



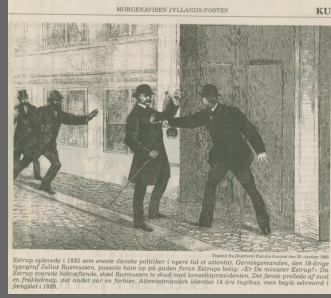
Person

OLE OLSEN

(1863 – 1943)

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Producer. Born 5 May 1863, died aged 80 on 5 October 1943. Founder of Nordisk Films Kompagni.

Ole Olsen was born in extreme poverty in a small farmhouse in Starreklinte in West Zealand, Denmark. After repeatedly running away from home, he was sent to Flakkebjerg Upbringing Institution. In his younger years, Olsen lived off various small jobs. He occasionally ended up in bad company, which came to cost him a few days in jail for being a con artist. It was only upon becoming a merchant that Olsen began to see progress. Markets, animal shows, and town festivals became his line of work. He toured Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Germany with “Karavananen” – a tribe of real, wild Africans. It was a huge success. In 1896 he became director of a newly started Tivoli in Malmö, where worked until 1901. It was here that he made his first foray into showing live pictures.

Back in Copenhagen, he opened the Biograf-Theatret cinema at Vimmelskaftet 47 in 1905. The following year, Olsen bought an allotment garden plot in Valby Mose and in 1906 established Nordisk Films Kompagni, which quickly became one of the world’s leading film companies. Just four years after its founding, Nordisk Film had departments in a number of major cities including Vienna, London, Berlin, Paris, and New York, as well as sales agents around the globe. Ole Olsen was at the forefront of the golden age of Danish film in the first half of the 1910s, and helped to turn Valdemar Psilander, Clara Pontoppidan, Betty Nansen, and Gunnar Tolnæs, among others, into international stars.

World War I closed the Danish film industry’s export markets. Most companies had to lock the door, and when Germany nationalised the country’s film industry, Nordisk Film was forced to relinquish all its interests there and lost huge sums of money. In 1922, Ole Olsen had to leave his post as CEO, and two years later he was bought out of the company. He spent the rest of his life on building a large collection of handicrafts such as porcelain, pottery, and silverware, for example.

Filmography

Title	^Year	^Function	^Category
The Lammefjord damming	1946	Appearance	Non-fiction footage
The President of Nordisk Film gives a speech	1936	Appearance	Non-fiction footage
Writer's meeting	1919	Appearance	Non-fiction footage
A Friend of the People	1918	Script	DK/Feature
A Trip to Mars	1918	Script	DK/Feature
Peace On Earth	1917	Script	DK/Feature
At the Sea Shore	1909	Direction, Cinematography	DK/Short fiction
Isbjørnejagt	1907	Appearance	DK/Short fiction
Bonden i København	1906	Direction	DK/Short fiction
Kong Haakons Kroning i Trondhjem	1906	Direction, Cinematography	Non-fiction footage
Kong Christian IX's Bisættelse	1906	Direction	Non-fiction footage
Proklamationen af Kong Frederik VIII	1906	Direction	Non-fiction footage
A Fisherman's Life in Scandinavia	1906	Cinematography	DK/Short fiction
Caros Død	1906	Cinematography	DK/Short fiction



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