



DANISH FILM
INSTITUTE
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**DANISH
DOCUMENTARY FILM
CATALOGUE**
IDFA 2020



7 YEARS OF LUKAS GRAHAM

/ 7 YEARS OF LUKAS GRAHAM

From an outsider's perspective, things are going well for Lukas Graham. Every time lead singer Lukas Forchhammer sets a new goal for himself, he achieves it. He is signed to a major international label, he works with some of the greatest music producers, he is flown around to perform his hit song '7 Years' on the world's biggest stages. On top of this, Lukas becomes a father for the first time. From an insider's perspective, it is a lot to juggle all at once. Dreams can easily transform into nightmares from one moment to the next.

René Sascha Johannsen has directed documentary films and series for television and a great number of music videos, including the video for Lukas Graham's '7 Years'. He made his feature doc debut with 'Life in the Emergency Lane' (2011).

Director René Sascha Johannsen
Producer Sara Stockmann
Production Sonntag Pictures
Appearances Lukas Forchhammer

Genre Documentary
Status Released
Running time 78 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 670 208 7881
welcome@autlookfilms.com
autlookfilms.com



CANNON ARM AND THE ARCADE QUEST

/ KIM KANONARM OG REJSEN MOD VERDENSREKORDEN

A comedy about friendship and arcade games that will put a smile on your face and tug at your heartstrings. With the help from his friends at Bip Bip Bar, Kim Cannon Arm attempts to be the first in the world to play an arcade machine from the early '80s for 100 consecutive hours. With its collection of heroic outsiders, dreams about legendary world records, quirky hairdos and brilliant players, the documentary praises solidarity and the attempt to achieve the sublime.

First feature documentary by Mads Hedegaard, a 2017 graduate from the National Film School of Denmark.

Director Mads Hedegaard
Producer Katrine A. Sahlstrøm
Production Good Company Pictures

Appearances Kim Kanonarm
Købke, Michael Dyst, Carsten
Tommy Lauridsen, Svavar Gunnar
Gunnarson

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 97 min.

International sales
Good Company Pictures
t +45 6178 1090
kat@goodcompanypictures.com
goodcompanypictures.com



COPENHAGEN COUNTDOWN

/ NATURENS LOVE

In the spring of 2019, more than 60,000 Danes signed a petition for a new climate law, and thousands of young people went on the streets to demonstrate for climate action NOW! When the national election came later on that year, it was evident that the politicians had to listen to the people. As a new government was chosen, the work to establish the world's most ambitious climate law began. The film closely follows the process of making this law through the political actors as well as the young, frustrated climate activists. Is it possible to turn both politicians, citizens and the industry in a green direction, and will Denmark be successful in pushing an international agenda?

Phie Ambo has directed a number of awardwinning films, including 'Family' (2001), 'Gambler' (2006) and 'Good Things Await' (2014) as well as the trilogy 'Mechanical Love' (2007), 'Free the Mind' (2012) and 'When You Look Away' (2017) about the relationship between science and human existence.

Director Phie Ambo
Producer Malene Flindt Pedersen
Production Hansen & Pedersen
Appearances Dan Jørgensen,
Ida Auken, Selma de Montgomery,
Esther Kjeldahl

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 75 min.

International sales
Hansen & Pedersen
t +45 2744 2567
malene@hansenogpedersen.dk



DEMOCRATS II (WORKING TITLE)

/ DEMOCRATS II

Zimbabwe is at a crossroads. The new leader of the opposition party MDC, Nelson Chamisa, is challenging the old guard, ZANU-PF, represented by the acting president Emmerson Mnangagwa, also known as 'the crocodile'. The election will be the ultimate test for both the party in power and of the opposition. How will they interpret the principles of democracy in a post-Mugabe era – in discourse and in practice?

Camilla Nielsson's feature debut, 'Democrats' (2014), about Zimbabwe's power struggle for a new constitution, was warmly received by international critics. The film won top awards at CPH:DOX and Tribeca Film Festival and the Best Documentary prize at Nordisk Panorama.

Director Camilla Nielsson
Producer Signe Byrge Sørensen
Production Final Cut for Real
Appearances Nelson Chamisa,
Thabani Mpofu, Nkululeko Sibanda

Genre Documentary
Status In production

International sales
Cinephil – Philippa Kowarsky
Production
t +972 3566 4129
info@cinephil.co.il
cinephil.com



THE FALL / FALDET

Estrid is on the threshold of advancing from childhood into young adulthood. Along the journey, she experiences a serious accident: falling from the window on the fifth floor while sleepwalking. Miraculously, she survives and returns to life with a remarkable willpower. But the fall remains a trauma in her body and her family. Especially her mother is anxious about losing her. The film follows Estrid's transformation and her family's healing process. Estrid must regain her body and ability to walk, but she also has to find out who she is and wants to be, as she embarks on the journey of becoming a young woman. To do so, her mother must deal with the fear of losing her and come to terms with letting her go.

Andreas Koefoed screened his first feature-length documentary, 'Ballroom Dancer' (2011), at a number of festivals including IDFA and Toronto Hot Docs. More films by Koefoed include 'The Ghost of Piramida' (2012) and 'At Home in the World' (2015), the latter winner of the Best Mid-Length Documentary Award at IDFA.

Director Andreas Koefoed
Producer Sara Stockmann
Production Sonntag Pictures

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 75 min.

International sales
Sonntag Pictures
t +45 2896 4414
sara@sonntagpictures.com
sonntagpictures.com



FREE / FLEE

The animated documentary is the true story about a man's need to confront his past in order to truly have a future. Amin arrived as an unaccompanied minor in Denmark from Afghanistan. Today, at 36, he is a successful academic and is getting married to his long-time boyfriend. A secret he has been hiding for over 20 years threatens to ruin the life he has built for himself. For the first time he is sharing his story with his close friend.

Selected for Cannes 2020. Jonas Poher Rasmussen made his feature-length debut with 'Searching for Bill' (2012), a mix of documentary and fiction, and is also behind the biographical documentary 'What He Did' (2015).

Director Jonas Poher Rasmussen
Producer Monica Hellström, Signe Byrge Sørensen, Charlotte de La Gournerie
Production Final Cut for Real

Genre Documentary
Status Completed
Running time 83 min.

International sales
Cinephil – Philippa Kowarsky
Production
t +972 3566 4129
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cinephil.com



FOLLOW YOU HOME

/ HJEM ER HVOR MIN BROR ER

For nine years the Afghan refugee brothers Popal and Darmal have been apart but are now miraculously reunited in Denmark. But they are in completely different places in their lives. Popal is a fighter with lots of plans for his future. Darmal, on the other hand, has just arrived in Denmark, with a heavy heart and lots of insecurities about the future. As Darmal's asylum claim is rejected, their dreams about a future together collapse. With a caring priest couple and a human right's lawyer, Popal does everything in his power to keep Darmal on his feet. With sibling love as its main driving force the film is a film about a brother's fight not to lose his little brother once again.

Kathrine Ravn Kruse recieved a Robert Award for her short documentary 'Me and Dad' (2014).

Director Kathrine Ravn Kruse
Producer Mathilde Hvid Lippmann
Production Made in Copenhagen

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 75 min.

International sales
Made in Copenhagen
t +45 2623 6351
faber@madeincopenhagen.dk
madeincopenhagen.dk



A HOUSE MADE OF SPLINTERS

/ A HOUSE MADE OF SPLINTERS

As the war in Eastern Ukraine takes a heavy toll on families living near the frontline, a small group of strong-willed social workers work tirelessly in a special kind of orphanage to create a much-needed safe space for kids to live in.

Simon Lereng Wilmont's first feature from Eastern Ukraine, 'The Distant Barking of Dogs' (2017), won the award for Best First Appearance at IDFA and has also received prizes at other prominent festivals, including Göteborg and Thessaloniki.

Director Simon Lereng Wilmont
Producer Monica Hellström
Production Final Cut for Real

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 80 min.

International sales
Cinephil – Philippa Kowarsky
Production
t +972 3566 4129
info@cinephil.co.il
cinephil.com



I SEE FOR YOU

/ JEG SER FOR DIG

Most people have five senses. Peter only has three, having lost both his sight and hearing as a newborn. His family must see and hear the world for him. Today, Peter is 29. His needs are so special that he lives with his parents. When his mother, Jonna, was diagnosed with cancer four years ago, a bigger thought process was set in motion: What will happen to her boy when she is no longer here? The help provided from the public services is not sufficient, so it is down to Jonna, Peter's father Jørgen and his sister Christine to manage their challenging day-to-day life alone.

Cille Hannibal graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2013. Her previous film, 'The Night We Fell' (2018), premiered at CPH:DOX.

Director Cille Hannibal
Producer Monica Hellström
Production Final Cut for Real

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 75 min.

International sales
Cinephil – Philippa Kowarsky
Production
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info@cinephil.co.il
cinephil.com



I SEE YOU

/ OMSORG PÅ RECEPT

The film portrays a new treatment of people with dementia. In the countryside, the nurse May Eiby has opened the retirement home Dagmarsminde for 12 residents. Here, their medicine is reduced and instead they are treated with care. The recipe is hugs, touch, talking, eye contact and the joy of taking part in the community. The treatment is working, but it isn't easy being a pioneer. For what to do when an 89-year-old man, not admitting to his own dementia, is ill-tempered and mean to the other residents? And is it possible for May and her staff to wake up Grete from her zombie-like state of overmedication and help her to find an inner balance?

Louise Detlefsen is a journalist by trade and has worked with both documentary and fiction. Her films include the IDFA selected title 'Fat Front' (2019), 'The Queen of Hearts' (2018) and 'A Damn Year' (2012).

Director Louise Detlefsen
Producer Malene Flindt Pedersen
Production Hansen & Pedersen
Film og Fjernsyn
Appearances May Bjerre Eiby

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 75 min.

International sales
First Hand Films World Sales
t +41 44 312 2060
gitte.hansen@firsthandfilms.com
firsthandfilms.com



KANDIS FOR LIFE

/ KANDIS FOR LIFE

The film portrays a group of Danes who find consolation and meaning in life through their idol, Danish folk singer Kandis-Johnny. It delves into a world of peculiar fans from across the country who have made the lead singer of Scandinavia's biggest entertainment band, Kandis, their own personal Jesus. The film attempts to offer an honest account of Johnny's personal tragedy, which has manifested in the lives of his dedicated fans. Shared stories of finding love, unrequited love, unconditional loyalty and loneliness are all explored. It becomes clear that no one can rise up to life's challenges alone.

The film is Jesper Dalgaard's first long documentary, after award-winning shorts such as 'Weltschmerz' (2017) and 'Übermensch' (2017), made at the National Film School of Denmark.

Director Jesper Dalgaard
Screenplay Jesper Dalgaard,
Denniz Göl Bertelsen
Producer Maria Møller
Christoffersen
Production Beofilm
Appearances Johnny Hansen

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 85 min.

International sales
Beofilm Pictures
t +45 2972 1704
hyldahl@beofilm.dk
beofilm.dk



LONG, LIVE, LOVE

/ LEVER ELSKER SAVNER

A young adult film about figuring out who you are in this chaos called life. On top of that, there is a degree of seriousness to Rosemarie's life, for which she is much too young. She has been diagnosed with cancer, and although the doctors say she will survive, the long treatment leaves a mark on her young life. Not least with regards to her relationship with her mother, whose affection and attention suffocates her. At the same time, Rosemarie gets the feeling that she cannot really reach her mother who is guarding her emotions out of fear of losing her daughter. The film follows Rosemarie's struggle to move forward with her life – with school and friends – but also to get the rest of her family to move on with theirs.

Sine Skibsholt took home IDFA's First Appearance award for 'Who We Were' (2016). 'Long, Live, Love' is Skibsholt's second long documentary.

Director Sine Skibsholt
Producer Helle Faber
Production Made in Copenhagen

Genre Documentary
Status Completed
Running time 78 min.

International sales
DR International Sales
t +45 3520 3040
drsales@dr.dk
drsales.dk



LOVE BOUND – WHEN YOUR CHILD BECOMES MENTALLY ILL

/ DE PÅRØRENDE – NÅR ENS BARN RAMMES AF PSYKISK SYGDOM

One in ten in Denmark suffers from mental illness. Yet, due to the taboo and stigmatisation it is still an under-prioritised issue. When a family member gets sick, it affects everyone in the family. The film uncovers the unconditional love that governs parent/children relationships, which must somehow be altered when a child is suffering from mental illness. Shot behind closed doors, inside the confidentiality of the therapy room, the film follows a group of parents over a period of months who share and come to realise that they are all in the same boat riding the same chaotic storm.

Vibe Mogensen has directed 'The Mind of My Father' (2005), about her father's mental illness. Besides making films, Mogensen was head of a media school for young people from 2005-2018 and has also taught at the National Film School of Denmark.

Director Vibe Mogensen
Producer Vibeke Vogel
Production Bullitt Film
Appearances Lene E. Karlsson,
Marianne Sørensen, Tommy
Sørensen, Hanne Tychsen

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 52 min.

International sales
Bullitt Film
t +45 2612 5001
info@bullittfilm.dk
bullittfilm.dk



ON SCREEN OFF RECORD

/ ON SCREEN OFF RECORD

Three Syrian activists – Yadan, Odai and Rani – reunite on a theatre stage near Paris. Nearly ten years after the start of the Syrian revolution, Syrian director Rami Farah confronts them with footage they shot and footage that changed their destinies. They met as members of a media collective in the city of Daraa, the birthplace of the Syrian uprising. Their reflections on their personal journeys provide the audience with a unique perspective to understand the complexity of a popular protest that turned into a civil war.

Syrian dancer and filmmaker Rami Farah has directed the short documentary 'Silence' (2006) as well as 'A Comedian in a Syrian Tragedy' (2019), his first feature documentary which world premiered at IDFA.

Director Rami Farah

Producer Anne Köhncke, Signe Byrge Sørensen, Lyana Saleh, Reema Jarrar

Production Final Cut for Real

Appearances Yadan Draji, Odai Al Talab, Rani Masalmeh, Rami Farah

Genre Documentary

Status In production

Running time 90 min.

International sales

Final Cut for Real

t +45 3543 6043

info@final-cut.dk

finalcutforreal.dk



SCHOOL SHOOTERS

/ SCHOOL SHOOTERS

As the disaster of yet another school shooting hits, some parents are faced with a brutal fact: that their child was the one pulling the trigger. In the film we meet parents from different places and backgrounds, with different stories and experiences – but with one thing in common.

This is the third film in Frida and Lasse Barkfors' trilogy on social stigma, examining guilt and shame. Sundance award-winning 'Pervert Park' (2014) was the first, followed by 'Death of a Child' (2017).

Director Frida Barkfors,
Lasse Barkfors
Producer Anne Köhncke
Production Final Cut for Real

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 80 min.

International sales
Final Cut for Real
t +45 3543 6043
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finalcutforreal.dk



THE SOLDIER / SOLDATEN

Henrik, a Danish war veteran, returns to Denmark with post-traumatic stress syndrome after his second deployment in Afghanistan. After various failed treatment attempts he moves deep into the Amazon jungle trying to cure himself with plant medicine, including the world's most halogenic drink, Ayahuasca. The film follows Henrik's fight in the jungle over three years, offering a close-up of a broken human being, a man let down by the same society he tried to protect, on a journey that doesn't cure him the way he had hoped.

The film is Nikolaj Møller's directorial debut. Møller is a renowned still and fashion photographer.

Director Nikolaj Møller
Producer Lina Flint
Production Nordisk Film Spring

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 58 min.

International sales
DR International Sales
t +45 3520 3040
drsales@dr.dk
drsales.dk



SONGS OF REPRESSION / UNDERTRYKKELSENS SANG

In 1961, the German preacher Paul Schäfer and his congregation moved to Chile with the stated aim of helping the poor. They established Colonia Dignidad which transformed into a closed sect. This film explores how the remaining residents of the colony deal with 45 years of child abuse, collective beatings and slave-like living conditions. It also reveals how people in the colony assisted Pinochet's dictatorship in torturing and killing political prisoners and burying them in mass graves on their own 16,000-hectare land. We meet those who completely deny the horrors and wish to only remember the bright moments, those who still today go through severe emotional struggles – and those caught in between.

Winner of the main competition at CPH:DOX and selected for IDFA. Estephan Wagner co-directed the acclaimed 'Les sauteurs' which premiered at the Berlinale 2016.

Director Estephan Wagner,
Marianne Hougen-Moraga
Producer Signe Byrge Sørensen,
Heidi Elise Christensen
Production Final Cut for Real

Genre Documentary
Status Released
Running time 88 min.

International sales
Autlook Filmsales
t +43 670 208 7881
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autlookfilms.com



THERE IS A BORDER IN MY BACKYARD

/ HEGNET MOD EUROPA

A border is the strangest thing. Sometimes it feels arbitrary, other times as if it were set in stone, but always with an impact on those who experience it up close. A border can be tragic and comical – and often both at the same time. In the film we meet the local people living on the legendary border between Germany and Denmark, regular people living their regular lives, but who recently woke up to an unusual sight: Where there used to be open and harmonious demarcations between two friendly countries, there is now a politically inflamed wild boar fence, as a mythical wall against a Europe of dreams.

Jens Loftager has directed a number of shorts, documentaries and television series.

Director Jens Loftager
Producer Mille Haynes
Production Meta Film Doc
Appearances Henrik Gotborg
Hansen, Thorsten Westphal, Ruth
Larsen, Kristian Hansen

Genre Documentary
Status In production
Running time 75 min.

International sales
First Hand Films World Sales
t +41 44 312 2060
gitte.hansen@firsthandfilms.com
firsthandfilms.com



THYLAND / THYLAND

A film about the invisible life in the North of Denmark. Here, nature is rougher and faith is stronger than in the rest of the country. The hybrid documentary moves through the living, breathing organism of the heath, the sea and the woods. Guided by a voice from the past and accompanied by the testimonies and rituals of the present, the film invites you to tune into a different frequency – one, where you can hear the call from the sea, the pain of the woods, and feel the restlessness of the moor. The story is tightly bound to the landscape, but is also a universal tale about the need to belong and overcome death, letting the invisible life of myth and nature unfold in all its magical potential.

First feature-length documentary by Vibeke Bryld. She is behind the two short documentaries 'Bedtime Stories from the Axis of Evil' (2011) and 'Pebbles at Your Door' (2015), the latter selected for the short film competition at the Berlinale.

Director Vibeke Bryld
Producer Heidi Elise Christensen
Production Final Cut for Real

Genre Hybrid documentary
Status Completed
Running time 72 min.






International sales
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IDFA 2020

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The Danish Film Institute is the national agency supporting and encouraging Danish film and cinema culture.

We support the development, production and distribution of Danish films and offer funding for international co-productions.

Support programmes extend to digital games, film education and promotion at international film festivals. A minimum of 25 percent of all subsidies are earmarked for children and youth films.

Situated in central Copenhagen, the Danish Film Institute houses the national Cinematheque and also includes a library, a stills and posters archive and a film studio for children to explore the craft of filmmaking.

We manage the film archives and run the streaming sites filmcentralen.dk, stumfilm.dk and danmarkpaafilm.dk.

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