PROMISED LAND

A FILM BY NIKOLAJ ARCEL
WRITTEN BY ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN

STARRING: MADS MIKKELSEN, AMANDA COLLIN, SIMON BENNEBJERG,
MELINA HAGBERG, KRISTINE KUJATH THORP, GUSTAV LINDH

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

2023 | Denmark, Germany, Sweden | 127 minutes

Official Selection for Denmark - Best International Feature Film, Academy Awards

Official Selection

2023 Venice Film Festival – World Premiere
2023 Telluride Film Festival
2023 San Sebastian Film Festival
2023 Toronto International Film Festival
2023 AFI Fest

FINAL PRESS NOTES

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SYNOPSIS

In 18th century Denmark, Captain Ludvig Kahlen (Mads Mikkelsen) – a proud, ambitious, but impoverished war hero -- sets out to tame a vast, uninhabitable land on which seemingly nothing can grow. He seeks to start farming crops, build a colony in the name of the King, and gain a noble title for himself. This beautiful but forbidding area also happens to be under the rule of the merciless Frederik De Schinkel, a preening nobleman who realizes the threat Kahlen represents to his power. Struggling against the elements and local brigands, Kahlen is joined by a couple who have fled the clutches of the rapacious De Schinkel. As this group of misfits begins to build a small community in this inhospitable place, De Schinkel swears vengeance, and the confrontation between him and Kahlen promises to be as violent and intense as these two men.

LOGLINE

Captain Ludvig Kahlen sets out to tame an uninhabitable land and build a colony in the name of the King. Braving the elements, Kahlen is joined by a couple who has escaped the area's merciless ruler, igniting a conflict that threatens his life, and the family of outsiders that has formed around him.

DIRECTOR'S 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

BIOGRAPHIES

NIKOLAJ ARCEL – Screenwriter/Director

Arcel has written a large number of scripts including the adaptation of the first film in the highly acclaimed Millenniumtrilogy, “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 THE PROMISED LAND Director & Co-writer

2020 RIDERS OF JUSTICE Idea

2018 THE PURITY OF VENGEANCE Co-writer

2017 THE DARK TOWER Director & Co-writer

2016 A CONSPIRACY OF FAITH Co-writer

2014 THE ABSENT ONE Co-writer

2013 THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES Co-writer

2012 A ROYAL AFFAIR Director & Co-writer

2009 THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO Co-Writer

2007 ISLAND OF LOST SOULS Director & Co-writer

2004 KING’S GAME Director & Co-writer

2002 CATCH THAT GIRL Writer

... and more

ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN - Screenwriter

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

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 THE PROMISED LAND (Nikolaj Arcel)

2023 AGENT (TV series, 8 episodes) (Nikolaj Lie Kaas)

2022 THE KINGDOM EXODUS (TV, 5 Episodes) (Lars Von Trier)

2020 A TASTE OF HUNGER (Mr. Boe)

2018 THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT (Lars Von Trier)

2017 YOU DISAPPEAR (Peter Schønau Fog)

2014 NYMPHOMANIAC (Lars Von Trier)

2013 THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES (Mikkel Nørgaard)

2012 THE SECRET SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS (Anders Rønnow Klarlund)

2012 A ROYAL AFFAIR (Nikolaj Arcel)

2011 MELANCHOLIA (Lars Von Trier)

2011 I:DA (Christian E. Christiansen)

MADS MIKKELSON as 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 as 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 as EDEL HELENE

Selected filmography

SICK OF MYSELF 2022

THE GREAT SILENCE 2022

NINJABABY 2021

THE BURNING SEA 2021

... and more

SIMON BENNEBJERG as FREDERIK DE SCHINKEL

Selected filmography

THE PACT 2021

LOVER 2020-2021

WHEN THE DUST SETTLES 2020

THE GUILTY 2018

... and more

GUSTAV LINDH as ANTON EKLUND

Selected filmography

THE NORTHMAN 2022
THE DARK HEART 2022
RIDERS OF JUSTICE 2020
QUEEN OF HEARTS 2019
... and more

PRODUCTION CREDITS

DIRECTOR NIKOLAJ ARCEL

PRODUCER LOUISE VESTH

WRITTEN BY ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN & NIKOLAJ ARCEL

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

**CO-PRODUCERS FABIAN GASMIA, KATJA LEBEDJEW, LIZETTE JONJIC
& TINE MIKKELSEN**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RASMUS VIDEBÆK

EDITOR OLIVIER BUGGE COUTTÉ

POST PRODUCER CHARLOTTE BUCH

LINE PRODUCER MOUNS OVERGAARD

PRODUCTION DESIGNER JETTE LEHMANN

ART DIRECTOR JESPER CLAUSEN

SOUND DESIGNERS CLAUS LYNGE & HANS CHRISTIAN KOCK

COSTUME DESIGNER KICKI ILANDER

HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST SABINE SCHUMANN

CASTING DIRECTOR TANJA GRUNWALD

STARRING:

MADS MIKKELSEN - LUDVIG KAHLEN

AMANDA COLLIN - ANN BARBARA

SIMON BENNEBJERG - FREDERIK DE SCHINKEL

KRISTINE KUJATH THORP - EDEL HELENE

GUSTAV LINDH - ANTON EKLUND