

### New Scandinavian Cinema

As regular Northwest Film Center attendees know—from recent retrospectives of Swedish directors Roy Andersson and Reuben Östlund to the continuing Nordic treasures premiering in the Portland International Film Festival each year—Scandinavian film remains one of cinema’s great founts of creativity. While a few of the most exciting dramas, comedies, and thrillers from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland find scattered commercial distribution in the United States, most never make it to Portland screens. We hope this showcase of recent films offers partial remedy and discovery. Special thanks the Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish Film Institutes for their assistance in organizing this celebration. Our thanks also go to the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, Portland for their sponsorship of the series.

Friday, October 21, 7 pm

***In Front of Others***, Iceland, 2015

Dir. Óskar Jónasson (90 mins., Romantic comedy, DCP)

Shy and introverted Hubert works quietly as a copywriter at an ad agency. When he meets Hanna, he immediately falls in love—and nearly speechless—but he somehow manages to ask her out. Rather than rely on his own personality to make her laugh, he falls into imitating famous people and mutual friends, which she at first finds amusing. But the mimicking strategy soon starts to wear thin, and Hubert has to dig deep to find a way to be someone she likes for who he is rather than who he pretends to be. “*In Front of Others* is a rare treat in itself: An Icelandic movie that is both romantic and a comedy.”—*Cinema Scandinavia*. In Icelandic with English subtitles.

Saturday, October 22, 5 pm

***Nice People***, Sweden, 2015

Dir: Anders Helgeson & Karin af Klintberg (100 mins., Documentary, DCP)

In this real-life *Cool Runnings* the predominantly white community of the rural Swedish town of Borlänge (whose town slogan is “Nice People”) is confronted by the influx of Somalis who have fled war and come to live in Sweden. Integrating has proven difficult, so entrepreneur Patrik Andersson decides that all the Swedes and Somalis need is something in common to bring them together, and so he encourages them to learn bandy (a cross between ice hockey and soccer) with the goal of becoming the first ever bandy team to represent Somalia at the Bandy World Championships in Irkutsk, Russia, even though they have never skated in their lives! In Swedish, English, and Somali with subtitles. W N F I L M C N T R = = T

Saturday, October 22, 7:30 pm

***Silent Heart***, Denmark, 2014

Dir. Billie August (98 mins., Drama, DCP)

Three generations of a family have gathered at the matriarch's (Ghita Nørby) house for the weekend. Terminally ill, she wants them to bid her a final farewell, having decided to end her life come Sunday. Sisters Sanne (Danica Curcic) and Heidi (Paprika Steen) have accepted her desire to die before her disease worsens, but as the weekend progresses, their mother's decision becomes increasingly hard to deal with, and old conflicts bubble up. August's emotional meditation on life, love, and death won the Danish Bodil Awards for Best Film, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Screenplay. In Danish with English subtitles.

Sunday, October 23, 4:30 pm

***The Homecoming***, Iceland 2015

Dir. Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (100 mins., Comedy/Drama, DCP)

Gunnar is a sociologist in his fifties who has written countless self-help books, but that can't help him as his relationship with his wife is becoming more stressful. When David, their 25-year-old son returns home with Sunna, his attractive new girlfriend, it sets in motion a freewheeling comedy drama as his father realizes she is his daughter from an illicit relationship years earlier. With his own relationship in turmoil, Gunnar sets about trying to sabotage his son's plans to marry Sunna. Haraldsson's delightfully-mannered comedy of errors has more than a few twists as the secrets start to fly. In Icelandic with English subtitles.

Sunday, October 23, 7 pm

***The Fencer***, Iceland 2015

Dir. Klaus Härö (93 mins., Drama, DCP)

Fleeing from Russian secret police in early 1950's, a young Baltic dissident leaves Leningrad to settle in the small coastal village of Haapsalua, Estonia. There, he finds work as a school gym teacher and becomes a father figure to his students by teaching them his great passion—fencing. As a fencing tournament in Leningrad approaches, he's forced to make a difficult choice. Will he take the children to compete or will he abandon them in order to save himself? Based on a true story, Härö's rousing historical drama opens a window into Soviet and sports history alike. In Estonian and Russian with English subtitles.

Monday, October 24, 7 pm

***The Idealist***, Denmark, 2015

Dir. Christina Rosendahl (114 mins., Drama/Thriller, DCP)

In 1968, during the Cold War, an American B-52 bomber carrying nuclear warheads crashed on the polar ice near the US military Air Base in Danish controlled Thule, Greenland. A few

days later, the governments proclaim the situation is under control and there is no cause for concern. Hundreds of Thule workers start a gigantic cleanup operation, and after eight months, the case is closed. Eighteen years later, an ambitious reporter unexpectedly discovers that the true story of the crash is buried deep beneath the Thule Bay ice cap, and deep in the U.S.'s classified archives, and the reality of what happened has had lasting repercussions. Rosendahl's documentary-style Arctic conspiracy thriller brings to light a long-buried slice of recent Scandinavian political history. In English, Greenlandic, and Danish with English subtitles.

Tuesday, October 25, 6:30 pm

***Here Is Harold***, Norway, 2014

Dir. Gunnar Vikene (87 mins., Comedy/Drama DCP)

For over 40 years, Harold has been running a successful small furniture shop in Bergen with his wife, Marny. But when IKEA decides to open a new superstore right next door, the two are unable to compete and lose both their shop and their home to the bank. In mounting anger and desperation, Harold wants revenge. After torching his store, he sets off for Älmhult, Sweden with a gun and a plan (sort of) to kidnap his nemesis – the founder of IKEA, Ingvar Kamprad. But unfortunately, Kamprad is quite happy to be kidnapped. “Bjørn Sundquist is brilliant as Harold. . . a fine example of Norwegian black comedy.”—*Cinema Scandinavia*. Winner of the Best Actor and Best Cinematography prizes, Norwegian Amanda Awards 2015. In Norwegian with English subtitles.

Tuesday, October 25, 8:30 pm

***Sparrows***, Iceland/Denmark, 2015

Dir. Rúnar Rúnarsson (99 mins., Drama, DCP)

Icelandic filmmaker Rúnarsson (*Volcano*) explores change, transition, and adaptation and their roles in human relationships. After living in Reykjavik with his mother for a few years, Ari, a 16-year-old choir boy with an angelic voice, has to go live with his estranged, hard-drinking father in a down-and-out fishing village. While trying to reconnect with family and friends, he witnesses a disturbing incident and must decide whether to tell anyone. For a teen on the cusp of adulthood, a man relearning how to be a father, and a community in crisis, the truths of life can be harsh but not without new chance for possibility and discovery. Winner of the FIPRESCI Critic's Prize, Göteborg Film Festival. In English and Icelandic with English subtitles.

Thursday, October 27, 7 pm

***Women in Oversized Men's Shirts***, Norway, 2015

Dir. Yngvild Sve Flikke (100 mins., Comedy, DCP)

Based on Gunnhild Øyehaug's celebrated feminist novel *Wait, Blink*, Flikke's debut film is an

energetic and funny portrait of three women struggling with the patriarchy as well as themselves: Sigrid is a young woman aching to find her voice and live up to her ideals; Trine, a very pregnant performance artist with a bad attitude, is running out of options; and Agnes, an aging author with a 40-year case of writer's block, wonders about the son she gave up for adoption. As the musings and paths of these vibrant women weave together, intersect, and fall away, unconventional wisdom takes wing. "A sunny ensemble comedy and pan-generational showcase for Nordic female filmmaking talent."—*The Hollywood Reporter*. In Norwegian with English subtitles.

Saturday, October 29, 2:15 pm

***The Here After*, Sweden, 2015**

Dir. Magnus von Horn (102 mins, Drama, DCP)

When John returns home to his father after serving time in prison, he's looking forward to starting his life afresh. However in the local community, his crime is neither forgotten nor forgiven. His presence brings out the worst in everyone around him and a lynch-mob atmosphere slowly takes shape. Feeling abandoned by his former friends and the people he loves, John loses hope and the same aggressions that previously sent him to prison starts building up again. Unable to leave the past behind, he decides to confront it. Winner of Swedish Guldbagge awards for Best Film, Director, and Supporting Actor. In Swedish with English subtitles.

Saturday, October 29, 4:30 pm

***The Mine*, Finland, 2016**

Dir: Aleksi Salmenperä (94 mins. drama, DCP)

Jussi, a young, ambitious civil servant, finds himself in charge of the environmental permit for the huge Talvivaara nickel and uranium mine in Lapland. The mine is pioneering a new method of collecting minerals, while creating jobs in one of the poorest areas in Scandinavia. Jussi slowly discovers, however, that the new method has serious environmental downsides. A new application for another permit is brought to him by the same mine, and with the application comes an interesting job offer and a chance of a new beginning. Jussi has to decide whether he will play along and, if so, with whom. A fictionalized story inspired by one of Europe's biggest environmental disasters, "Salmenperä creates a smart and gritty film leaving the viewer to question their own environmental morals."—*Edinburgh International Film Festival*. In Finnish with English subtitles.