



Person

HENNING CARLSEN

(1927 – 2014)

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Director. Born 4 June 1927, died 30 May 2014, aged 86.

Henning Carlsen grew up in Aalborg, in a conservative middle-class home, and became connected to the Resistance in 1943. After some tumultuous school years that ended short of a high-school diploma, he was gripped by cinema, apprenticing at Minerva Film. He stayed there from 1948-53, working in documentaries and instructional films, with Theodor Christensen as his master.

From 1954-57 he was at Nordisk Film Junior (interrupted by a six-month study trip to Paris in 1955). He had a small breakthrough with "The Bicyclist" (1957), the fanciful tale of a bicycle that has a mind of its own. In 1961 he attracted attention with his documentaries "Limfjorden" (Da. title) and, especially, "Old People." The latter was the first film in an interview-based, cinéma vérité-inspired trilogy about Danish living habits and attitudes and was followed by "Family Pictures" (1964) and "Youth" (1965).

Carlsen made his debut as a feature-film director in 1962 with the South Africa "A World of Strangers" (1962), freely adapting the Nadine Gordimer novel from 1958. Exposing the apartheid of its day, the film was illegally shot, whenever possible with a hidden camera. After going to Sweden to direct "The Cats" (1965), a compressed drama about women, Carlsen had his international breakthrough in 1966 with his intense adaptation of the Norwegian author Knut Hamsun's classic novel "Hunger" (1966). This Danish-Swedish-Norwegian co-production attracted a lot of attention at the Cannes Festival, while Per Oscarsson in the lead won the award for best male actor.

Ever since, "Hunger" has cemented its reputation as a central work in Danish film history. The American writer Paul Auster, for one, has called it the best literary adaptation he ever saw.

Following another two adaptations of novels, Carlsen switched gears with "Oh, to Be on the Bandwagon!" (1971), an everyday drama about some very Danish daydreamers that was a hit with audiences and critics. The French-Danish co-production "A Happy Divorce" (1975), a Chabrol-inspired psychological drama with a French cast, screened at Cannes, while "Did Somebody Laugh?" (1978), about a young unemployed man in the 1930s, saw Carlsen returning to a more familiar Danish setting.

Carlsen's most striking later works are "The Wolf at the Door" (1986), a lavish Danish-French film starring Donald Sutherland as the painter Paul Gauguin; the critically acclaimed "Two Green Feathers" (1995), another Knut Hamsun adaptation; and "Memories of My Melancholy Whores" (2012), a controversial adaptation of Gabriel Garcia Márquez's that was shot in Mexico.

Filmography

Title	^Year	^Function	^Category
Angrebet på Shellhuset	2013	Appearance	DK/Documentary
Memories of my melancholy whores	2012	Direction, Script, Producer	Feature
Promise	2010	Direction	DK/Short fiction

Historien bag kameraet Title	2006 Year	Appearance Function	TV documentary Category
The Leap	2005	Direction, Script, Production	DK/Feature
Noget om de praktiserende læger i Danmark	2003	Direction, Script, Editing	DK/Documentary
Noget om det danske sygehusvæsen	2001	Direction, Script, Cinematography	DK/Documentary
Portrættet	2000	Direction	DK/Documentary
I Wonder Who's Kissing You Now?	1998	Direction, Script, Editing, Production	DK/Feature
Gensyn med Johannesburg	1996	Appearance	DK/Documentary
Two Green Feathers	1995	Direction, Script	Feature
Twice upon a time	1990	Editing supervisor	Feature
The Wolf at the Door	1986	Direction, Script, Producer	DK/Feature
Dagbog fra den spanske borgerkrig	1986	Script	DK/Documentary
Elise	1985	Consultant: post-production	DK/Feature
Cross My Heart	1982	Direction, Script	DK/Feature
Arven	1979	Editing	Feature
Did Somebody Laugh?	1978	Direction, Script, Editing	DK/Feature
When Svante Disappeared	1975	Direction, Script, Production	DK/Feature
A Happy Divorce	1975	Direction, Script, Production	DK/Feature
In Daddy's Pocket	1973	Production	DK/Feature
Man sku' være noget ved musikken	1972	Direction, Script, Production, Editing	DK/Feature
Historiebogen 2: I daggryet trodses alle farer	1972	Editing, Sound	DK/Documentary
Are You Afraid?	1971	Direction, Script, Appearance, Executive producer	DK/Feature
We Are All Demons	1969	Direction, Script	DK/Feature
What happened to power?	1969	Direction, Script, Producer	DK/Documentary
Albert Dam - a Danish author	1969	Expert	DK/Documentary
Fugls føde	1968	Supervisor	DK/Short fiction
Havnsø	1968	Supervisor	DK/Short fiction
People Meet and Sweet Music Fills the Heart	1967	Direction, Production, Editing, Screenplay	DK/Feature
Brevet	1967	Supervisor	DK/Short fiction

Title	Year	Function	Category
Ung	1965	Direction, Appearance, Script, Editing	DK/Documentary
Family Pictures	1964	Direction, Script, Editing, Executive producer	DK/Documentary
Kattorna	1964	Direction, Editing	Feature
I rum sø	1964	Direction	TV film
Jimmys tog	1963	Direction	TV film
Hvad med os?	1963	Direction	DK/Feature
A World of Strangers	1962	Direction, Script, Executive producer	DK/Feature
Ren besked - om snavs	1962	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Old People	1961	Direction, Script, Editing	DK/Documentary
The Liim Fiord	1961	Direction, Script, Editing, Sound	DK/Documentary
Souvenirs from Sweden	1960	Direction, Script	Documentary
A Knotty Problem	1959	Direction, Script	DK/Short fiction
Cyklisten	1958	Direction, Script	DK/Short fiction
Straight out on the airways	1958	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Jeg et hus mig bygge vil	1956	Direction	DK/Documentary
Penge	1954	Direction	DK/Documentary
Knive	1954	Direction	DK/Documentary
Køleskabe	1954	Direction	DK/Documentary
Farmers of the Ocean	1954	Script	DK/Documentary
The doll's house	1953	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
How to get a job	1953	Script	DK/Documentary
The Civil Defence	1951	Direction, Script, Editing	DK/Documentary
Alle mine skibe	1951	Assistant director	DK/Documentary
Dissektion af marsvin	1950	Editing	DK/Documentary



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