Person

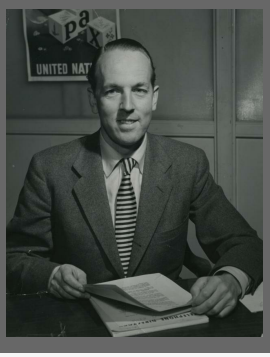
MOGENS SKOT-HANSEN

(1908 – 1984)











LL.M., film producer and director, 19 Feb. 1908 - 25 March 1984.

The German occupation of Denmark had a crucial impact on Mogens Skot-Hansen's career. The Prime Minister's Office was first to point out the power of the German Kulturfilm to strengthen national sentiment. The so-called Employment Film Committee (Beskæftigelsesfilmudvalget) was established under the Prime Minister's Office in 1941 as an umbrella organisation for the government's future, and rather erratic, short-film production. The reins were placed in the hands of a highly enthusiastic, movie-struck head of section at the Ministry of Education, 33-year-old Mogens Skot-Hansen.

Prior to heading the committee, Skot-Hansen had written the script for Johan Jacobsen's exceedingly lightweight feature, "En lille Tilfældighed" (A small Coincidence) (1939). But he was not completely won over by the glory of cinema until he collaborated with Theodor Christensen and Karl Roos on the sophisticated feature "Jens Langkniv" (1940).

Above all, he had a burning passion for the already classic British documentaries. This was evident in his short-film directorial debut, "Vi snakker Færdsel" (Talking about Traffic, 1941 for Dansk Kulturfilm), and his other short from the same year, the completely different "Tørveproduktionen sætter Rekord" (Peat Production Record, for his own office, the Employment Film Committee), which he also wrote. Skot-Hansen also directed and wrote several short films for the Ministries' Film Committee (Ministeriernes Filmudvalg, MFU), as well as two features, in 1942 and 1944 respectively.

Giving Dreyer an international comeback was greatly on Skot-Hansen's mind. He and the director first met at a reception in 1940, and Skot-Hansen was the main force behind Dreyer debuting in 1942 as a director of short films for the government. That fact helped convince Palladium producer Tage Nielsen that Dreyer had learned to be accommodating and was capable of working on a limited budget. Co-writing "Day of Wrath" in 1943, Skot-Hansen put in a big effort on what was Dreyer's first Danish feature since "Master of the House" (1925).

In 1944, the Employment Film Committee became MFU and subsequently served as the official film entity for ministerial film requests. With liberation approaching, Skot-Hansen set his eye on a global perspective for Danish shorts to raise their status on the international market. In partnership with Arthur Elton, the grand old man of British documentaries, Skot-Hansen was in charge of the Danish end of a series of five short films about the Danish welfare state, 'Social Denmark'. Ultimately, the English treatment of "Good Mothers" was only a minor step in Dreyer's resurrection. Also, Skot-Hansen's final attempt to jazz up Dreyer as a dialogue director, with the cheeky voiceover for "Vandet paa Landet" / "Water from the Land" (Dansk Kulturfilm, 1946), did not turn out well.

In 1946, Ib Koch-Olsen became head of both Dansk Kulturfilm and MFU, while Skot-Hansen lived out his international ambitions as head of the UNESCO Film Section in Paris, later becoming the UN film representative in Hollywood from 1949-1954. In 1955, he started the Laterna Film production company, which produced numerous short films as well as a few, generally way too ambitious Danish productions that appealed in vain to the international market, including "King Lear" (Peter Brook, 1971).

Excerpt from Carl Nørrested's article on www.carlthdreyer.dk.

Filmography

Title	Year	Function	Category
Historien bag kameraet	2006	Appearance	TV documentary
The First Circle	1972	Producer	DK/Feature
Narco - a film about love	1971	Production	DK/Feature
Swedish Fly Girls	1971	Spadserende herre, Executive producer	Feature
The tar-dealer	1971	Producer	DK/Feature
King Lear	1971	Executive producer	DK/Feature
24 Hours With Ilse	1971	Executive producer	DK/Feature
Ang.: Lone	1970	Production	DK/Feature
The only way	1970	Executive producer	DK/Feature
Kameldamen	1969	Production	DK/Feature
Love and kisses	1969	Production	DK/Feature
Busybody	1969	Production	DK/Feature
Dr. Glas	1968	Production	DK/Feature

Title	Year	Function	Category
Dr. Glas	1968	Production	DK/Feature
With the heir to the throne in Latin America	1966	Production	DK/Documentary
De fem år [skoleudg.]	1960	Organizer	DK/Documentary
Vi som går stjernevejen	1956	Producer	DK/Feature
Filmforum S 09	1955	Appearance	Audio recordings
Green gold	1949	Executive producer	Documentary
Bekæmp rotterne [forkortet udg.]	1948	Script	DK/Documentary
Copenhagen Calling	1947	Script	DK/Documentary
Water from the land	1946	Executive producer, Director: speak	DK/Documentary
Kornet er i Fare	1945	Script	DK/Documentary
School for Divers	1944	Direction	DK/Documentary
Mit liv er Musik	1944	Direction	DK/Feature
Om igen - Fru Jensen	1944	Editing	DK/Documentary
Fighting tuberculosis	1943	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Ellen Birgithe Nielsen spiller	1943	Direction	DK/Documentary
Out being a maid!	1943	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
For the future of the nation	1943	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Day of wrath	1943	Script	DK/Feature
Flyv med!	1943	Co-organizer	DK/Documentary
Sport calls	1942	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Fuel for the Winter	1942	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Thi kendes for Ret	1942	Direction, Script	DK/Short fiction
Technical porcelain	1942	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Vi kunde ha' det saa rart !	1942	Direction, Script	DK/Feature
Who knows what?	1942	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Land-draining in the Danish agriculture	1942	Direction	DK/Documentary
Sølv giver Arbejde	1942	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Hans og Kirsten	1942	Script	DK/Short fiction
Good Mothers	1942	Producer	DK/Documentary
Vi snakker Færdsel	1941	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Amager Gets Bigger	1941	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary

Title	Year	Function	Category
Tørveproduktionen sætter Rekord	1941	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Stay warm at home during winter	1941	Direction, Script	DK/Documentary
Bekæmp Rotterne	1941	Script	DK/Documentary
Jens Langkniv	1940	Screenplay	DK/Feature
En lille Tilfældighed	1939	Script	DK/Feature

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