

THE FIVE OBSTRUCTIONS

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Jørgen Leth, Lars von Trier, Denmark, 2003

92 min. | DK/Documentary



Together with Danish documentary film veteran Jørgen Leth, Lars von Trier enters the world of documentary filmmaking and takes on the task of challenging conventional ways of documentary and film production. In 1967 Jørgen Leth made a 13 min. short film called »The Perfect Human«, a document on human behaviour. In the year 2000, Trier challenged Leth to make five remakes of this film. Trier put forward obstructions, constraining Leth to re-think the story and the characters of the original film. Playing the naive anthropologist, Leth attempts to embrace the cunning challenges set forth by the devious and sneaky Trier and must deal with the limitations, commands and prohibitions. It is a game full of traps and vicious turns. »The Five Obstructions« is an investigative journey into the phenomenon of filmmaking.

World Premiere at Venezia Festival D'Arte Cinematografica 2003. Selected for special programme, IDFA Amsterdam; Toronto International Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival. Nominated for European Film Academy Awards and Oscar Foreign Language Film Award. Won Best Documentary at Durban International Film Festival; Gold Dok of the Year at Gulddok; Grand Prix at Odense International Film Festival and FIPRESCI Jury Prize at Zagreb Motovun Film Festival.

Basic information

Credits

Festivals & awards

Materials

Original title	De fem benspænd
Danish title	De fem benspænd
Other titles	De 5 benspænd, The five obstructions
Keywords	Leth, Jørgen, Film Production, Trier, Lars von, Film Aesthetics, Film Directors
Director	Jørgen Leth , Lars von Trier
Screenplay	Jørgen Leth , Lars von Trier , Asger Leth
Based on	Baseret på filmen "Det perfekte menneske" fra 1968 af Jørgen Leth.
Producer	Carsten Holst
Director of Photography	Dan Holmberg
Editor	Camilla Skousen , Morten Højbjerg
Sound	Hans Møller
Appearances	Claus Nissen , Majken Algren Nielsen , Jørgen Leth , Lars von Trier
Production country	Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, France
Production companies	Zentropa Real , Wajnbrose Productions , Almaz Film Productions , Panic Productions
Finance	an European coproduction supported by Eurimages
Domestic distribution	Nordisk Film Biografdistribution
International sales	TrustNordisk / Filmbyen 22 / 2650 Hvidovre / t +45 3686 8788 / f +45 3677 4448 / info@trustnordisk.com / www.trustnordisk.com
Festival information	Danish Film Institute
Technical info	2503 meter, 35 mm, color, Dolby SR
Danish festival release	07.11.2003, Grand, vist som åbningsgalla (og i konkurrencen) ved CPH:DOX [Copenhagen International Documentary Festival] 2003
Danish theatrical release	21.11.2003

Cinemas	Grand, Café Biografen (Odense), Cafe Biografen (Fakse), Øst for Paradis (Århus), Empire
Find more	Variety Vol CCCXCII, nr 6 (Sept 22, 2003); p 28
DFI subsidy	Konsulentstøtte
Danish rating	Allowed for all

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