

Zik Zak Filmworks // Fine & Mellow

Present

VOLCANO (ELDFJALL)

a film by Runar Runarsson

QUINZAIN
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
CANNES 2011



VOLCANO

ZIK ZAK FILMWORKS AND FINE & MELLOW PRESENT A FILM BY RÚNAR RÚNARSSON "VOLCANO"
THEODÓR JÚLIÚSSON MARGRÉT HELGA JÓHANNSDÓTTIR ÞÓRSTEINN BACHMANN ELMA LÍSA GUNNARSDÓTTIR
HAIR & MAKE UP GUÐBJÖRG HULDÍS KRISTINSDÓTTIR COSTUME DESIGN HELGA RÓS V. HANNA PRODUCTION DESIGNER HAUKUR KARLSSON
MUSIC KJARTAN SVEINSSON SOUND DESIGN INGVAR LUNDBERG EDITOR JACOB SECHER SCHULSINGER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SOPHIA OLSSON DFF
LINE PRODUCER RANNEVEIG JÓNSDÓTTIR ASSOCIATE PRODUCER HLÍN JÓHANNSDÓTTIR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER THOMAS GAMMELTOFT
PRODUCED BY THOR SIGURJÓNSSON SKÚLI FR. MALMQUIST EGIL DENNERLINE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RÚNAR RÚNARSSON
WITH SUPPORT FROM NEW DANISH SCREEN THE ICELANDIC FILM CENTRE THE NORDIC FILM & TV FOND
ARTIST DIRECTOR FOR NEW DANISH SCREEN JACOB HÖGEL FILM CONSULTANT FOR NEW DANISH SCREEN KIM LEONVA MUSIC FILM & TV FOND HANNE PALMQUIST KELMARE FILM OVERSEER LAUFEY GUÐJÓNSDÓTTIR



PLOT SUMMARY

The coming of age story of a 67 year old man.

When Hannes retires from his job as a janitor the void that is the rest of his life begins. He is estranged from his family, hardly has any friends and the relationship to his wife has faded. Through drastic events, Hannes realizes that he has to adjust his life in order to help someone he loves. Volcano is a love story about dealing with the choices of the past and the difficulties of the present in order to embrace the future.

CAST

HANNES - Theódór Júlíusson

Theodor Juliusson studied at The Drama Studio in London. He has played over 100 roles in Icelandic theatres and has been a leading actor in the Reykjavik City Theatre from 1989. Before that he was with the local theatre in Akureyri.

He has been nominated three times for The Icelandic Theatre Awards, Grimman, once for the role of Puntilla in Puntilla and Matti and last year for his part in August; Osage County. Other memorable roles over the years are Vanja in Onkel Vanja, Tevje in the Fiddler of the Roof and the father in Hare, hare.

ANNA - Margrét Helga Jóhannsdóttir

Margret Johannsdottir graduated from the National Theatre School in 1976 and made her debut in acting at the National Theatre. Margret has been a force in the Icelandic theatre and film scene, and has been tenured at the City Theatre since 1972. She has been nominated several times for the Icelandic Film Awards (Edda Awards) and received the Edda for City of Angels. She was awarded the Iceland Theatre Awards, Grimman, in 2010 for her role in Tracy Lotts play, The Family, for her role as Violet. She has been awarded numerous other distinctions, including Artist in Residence of Seltjarnarnes in 2004.

DIRECTOR

Rúnar Rúnarsson (1977)

Born in Reykjavik Iceland, Rúnar Rúnarsson lived in Denmark for 7 years and graduated from the Danish Film School in 2009. Rúnar recently returned to Iceland to direct Volcano, his first feature film. Nominated for an Oscar in 2006, The Golden Palm in Cannes 2008 and The European Film Awards in 2008, Rúnar is probably the most awarded short film director in the world with 90 International awards under his belt for his last 3 films.

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DIRECTORS STATEMENT

An old fashioned man, who cannot express his love, is someone most of us, if not all, know. Volcano is more than a coming of age story of a 67 year old man, who cannot show his emotions. Volcano is also a story about a family and how three generations deal with their past, present and future.

Love story:

All of the main characters in the film have some flaws, no one is perfect. People who love, suffer, get by. Blindly they try to find an outlet for their emotions. Their love. The path can be rocky when you have armored your heart with distance, silence, anger.

The script will not by itself carry the heat and weight of getting to the audience. The visual and audio storytelling are important tools to show emotions and facts and they will be carefully blended into the story. The narrative will have a certain real feeling and approach, but the simplicity of the sound and visual design will give the film a certain poetry.

The editing rhythm of the film is on the slow side. Traditional crosscutting/cinematography is at a minimum and therefore will have a simple but powerful effect in those scenes where such proximity between characters is used. Wide shots mixed with long lenses and depth of field, were used to isolate details, feelings and mood. Soft light, and not too much contrast.

Written dialogues are more of a work plan for the actors that will be used in the rehearsal stages where each actor's turn of speech was developed so their speech was natural within the frame of the character. A large part of the actor's work is to convey the unsaid. Andreas Dresden's respect for his characters and the portrayal of them in *Wolke 9*, Bergmann's inner drama, the mise-en-scene of Lynn Ramsey short films and her film *Ratcatcher*, the visual outcome of the paring of Slawomir Idziak and Kieslowski as well as Tarkovsky's works and ideas about time, have all had an influence on me for the last few years which I have put into my cocktail mixer and worked from when I have been doing my short films.

I have the good fortune to have good people around me that share, understand and help my vision, each time, to become a reality. And together we have been developing our common filmic language. The best part is to have producers that trust you 110% and have shown that they are ready to wade through fire and brimstone to make sure my films are finished off in the right way.

PRODUCERS

Thor Sigurjonsson (1973)

was born in Iceland and raised in Los Angeles. He graduated from The Commercial College of Iceland. He then studied literature at the University of Iceland. He co-founded Zik Zak Filmworks in 1995. The company has been active since 1999. Combined his films have sold to more than 100 territories and won more than 100 film awards, two of his films were in the Official Selection in Cannes and one has had an Oscar nomination. He started his film career in Los Angeles with Propaganda Films working as a production assistant on films and music videos. Thor's most recent film's are **Valhalla Rising**, **Bronson** and **The Good Heart**. Thor resides in both Copenhagen and Reykjavik.

Skuli Fr. Malmquist (1973)

was born in Iceland but brought up in various places in the US. He graduated from both the Hamrahlid College and The Commercial College of Iceland. He then studied Economics, Math and History of Cinema in Université Stendahl in France and, finally, Business and Economics at the London European Business School. He co-founded Zik Zak Filmworks in 1995 while still at University. The company has been active since 1999. He is an ACE producer. Combined his films have sold to more than 100 territories and won more than 100 film awards, two of his films were in the Official Selection in Cannes and one has had an Oscar nomination. Skuli currently resides in both New York and Reykjavik. He is married with two children.

Egil Jorn Dennerline (1974)

Egil's love of film is a natural fusion of a lifelong interest in music, storytelling and photography. Half Danish and half American, he was raised in the US and went on to study history (Connecticut College), Film Studies (Copenhagen University) and finally film production (the Danish film school/film collective Super16). Since 2002, Egil has produced written and photographed a slew of films with support from Danida, the Danish Film Institute and DR TV. He has worked as a script reader and with development for Koncern (DK), Silver Pictures Warner Bros (US) and is currently a producer at Fine & Mellow (DK). His most recent productions include **House of Glass** by Jonas Poher Rasmussen (short fiction, 2010), **Road to happiness** by Ole Bendtzen (documentary for DR TV, 2010) and his first feature **Volcano** by Runar Runarsson (fiction, 2011).

Thomas Gammeltoft (1963)

One of the most creative, attentive and hard working producers in Danish Film, Thomas worked his way up through the industry to become co-owner of the production company Film & Lyd in 1986 which produced some of the most important Danish documentaries in the 90's (**Johannesburg Revisited**, **The Devils Railroad**, **Tintin and Me**). He is now the executive producer and co-owner of Fine & Mellow A/S which has produced blockbusters such as **Shake It All About** (Robert nominated for best film, 2001), **Stealing Rembrandt** (Robert nominated for best film, 2003), **Oh Happy Day** (2004), **Chinaman** and **Murk** (both 2005) as well as **Pure Hearts** and **Fidibus** (both 2006), and the international award winning **Terribly Happy** (2008). Also through Fine & Mellow, Thomas has produced the drama-series **Album** (2008) for DR and the 12 part drama-series **Lulu & Leon** for TV3, which has been sold for US remake by FOX Studios. Thomas is currently working on **In Heat** by Henrik Ruben Genz (2012), a **Terribly Happy remake** in the US (2012) and has several other projects in development.

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COMPANY PROFILES

Fine & Mellow develops and produces feature films and TV-fiction according to the motto V.I.V.E. – very intelligent very entertaining. Our goal is to produce thought provoking stories for television and cinema with a broad international perspective and without losing sight of entertainment value. We do not patronize our viewers; quite the contrary. We strive to plant critical issues and meaningful subjects in a highly entertaining context. In this way our productions, with a few planned exceptions, all target the general public with a high level of fascination and identification. Since 2002, we have produced more than 10 feature films. Among these, the award winning drama **TERRIBLY HAPPY** directed by Henrik Ruben Genz (2008). Simultaneously, we have been building a strong track record with several major tv series for Danish television, including **LULU & LEON** for TV3 and DR (2006-09). Fine & Mellow is releasing 2 features and a tv comedy series in 2011 (**Rosa Morena**, **Skyscraper** and **Kristian II** for TV2 Zulu), a new film by Henrik Ruben Genz in 2012 (**In Heat**) and is currently in development with several new projects both in Denmark and internationally.

Zik Zak Filmworks was founded in 1995 by Thor Sigurjónsson and Skuli Fr. Malmquist. The company's main focus is the production of feature films, but also branching out into documentaries and shorts. The various films produced have won or been nominated for over a 100 awards all over the world, including an Academy Award nomination for best short film for **The Last Farm** (2004) directed by Runar Runarsson. The company seeks out new talent, as well as maintaining a good working relationship with established ones, such as Dagur Kari, whose films **Noi Albinoi** (2003) and **The Good Heart** (2009), Zik Zak produced. In the future the company hopes to increase its production capabilities and shift between local Icelandic and international productions.

PRODUCERS STATEMENT

There is no need to introduce the director, Rúnar Rúnarsson, for in a short amount of time his star has risen in the film making world and that's before he finished his studies at The Danish Film School. His short films, *The Last Farm*, *2 Birds*, and *Anna* have collectively won over 100 prizes all over the world, *The Last Farm* was nominated for an Academy Award and *2 Birds* competed at Cannes.

Volcano is his first feature length film and the script for that film was in development for a few years. *Volcano* is a logical continuation of his short films that Runar has called the trilogy about Love and at the same time, his most ambitious project so far. It asks difficult questions that stir the audience's feelings long after the film has ended. Above all this is a film from Icelandic reality that casts new light on the stereotype that many have on the insensitive Icelandic man.

In his statement, Rúnar says that it is important to have producers that trust him 110%, and are ready to walk through fire and brimstone to put his films together in the right way. We are more than ready to do this because we know from experience that Rúnar will deliver a piece of art and to be a part of making it, is an honor.

CAST & CREW

Hannes
Anna

Theódór Júlíusson
Margrét Helga Jóhannsdóttir

Director
Producers
Executive producer
Screenwriter
Cinematographer
Sound Engineer
Editor

Rúnar Rúnarsson
Thor Sigurjonsson, Skuli Malmquist, Egil Dennerline
Thomas Gammeltoft
Rúnar Rúnarsson
Sophia Olsson
Kjartan Kjartansson and Ingvar Lundberg
Jacob Schulsinger

FACTS

Length: 99 min.
Sound: Dolby SR Digital
Format: 1.85:1 (Widescreen)
Shot on: 16 mm
Spoken Language: Icelandic
Production company: Zik Zak Filmworks // Fine & Mellow A/S

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