AUTUMN 2019 LINE-UP EDITION TWENTY ONE

## MARIA'S PARADISE by zaida bergroth

CAPTAIN BIMSE KIRSTEN SKYTTE & THOMAS BORCH NIELSEN

> H IS FOR HAPPINESS BY JOHN SHEEDY

PHOTOGRAPHER OF WAR BY BORIS B. BERTRAM



MARIA'S PARADISE ARTHOUSE DRAMA / 110 MIN / FI /2019



CAPTAIN BIMSE FAMILY / 75 MIN / DK /2019

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H IS FOR HAPPINESS FAMILY / 97 MIN / 2019



10 PHOTOGRAPHER OF WAR DOCUMENTARY / 78 MIN / 2019



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#### WHERE TO FIND US

LEVELK IN TORONTO: SEPTEMBER 5-10 The Scandinavian Stand in Hyatt Industry Office. Attending: Lauren Valmadre LEVELK AT BUSAN ASIAN FILM MARKET: OCTOBER 5-8. European Film Promotion stand, BEXCO. Attending: Debra Liang. LEVELK AT MIPCOM: OCTOBER 13-15 Creative Europe MEDIA Umbrella stand, 4th floor Palais (P4.B1) Attending: Lauren Valmadre

#### TIFF SCREENINGS

MARIA'S PARADISE Friday, September 6, 12:30 PM at Scotiabank 7 (Press & Industry) Friday, September 6, 9:15 PM at Scotiabank 13 (Public – World Premiere) Sunday, September 8, 5:00 PM at Scotiabank 8 (Public) Wednesday, September 11, 12:00 PM at Scotiabank 8 (Press & Industry) Sunday, September 15, 6:00 PM at Scotiabank 9 (Public)

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Happiness is inside all of us. You just have to find it.

# is for Eappiness

#### A film by JOHN SHEEDY

Based on the award winning book by BARRY JONSBERG "My Life As An Alphabe

SCREEN AUSTRALIA NO CTAN FILMS & THE KOOP A ASSISTENT TO THE WEST AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL FILM FUND. VELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREN BEE FUND. FILM PLOTONIA WONNIERSAL PLOTOSE PREN A John Sheedy Film "His for happingst" richard Roburg en war and been and the state of th

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inland, 1920's. The charismatic preacher Maria Åkerblom leads her devout followers to Helsinki, among them is the adoring Salome. When Salome befriends local street girl Malin, her world views are challenged and she is torn between the promise of newfound freedom and Maria's dangerous all-consuming love. The film is based on true events.



"Maria's Paradise is an intense story of love, its dangers and its power. My goal was to make a film that is exciting and gripping, that both fascinates and moves. I wanted to play with the fairytale-like elements, including the horror lurking beneath – the light and beauty of summer, but also the dark secrets found behind closed doors."

DIRECTOR ZAIDA BERGROTH



MARIA'S PARADISE / ARTHOUSE DRAMA / 110 MIN / FINLAND / 2019 Directed by Zaida Bergroth. Produced by Daniel Kuitunen & Kaisla Viitala for Komeetta Films. Cast: Pibla Viitala, Satu Tuuli Karbu, Saga Sarkola & Tommi Korpela. Budget: €1.7m. Domestic release: October 4th 2019 by Nordisk Film.

# OFFICIAL SELECTION MARIA'S PARADISE





# CAPTAIN BIMSE

"We wanted to create a poetic adventure in a magic and whimsical world, where borders between fantasy and reality are evaporated. The result is a visually groundbreaking movie with lots of humor for both kids and adults and a universe that you will want to move in to."



ased on one of the most beloved Danish kids' books of all time, "Captain Bimse" tells the story of 7-year-old Anna who finds herself on board an imaginary airplane led by the enigmatic Captain Bimse. From here, a magical and highly surprising adventure unfolds.

CAPTAIN BIMSE / FAMILY / 75 MIN / DENMARK /2019 Directed by Thomas Borch Nielsen & Kirsten Skytte. Produced by 41Shadows Productions. Cast: Peter Frödin, Jesper Asholt & Sidse Babett Knudsen. Budget: €2.1m. Domestic release: June 27th 2019 by UIP.

# IS FOR HAPPINESS









"I have always admired films such as Little Miss Sunshine, Pretty in Pink, Muriel's Wedding and most Wes Anderson films. It is the influence of these filmmakers and styles that helped create a truly unique film full of quirks, pathos and humour."

DIRECTOR JOHN SHEEDY

andice Phee is a twelve year old girl with boundless optimism and a unique view of the world. With the help of the strange new kid at school and a shetland pony, Candice turns a school assignment into a personal project to bring her broken family back together in this heartwarming and hilarious tale.

H IS FOR HAPPINESS / FAMILY / 97 MIN / AUSTRALIA / 2019 Directed by John Sheedy. Produced by Julie Ryan, Tenille Kennedy & Lisa Hoppe for Cyan Films. Cast: Richard Roxburgh, Miriam Margolyes, Daisy Axon, Emma Booth. Budget: \$4m. Domestic release: 2020 TBC by Universal.

# PHOTOGRAPHER OFWAR





W

hen his ex-wife is suddenly diagnosed with cancer, world-renowned war photographer Jan Grarup finds himself torn between his career and his family life. For more than 25 years, Grarup has captured powerful images from the world's most dangerous conflict zones, constantly putting his life at risk. But now, as the main caretaker of his four children, Grarup's life and his photography is facing a new reality.

"It has been my ambition to do a novel-like portrait of a human being, who moves through some of the biggest humanitarian crisis of our time. Jan Grarup has an eye for the single human in the midst of misery, a special light, an urge to tell the stories of landscapes that are difficult to access."

DIRECTOR BORIS B. BERTRAM



PHOTOGRAPHER OF WAR / DOCUMENTARY / 78 MIN / DENMARK 2019 Directed by Boris B. Bertram. Produced by Katrine A. Sablstrøm for Good Company Pictures. Budget: €0.4m. Domestic release: September 19th 2019 by Camera Film.



# BELLBIRD

"An assured feature debut in which viewers discover the gentle joys of an understated drama with an open heart and a lithe sense of humour."

SCREEN





et over four seasons on a humble Northland dairy farm, Bellbird is the story of a dairy farmer struggling to cope with the sudden death of his beloved wife, and the gradual bond he builds with his gentle only son and the local community. BESTACTING FILMFEST MUNCHEN 2019











"Ilker Çatak (writer and director) takes a familiar Green Card-style premise and invests it with a sensitivity to people and issues that cuts deeper than anticipated (...)The strengths of Çatak's mature, unshowy approach lie in the small details and textures of the storytelling."

SCREEN

I WAS, I AM, I WILL BE / DRAMA / 122 MIN / GERMANY/FRANCE / 2019 Directed by Ilker Çatak. Produced by Ingo Fliess for if... Productions. I by Transmission Films. Cast: Anne Ratte-Polle, O ulcan Arman Uslu, Godebard Giese & Jörg Schüttauf. Budget: €2.7m. Domestic release: August 1st 2019 by X Verleib.

BELLBIRD / DRAMA / 95 MIN / NEW ZEALAND / 2019 Directed by Hamish Bennett. Produced by Orlando Stewart & Catherine Fitzgerald for Herringbone Productions. Cast: Marsball Napier, Annie Whittle, Coben Holloway & Rachel House. Budget: \$1.1m. Domestic release: September 7 2019 by Transmission Films.

# FAT FRONT



at Front" is the latest revolution promoting body positivity, challenging traditional beauty standards and fostering inclusivity. Here, we meet four Scandinavian women leading the charge and freeing themselves from the guilt and shame society has taught them to feel from being fat.

"A rebellion against the suppressing body standards is happening right now. They call themselves body positive activists and they all have one thing in common: despite all the pain they are carrying from a lifetime of being fat, they all fight for their right to live, move and love their body just the way it is. This feminist rebellion and a universal belief that all people have the same value, is the fuel of this film. It is our ambition with this film to join the fight and make a tribute to the natural body - both artistically and politically."

DIRECTOR LOUISE DETLEFSEN

FAT FRONT / DOCUMENTARY / 85 MIN / DENMARK / 2019 Directed by Louise Detlefsen and Louise Unmack Kjeldsen. Produced by Malene Flindt Pedersen for Hansen & Pedersen Film og Fjernsyn. Budget: €0.9m. Domestic release: Oktober 3 2019 by LevelK.



# THE EXCEPTION

"I am very excited about working with such strong and talented actresses in a story about human beings and the darkest corners of their minds. Together, we entered a fascinating universe of women consisting of extremely interesting and complex characters that not only lie to each other, but also to themselves. An unfortunate mixture that allows evil to reign."

DIRECTOR JESPER W. NIELSEN



ben and Malene work in a small non-profit NGO in Copenhagen, that specializes in genocide and crimes against humanity. When the women begin to receive death threats at the office, they initially assume it's from a Serbian war criminal they recently profiled. But as tensions mount amongst the women, their suspicions start to turn on each other.

THE EXCEPTION / PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER / 110 MIN / DENMARK / 2019 Directed by Jesper W. Nielsen. Produced by Marcella L. Dichmann, Mille Bjørke & Miriam Nørgaard for Fridthjof Film. Cast: Sidse Babett Knudsen, Danica Curcic, Amanda Collin, Lene Maria Christensen. Budget: €3.6m. Domestic release: April 30th 2020 by SF Studios



#### LGBTQ, DRAMA / 93 MIN / FI / 2019

Based on Sofi Oksanen's novel, "Baby Jane" tells the story of Jonna, a small-town girl who moves to Helsinki to study. Here, she meets Piki, a young woman whose self-confidence and promiscious behaviour wraps Jonna into an equally passionate and difficult relationship.

Directed by Katja Gauriloff. Produced by Joonas Bergbäll & Satu Majava for Oktober Film. Cast: Maria Ylipää, Roosa Söderholm & Lauri Tilkanen.



#### ONE LAST DEAL

DRAMA / 95 MIN / FI / 2018 An elderly art dealer on the verge of retirement is triggered by an unmarked painting, which he believes could be worth millions. Director: Klaus Härö. Cast: Heikki

Nousiainen, Amos Brotherus & Pirjo Lonka.



#### CELESTE

DRAMA / 98 MIN / AUS / 2018 Ten years after the tragic death of her husband, retired opera singer Celeste prepares for one final performance.

Directed by Ben Hackworth. Cast: Radha Mitchell, Thomas Cocquerel



Chinese pet industry with a breeding center for St. Bernards. Director: Mads Brügger. Cast: Frederik Cilius & Rasmus Bruun

#### HEAVY TRIP

COMEDY / 90 MIN / FI / 2018 Turo is trying to overcome his fears by leading his completely unknown band to the hottest metal festival in Norway. Directors: Juuso Laatio & Jukka Vidgren. Cast: Johannes Holopainen, Minka Kuustonen & Ville Tiihonen.



A journalist is trapped in a Danish Metro construction with two Croatians. How will they survive?

Director: Rasmus Kloster Bro. Cast: Christine Sønderris, Samson Semere Russom & Kresimir Mikic





IN FOCUS...

**STANDING UP** 

ROMANTIC COMEDY / 99 MIN / AUS / 2019

When Travis, a self-isolated recluse with low grade

Sunny, his mundane life is turned upside down. Travis

finds himself thrust into the world of stand-up comedy,

cerebral palsy, meets the shy aspiring comedienne

in love and completely out of his comfort zone.

Produced by Jamie Hilton, Michael Pontin & Drew

Cast: RJ Mitte, Philippa Northeast & Italia Hunt.

ALL MUST DIE

**FOR SUNNY** 

Directed by Steven Vidler.

**Bailey for See Pictures.** 



Uffe, a self-appointed almighty God with a mild dependency on alcohol, rules the roost over an uncoventual Danish family. Director: Henrik Ruben Genz Cast: Søren Malling, Lisa Nilsson & Marcus Sebastian Gert

#### WORD OF GOD





At a remote cottage in the woods, four high school friends get snowed in and must fight both internal and external threats. Director: Dennis Bots. Cast: Romy Gevers, Abby Hoes, Olivia Lonsdale & Holly Mae Brood.



#### HAUNTED

VICIOUS

THRILLER / 82 MIN / NO / 2017 Catherine travels to her abandoned family estate to facilitate a sale. She confronts her family's past when locals tell strange stories. Director: Carl Christian Raabe Cast: Macody Lund, Ken Vedsegaard



DANCE DRAMA / 84 MIN / SE / 2018 After a tragic car accident that leaves a swing dancer in a coma, her husband finally decides to learn how to dance as a way to reconnect with her. Director: Rikard Svensson Cast: Rikard Svensson, Anna Sise





FAMILY / 97 MIN / DK / 2019

13-year-old gifted hacker Benjamin discovers that his mother didn't die in an accident as he was led to believe. Together with his friend Savannah, Benjamin sets out on an intense hunt for the hidden truth, which points to high-ranking officials in the Danish Secret Service

Directed by Poul Berg. Produced by Signe Leick Jensen & Morten Kaufmann for Toolbox Film. Cast: Rumle Kærså, Josephine Chavarria Højbjerg & Mille Dinesen.

#### THE GI AN Tw to I Sun Sun

#### THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF THE GIANT PEAR

ANIMATION / 80 MIN / DK / 2017 Two friends must embark on a great journey to help save the missing Mayor of Sunnytown and bring him home. Directed by Philip Einstein Lipski, Jørgen Lerdam, Amalie Næsby Fick & Thorbjorn Christoffersen



#### THE FALCONS

FAMILY / 90 MIN / IS / 2018 10-year-old Jon goes with his soccer team to compete in a prestigious tournament and wil have to grow up faster than he expected. *Director: Bragi Thor Hinriksson. Cast: Lúkas Emil Johansen, Róbert Luu, Ísey Heidarsdóttir & Viktor Benóný Benediktsson.* 



#### THE BOBOT

BINTI

FAMILY / 90 MIN / BEL, NL / 2019

father faces deportation.

LAND OF GLASS

FAMILY / 88 MIN / DK / 2018

13-year-old Jas finds a girl & an old lady

to overcome sinister forces in the woods.

hiding in his barn. Together, they will have

Directed by Jeppe Vig Find & Marie D. Rønn

Cast: Albert Rudbeck Lindhardt, Esben Dal-

gaard Andersen & Signe Egholm Olsen

Joke Devynck.

Director: Frederikke Migom. Cast: Bebel Tshiani Baloji, Baloji &

Twelve-year-old refugee Binti is forced to

come up with a brave plan when she and her

FAMILY SCI-FI / 95 MIN / UKRANIE / 2018 12-year-old dreamer Vlad gets caught in a conflict between two alien forces. Together with a scientist he has to save the world. *Director: Max Ksjonda Cast: Vladimir Rashuk, Viktor Grigoriev, Arsen - Shavlyuk & Ivanna Borodai.* 



#### IN FOCUS...

## CHECKERED NINJA

ANIMATION / 80 MIN / DK / 2018

When seventh-grader Alex receives a checkered Ninja toy from his uncle Stewart after a trip to Thailand, he soon finds out that the toy is alive and can help him with his problems at school. But the checkered Ninja has ulterior motives, and soon, Alex is faced with an ultimatum.

Directed by Thorbjørn Christoffersen & Anders Matthesen. Produced by Trine Heidegaard for Pop Up Production & Anders Mastrup for A Film Production.



IN FOCUS...

One night in Finnish Lapland, a commitment-phobic party animal, Aurora, meets an Iranian refugee. Darian needs to marry a Finnish woman to gain asylum for himself and his daughter, so he asks her for help. The two grow close during the process but when the perfect candidate comes along, they are faced with a difficult choice: pretend to be happy or to finally stop running.

Directed by Miia Tervo. Produced by Max Malka for Dionysos Films. Cast: Mimosa Willamo, Amir Escandari, Oona Airola.





### SCANDINAVIAN STAR

DOCUMENTARY SERIES / 6 X 60 MIN / DK / 2020

In six episodes, Scandinavian Star delves into one of the largest unsolved crimes in recent Scandinavian history: The catastrophic fire on board the car and passenger ferry MS Scandinavian Star in 1990, in which 159 people were killed.

Directed by Mikala Krogb Produced by Sigrid Jonsson Dyekjær for Danisb Documentary Production & Thomas Heinesen Domestic release: Spring 2020





Directed by Tomáš Polenský. Produced by 8Heads Productions and Ego Media. Cast: Ji í Vyorálek, Armands Pu e & Tomáš Polenský. Domestic release: 2020 by Bontonfilm.



#### IN FOCUS...

## BREEDER

HORROR / TBC / DK / 2020

An experiment involving biohacking traps a young couple in a dangerous and disorienting situation. In nightmarish ways, the experiment questions basic human behavior by asking: How far will we go to stay young forever?

#### Directed by Jens Dabl.

Produced by Maria Møller Christoffersen & Amalie Lyngbo Quist for Beo Starling. Domestic release: Fall 2020 by LevelK & Blockbuster. Shooting starting in September. Script available.



#### IN FOCUS...

## LONE WOLF

POLITICAL THRILLER / 98 MIN / AUS / 2020

Starring Hugo Weaving ("The Matrix", "V for Vendetta"), "Lone Wolf" tackles themes of fanaticism and terrorism and tells of people whose lives are affected by a planned terror attack on the Sydney Opera House.

Directed by Jonathan Ogilvie. Produced by Mat Govoni for Future Pictures. Cast: Hugo Weaving and Tilda Cobham-Hervey Domestic release: 2020 by Label Distribution

## Peter Frödin · Jesper Asholt · Sidse Babett Knudsen · Nanna Marqvorsen

**A FILM BY KIRSTEN SKYTTE & THOMAS BORCH NIELSEN** 

FROM BJARNE REUTER'S "CAPTAIN BIMSE & THE GOGGELET"

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NICE

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#### THE ANGEL WILL GUIDE US

#### INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

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