



MAGNET RELEASING, BETA CINEMA presents
a SAGA FILM & SPLENDID FILM PRODUCTION

A MAGNET RELEASE

OPERATION NAPOLEON

Directed by
ÓSKAR ÞÓR AXELSSON

Adapted from the internationally best-selling novel by Iceland's master of crime
ARNALDUR INDRIDASON

Starring
IAIN GLEN
JACK FOX
VIVIAN ÓLAFSDÓTTIR
ÓLAFUR DARRI ÓLAFSSON
WOTAN WILKE MÖHRING

102 minutes / Iceland, Germany

FINAL PRESS NOTES

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LOGLINE

Icelandic lawyer Kristin gets drawn into the vortex of an international conspiracy when she receives footage of an airplane wreck, recently revealed by the melting of one of Iceland's largest glaciers. The old German World War II plane not only brings ruthless criminals onto the scene, but also CIA director William Carr, who has been secretly trying to remove the wreck for a long time. Kristin refuses to rest until the key has been discovered that will solve the riddle of *Operation Napoleon*.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Shortly before her brother disappears without a trace, Kristin, a young Icelandic lawyer, receives a video clip showing him near an old airplane wreck in the Icelandic ice. Before Kristin can fully grasp the meaning of these startling images, she finds herself unexpectedly drawn into the vortex of an international conspiracy. The wreckage turns out to be a German plane from World War II that has been missing for decades, and its cargo is apparently so explosive that it attracts not only unscrupulous criminals but also the attention of CIA Deputy Director William Carr and the cold-blooded German agent, Simon. Both attempt to eliminate Kristin as a supposed eyewitness. Despite being in grave danger, Kristin remains determined to find the wreck, driven by her concern for her brother, and to uncover the secret of the glacier grave. A highly dangerous undertaking, whose plot leads from modern Iceland to America and Nazi Germany at the end of World War II....

A gripping English-language thriller, based on the eponymous best-selling novel by Iceland's master of crime, Arnaldur Indridason. *Operation Napoleon* features a stellar cast, led by Icelandic newcomer Vivian Olafsdottir and Iain Glen, best known as Ser Jorah Mormont in *Game of Thrones*.

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THE CAST

IAIN GLEN as William Carr

Iain Glen is a Scottish actor, born June 24, 1961, in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is best known for his role as Dr. Alexander Isaacs in the *Resident Evil* film series and as Ser Jorah Mormont in *Game of Thrones*. He graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where he was the winner of the Bancroft Gold Medal. He rose to prominence in 1988 as a charismatic gang leader in *The Fear for Euston* films, followed by his multi-award-winning performance as imprisoned Scottish poet Larry Winters in *Silent Screams* in 1990. He was nominated in 1998 for an Olivier Award for his performance in *The Blue Room* opposite Nicole Kidman. He also received Olivier nominations for *Martin Guerre* (1996) and *The Crucible* (2006). Further stage credits include the title roles in *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Uncle Vanya* and *Henry V* at the Royal Shakespeare Company. In 2002, he starred with Emilia Fox in *The Soul Keeper* directed by Roberto Faenza. It was announced in 2009 that Glen would star as Ser Jorah Mormont in the HBO series *Game of Thrones*. Glen has appeared in all seasons and the show has gone on to win more Emmys than any prime time TV show in the history of the awards. In 2010, he featured in *The Time of Angels* and *Flesh and Stone*, a two-episode story which formed part of the fifth season of *Doctor Who*, and he appeared in the second series of *Downton Abbey*. From 2010 to the present Glen has played the title character in the celebrated Irish TV crime series *Jack Taylor*, adapted from the novels by Ken Bruen. In 2023 he starred alongside Rebecca Ferguson in the Apple TV+ Drama Series *Silo*. His latest project was the Amazon Prime Series *The Rig*, in which he played the leading role.

JACK FOX as Steve

JACK FOX is a British stage and screen actor who grew up in London and is part of the Fox Dynasty, the son of James Fox and nephew of Robert Fox and Edward Fox. He graduated with a degree in philosophy from Leeds University and has since gone on to star in the Oscar-nominated, BAFTA-winning feature *Theeb*, the Golden Globe-nominated National Geographic series *Genius* with Geoffrey Rush, and Johnny English starring Rowan Atkinson. His credits also include the critically acclaimed *Fresh Meat* (2011-13), *Mr. Selfridge* (2014) and *Dracula* (2013). He played a leading role in Sky Atlantic's *Riviera* (2019), which shattered records for their biggest debut series ever and was their most downloaded show in history with 20 million downloads, in which he starred alongside Will Arnett, Julia Styles, and Juliet Stevenson. He continues to play a lead role in Andrew Davies's ITV Masterpiece (PBS)-produced *Sanditon* opposite Theo James and Rose Williams (2019-today). Most recently he starred in BBC One's *Cheaters* (2022), while other

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VIVIAN ÓLAFSDÓTTIR as Kristin

Vivian Ólafsdóttir is the breakout star of *Operation Napoleon*. A graduate of the Icelandic Film School, she played a supporting role in *Cop Secret* (2021), directed by Hannes Thór Halldórsson, which premiered in official competition at the Locarno International Film Festival. In Elvar Gunnarsson's horror comedy *It Hatched* (2021), Vivian appeared in the leading role.

WOTAN WILKE MÖHRING as Simon

WOTAN WILKE MÖHRING was born in 1967 in Detmold, Germany. He is one of Germany's most popular actors. Internationally he is best known for his performances in Christian Alvar's *Antibodies* (2005), alongside Tom Cruise in *Valkyrie* (2008), and with Dennis Squad and Ben Foster in *Pandorum* (2009). In 2010 he played a serial killer in Baran Bo Odar's drama *The Silence*. His other credits include the German-Danish TV series *Sløborn* (2019/20), *Don't Get Out* (2017) and the Mythos Film/Constantin Film production *Caveman* (2021).

ÓLAFUR DARRI ÓLAFSSON as Einar

Ólafur Darri Ólafsson was born in Connecticut, USA in 1973. He has lived in Iceland for most of his life and works full time as an actor. He is very active in theater work as well as in films and is one of the founders of the Vesturport theater company, which has performed around the world. He has appeared in numerous outstanding international productions, including *Trapped*, *The Minister*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *True Detective* and *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*. In 2022 he played the cowboy killer Billy Nixon in the BBC hit-series *The Tourist* and took on a leading role in Elfar Adalsteins' multiple award-winning dramedy *Summerlight And Then Comes The Night*.

THE CREW

ÓSKAR ÞÓR AXELSSON, Director

Óskar Þór Axelsson is a native of Iceland and graduate of NYU's film program. His NYU graduation film *Misty Mountain* won three NYU Craft Awards including for directing and was nominated for a Student Academy Award. Óskar then wrote and directed his feature debut *Black's Game*, which premiered at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in 2012 and went on to become the second-highest grossing Icelandic movie in history. His next feature, *I Remember You*, was the no. 1 box office hit of 2017 in Icelandic cinemas. Óskar directed three episodes of the ZDF/BBC co-produced TV series *Trapped*, which premiered in 2016 to critical and commercial success. In 2019 he

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directed two episodes of *Trapped 2*. In 2017 Óskar directed the TV series *Stella Blómkvist*, which has been screened worldwide to great audience and critical acclaim. He served as the lead director of the TV series *Sanctuary* starring Josefin Asplund and Matthew Modine, and in 2020 directed three episodes of the third season of *Riviera* starring Julia Stiles, one of Sky Atlantic's most successful original series. In 2021 he directed the second season of *Stella Blómkvist*. Projects in development include the feature film *Falcons Forever*, a true story about the first Olympic gold medalists in ice hockey of Icelandic heritage, and *The Conspiracy*, which Óskar is co-writing with Mikael Torfason, partly based on a novel by Eiríkur Bergmann. In addition, he is working on *Fear*, an original TV series which he created, about two lost teenage souls who decide to become serial killers.

MARTEINN THÓRISSON, Screenplay

Originally hailing from Iceland, Marteinn Thórisson arrived in Ireland more than twenty years ago via Los Angeles and London. Based in Galway, Marteinn has been writing professionally for about the same amount of time, at first in animation, both for TV and film, then later in drama, mostly crime. Marteinn co-developed and wrote seven out of nine *Jack Taylor* TV movies, adapted from the novels of Ken Bruen and shot in and around Galway. Most recently Marteinn wrote the screenplays for four well-received installments of the long-running BBC crime drama *Silent Witness*. He is also active as a director, his drama *Backyard Village* premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival in 2021.

ARNALDUR INDRIDASON, Author of the original novel

Arnaldur Indriðason, born in 1961, has the rare distinction of having won the Nordic Crime Novel Prize for two years running. He is also the winner of the highly respected and world famous CWA Gold Dagger Award for the top crime novel of the year in the English language, *Silence Of the Grave*. Indriðason's novels have sold over 15 million copies worldwide in 41 languages and have received rave reviews all over the world. Indriðason is a historian and former journalist and film critic who specialized in writing about films and bestsellers and worked mainly for Morgunbladid, Iceland's largest newspaper, for 20 years. For his degree in history at the University of Iceland, his dissertation was on Icelandic films. Through his work, Indriðason has studied the narrative technique of films and bestsellers, including the methods used to maintain the reader's or viewer's interest throughout. When his first book was published in 1997, he was quoted on TV: "You learn a lot from bad movies – how one should not tell a story!"

Operation Napoleon was first published in 1999 by Forlagig Publishing, Iceland. After a huge national success, the novel sold to the US, UK, Australia, France and Germany among others, selling more than 16 million copies world-wide. In the US, *Operation*

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Napoleon great popularity, which peaked when it ranked among Publisher's Weekly's Top 10 Fiction Titles – Mysteries & Thrillers in 2011. In France and Germany as well, the novel ranked in the top bestseller lists for weeks, selling more than one million copies in Germany alone.

TINNA PROPPÉ, Producer

Tinna Proppé is an established producer who has worked in the film industry since 2009. In addition to film production, she has a background in book publishing. Tinna's work includes titles such as *Mamma Gógó*, *Legends of Valhalla – Thor and Pity the Lovers*, and her latest projects are the NBC Universal series *Sisterhood* as well as the Icelandic drama series *The Minister* and *Stella Blomkvist*.

HILMAR SIGURÐSSON, Producer

Hilmar Sigurðsson was CEO of Sagafilm until 2023. He has a long-standing experience in management and production in the creative industries. He is the producer of the two largest films ever made in Iceland, both animated pictures that enjoyed great international success as the country's largest-ever WWII box office films. Since taking the helm at Sagafilm in 2017, he has served as Executive Producer on Sagafilm's recent successful ventures like *The Minister*, *Thin Ice*, *The Falcons* and *Stella Blomkvist*.

DIRK SCHWEITZER, Producer

Dr. Dirk Schweitzer has been a member of the Executive Board of Splendid Medien AG since January 2020 and Managing Director of Splendid Film GmbH since April 2013. After completing his studies and doctorate, Dr. Schweitzer worked for the Endemol Group. Subsequently, he worked for the RTL Group for more than 10 years, including as Head of Program Acquisition and Sales at RTL Television in Cologne and as Head of Corporate Development at CLT-UFA International in Luxembourg. Immediately before joining the Splendid Group, Dr. Schweitzer served as Managing Director of the Tele München Group.

ANITA ELSANI, Producer

Anita Elsani is a German film producer based in Cologne. She studied film production at the University of California, Los Angeles and started working as an executive producer at Wüste Film West, where Fatih Akin's *Solino* was one of her first projects. After running her own production company in Berlin, she founded Elsani & Neary in Cologne. She produced *The Last Mentsch* (2015) starring Mario Adorf, the Bille August film *55 Steps* (2017) starring Hilary Swank and Helena Bonham Carter and was associate producer of Jonas Baeckland's *Cool Abdoul*, a gripping boxing drama that premiered at TIFF in 2021.



RALPH CHRISTIANS, Executive Producer

Ralph Christians, born in West Germany, studied social science and journalism in the 70s and worked as an editor and reporter for newspaper, radio and a satirical magazine. He joined the film industry in the 80s and produced investigative documentaries for public broadcasters in Germany and the Nordic countries as well as live action TV movies and feature films. Ralph set up his independent productions in Iceland, Ireland and Germany and worked for more than 30 years as a producer, creator, writer and executive producer in TV series and live action and animation movies. He also produced the *Jack Taylor* Irish crime series.

KJARTAN THÓR THÓRDARSON, Executive Producer

Owner and CEO of Sagafilm Nordic. With over 30 films, shorts and scripted series on his list of credits in the past 20 years, Kjartan is one of Scandinavia's most prolific producers. His track record includes *Dead Snow 2: Red vs. Dead*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2014, *Thin Ice*, *Cold Courage*, *The Minister*, *Stella Blómkvist* (a Viaplay original series), *Case* (a Netflix original series) and *The Falcons*.

About SAGAFILM

Sagafilm is Iceland's leading independent production company for TV, feature films and documentaries with over 40 years of experience. Recent projects include the crime drama series *Sisterhood* (Sky Studios, Viaplay and NBCUniversal Global Distribution), the second season of *Stella Blómkvist* (Red Arrow International Studios), political drama *The Minister* (Cineflix Rights), environmental thriller *Thin Ice* (in co-production with Yellow Bird), drama series *The Flatey Enigma* (Sky Vision), *Stella Blómkvist* (Viaplay original series), and *Case* (Netflix original series). Sagafilm has also produced the feature films *Wolka* (2021, an Icelandic-Polish co-production), *The Falcons* (2018), *Mr. Bjarnfredarson*, *Cold Trail*, and *Fish Out of Water*, and co-produced *Dead Snow: Red vs. Dead* and *Nova Zembla*.

About SPLENDID FILM

Splendid Film GmbH is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Splendid Medien AG. Splendid Medien AG, based in Cologne, is a medium-sized, integrated media group that primarily operates in German-speaking Europe and the Benelux countries. The group markets films and entertainment programs in the cinema, home entertainment and TV / SVoD, produces TV programs and movies and provides a wide range of services for the film and television industry with a focus on digitization and synchronization.

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CAST & CREW LIST // TECHNICAL DETAILS

Iceland, Germany 2023 // Thriller // English, Icelandic // 102 Minutes

Cast

William Carr	IAIN GLEN
Steve Rush	JACK FOX
Kristin	VIVIAN ÓLAFSDÓTTIR
Einar	ÓLAFUR DARRI ÓLAFSSON
Simon	WOTAN WILKE MÖHRING
Doris Jones	ELISABETH CLARKE HASTERS
Ambassador Russell	KATHLEEN A. RENISH
Johannes	ÞRÖSTUR LEÓ GUNNARSSON
Leo Stiller's widow	ANNETTE BADLAND
Rebecca Morgan	SABINE CROSSEN
Rosa	NANNA KRISTÍN MAGNÚSDÓTTIR
Julie Ratoff	ADELE ONI

Crew

Director	ÓSKAR ÞÓR AXELSSON
Screenplay	MARTEINN THÓRISSON
Based on the novel by	ARNALDUR INDRIDASON
Director of Photography	ÁRNI FILIPPUSSON
Production Designer	HEIMIR SVERRISSON
Music	FRANK HALL
Costume Designer	SYLVÍA DÖGG HALLDÓRSDÓTTIR
Makeup Designer	CARMEN BOTERMANN
Editors	GUNNAR BJARNI GUÐBJÖRNSSON & KRISTJÁN LOÐMFJÖRÐ
Sound Designer	NICOLAS LIEBING & SINDRI ÞÓR KÁRASON
Producers	TINNA PROPPÉ, HILMAR SIGURÐSSON, ANITA ELSANI, DIRK SCHWEITZER
Executive Producers	KJARTAN THOR THORDARSSON, RALPH CHRISTIANS, AÐALSTEINN JÓHANNSSON

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Co Producers

JENS WOLF and NESHE DEMIR (MMC Fiction),
DORIS SCHRENNER (ZDF)

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