

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IF YOU COULD BE ANYONE ?



Official Selection  
WARSAW FILM FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL  
COMPETITION

A FILM BY DANIEL DENCIK

# MISS OSAKA

CAST VICTORIA CARMEN SONNE · NAGISA MORIMOTO · MIRAI MORIYAMA · KAHŌ MINAMI · JUNKO ABE ... MIKKEL BOE FØLSGAARD

WRITTEN BY DANIEL DENCIK DIRECTED BY DANIEL DENCIK & SARA ISABELLA JONSSON PRODUCTION DESIGNER ASKE A. FOSS (DPF) EDITOR MARTIN LEBICHE  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS OLIVIA NIELSEN · HANNA · JASNA KANGALANI PRODUCED BY ANJA PHILIP & KOJI IWAGAMI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHNNY ANDERSEN PRODUCED BY JANE MARSHALL · WHITAKER & AIRO KURAMOTO  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIKKEL GROSS CO-PRODUCERS YASUHI SHIMIZU · JOHAN CARDE & ISWAMBI LUY CO-PRODUCERS TEIUSHISA YAMAMOTO · MATTHEW STALE · MATTHEW · ALEXANDER OLAV KORHONEN · MIKKEL HASTBERG  
PRODUCED BY MICHAEL HASLUND · CHRISTENSEN PRODUCED BY HASKUND DENCIK ENTERTAINMENT & DR. PRODUCTION PARTNER RISEN FILM FILMFOND NORD · FILMGANG · VICE DENMARK · BEO POST · TONEMESTRENE AND CUI ENTERTAINMENT  
WITH SUPPORT FROM DANISH FILM INSTITUTE · DR · DANISH BROADCASTING COOPERATION SPONSOR ALPHA VIOLET

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FILM FOND NORD FILMGANG VICE DENMARK BEO POST TONEMESTRENE CUI ENTERTAINMENT



Official Selection  
WARSAW FILM FESTIVAL

International Premiere  
37th Warsaw International Film Festival 2021  
International Competition

# MISS OSAKA

a Daniel Dencik film

Denmark, Norway, Japan – 2021 – 90min – 1:1.85 – English, Japanese, Danish

Tagline

“Who would you like to be if you could be anyone ?”

Logline

A stranger dies in the wilderness. An opportunity presents itself. MISS OSAKA is the tale of Ines, a young Danish woman, who has ended up at in Osaka in Japan on the outskirts of her own life.

Theme

The film spotlights the issue of individuality through the protagonist that swaps identity with someone else as well as the hostess club where the identity masks intersect. It is an adventure thriller where Ines strives in a new world, in which she runs away from the pursuer and her past. It is also a human drama in a sense that it explores the human relationship in the modern society. In an unprecedented setting in Scandinavia and Japan, the film unfolds a genre-bending narrative.



## MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik



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### SYNOPSIS

Ines follows her boyfriend's business trip to Norway and meets the enigmatic Maria, coming from Osaka. Their chance encounter becomes more profound as they get to know each other and find affinities within themselves and the divergent lifestyles they lead. One night, under the green glow of the northern lights, their relationship comes to an abrupt end.

Without looking back, Inés leaves everything behind and flies to Japan, retracing the mysterious footsteps of María's life. A business card bearing the name of a hostess club, 'Miss Osaka', leads her into the neon lit depths of a labyrinthine parallel world where identities are as fluid as the sound of a mellow sax solo, where reality is no match for dreams and the emptiness of the soul can be healed with a new personality. As she plunges with determination into this unique existence, Inés begins to realize that all dreams, even the most beautiful ones, have to end.

MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik



# MISS OSAKA

A film by Daniel Dencik

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## CAST

Victoria Carmen Sonne	(Ines)
Nagisa Morimoto	(Maria)
Mikkel Boe Folsgaard	(Lucas)
Mirai Moriyama	(Shigeru)
Kaho Minami	(Mama-san)
Junko Abe	(Ayano)

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## CREW

DIRECTOR: Daniel Dencik

PRODUCER: Michael Haslund-Christensen

SCREENPLAY: Daniel Dencik, Sara Isabella Jonsson

DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Aske Alexander Foss, DFF

LIGHTING: Martin Lerche

PRODUCTION & COSTUME DESIGN, Norway: Jane Marshall Whittaker

PRODUCTION DESIGN, Japan: Aiko Kuramoto

EDITING: Olivia Neergaard-Holm, Jenna Mangulad

COMPOSERS : Yasuaki Shimizu, Johan Caroe, Kwamie Liv

SOUND DESIGNER: Mikkel Groos

PRODUCED BY: Haslund Dencik Entertainment

CO-PRODUCED BY: Rein Film, Filmfond Nord, Filmcamp, Vice Denmark, Beo Post, Tonemestrene and C&I Entertainment

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## SUPPORTED BY

DANISH FILM INSTITUTE

DR, DANISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik





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#### DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY

Daniel Dencik (born 1972) is a Danish writer and film director. He has published eight books in Danish, ranging from poetry to short stories and essays as well as two novels.

He has studied Philosophy at Stockholm University, where he wrote his thesis about the existentialism of Kierkegaard. He has studied film editing at the National Film School of Denmark. In 1998 he had his first book of poetry published by Gyldendal. His work has been divided between film and literature ever since.

He was the editor of the cult movie *Nói albinói* (2003) by Dagur Kari.

He has written essays on subjects ranging from the sport of professional cycling to the philosophical meaning of solitude and religion. He has covered Tour de France for the Danish daily paper Politiken 2016 and 2017, and for the Danish magazine Euroman 2018.

As of 2012, he has also been directing films, most notably the documentary Expedition to the end of the World. In 2012 he received The Reel Talent Award at CPH:DOX. His portrait of the painter Tal R entitled Tal R: The Virgin won a Danish Academy Award 2014 for best short documentary.

## MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik

2015 marked his debut in narrative films with the historical drama, *Gold Coast*. The film revolves around the Europe's colonial past in West Africa. It was shot on locations in Ghana and Burkina Faso and stars Jakob Oftebro and Danica Curcic. The soundtrack is composed by Angelo Badalamenti. It was a Danish-Ghanaian co-production with a budget of €2 million. *Gold Coast* had its international premiere at the 2015 Karlovy Vary Film Festival.

He has received the biggest talent award in Danish film, the prestigious Nordisk Film Award, in 2014.

His controversial novel *Anden person ental* (2014) was praised by the critics and the focus of a lot of attention in the Danish press. In 2016 he published a collection of short stories titled *Grand Danois* (2016). This work was nominated for Book of the Year in Denmark. The book was also published in Swedish by Norstedts Förlag in 2018. A story from this book has been published in the American journal *World Literature Today*. His novel *Nordisk vildt* was released (2018), and on 22. February 2021 his new novel *Snask*, is released in Denmark.

Daniel Dencik's second feature film has been shot in Osaka, Japan 2019, with the title *Miss Osaka*. Victoria Carmen Sonne plays the main role, and in addition Mikkel Boe Følsgaard also plays with the Japanese actors Kaho Minami, Mirai Moriyama, Nagisa Morimoto and Junko Abe. It is the first Danish-Japanese co-production, and is premiered in 2021.





# MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Osaka is somewhere I've always been drawn to. When I was a boy it sounded like a completely different world. To me this film is about every theme that has filled my mind and imagination since I was a child: luck, destiny, the gift of chance, copies and originals, changing identities, and the pure, raw adventure that is life itself.

I think every single one of us has dreamt of being someone else. Freed from ourselves for a moment or forever. Miss Osaka is our take on improvising a vanishing trick against the backdrop of reality. A crazy idea made real. We follow our main character on her journey, an exploration of total freedom. We've set out to harvest the fruits of uncertainty and used them as our fuel. The world might look sad and lonely, but it's also cool and full of jazz – and secrets.

Miss Osaka is a film about a unique individual who could be anyone. First she disappears from herself, then she disappears from the outside world. But even a lost soul can find their way home.



## MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik

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### CAST INTRO

VICTORIA CARMEN SONNE: *Holiday* (Sundance Film Festival 2018 World Cinema dramatic competition). Honored with Danish Academy Awards for her acting in 2018.

MIKKEL BOE FØLSGAARD: Debut in *A Royal Affair* (nominated for Best Foreign Language Films in the 85th Oscar Academy Award), and honored as Best Actor at 62nd Berlin International Film Festival. Main actor in *Land of Mine* and *The Rain* (Netflix).

MIRAI MORIYAMA: His main works include *Crying Out Love in the Center of the World*, *Moteki*, *The Drudgery Train*, *A Chorus of Angels*, *Rage*. Spent one year at a dance company in Israel as a Japan Cultural Envoy.

KAHO MINAMI: Appeared in *Fukigen na Kajitsu*, *Night Time Picnic*, *Gegege no Nyoubou*, *Chronicle of My Mother*, *Oh Lucy!*, and a number of TV dramas, films and plays.

JUNKO ABE: Appeared in *Still the Water* (selected for Palme d'Or competition in 2014 Cannes Film Festival), *The Man from the Sea*, *The Blood of Wolves*, *Wasao*, *Toto-nee-chan*.

NAGISA MORIMOTO: Performed in a number of short films such as *June 21*, *Night Paint*, *The Widow*. Half-Japanese and half-French, and speaks fluent Japanese, English, French, Dutch.

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### MUSIC COMPOSERS

YASUAKI SHIMIZU, composer, saxophonist, music producer whose career spans for more than forty years. Recognized for his crossover albums, film soundtracks, and high-profile installations and collaborations.

KWAMIE LIV, Danish-Zambian singer/songwriter. Debuted with her elusive *Lost In The Girl* in 2014. Her sensual, yet provocative voice is often compared to Lana Del Rey.

JOHAN CAROE, working primarily as a film composer, producer and collaborator, but since 2019 he released several eps of his solo works - from softcore string and synth-minimalism to maximalism and power ambient through processed classical instruments, noise and synthesis.

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## MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik

### MAIN PRODUCTION PARTNERS

HASLUND DENCIK ENTERTAINMENT (DK) is a film production company in Denmark established in 2015. Provides edgy, daring and artistic films, fusing documentary and fiction techniques. Works by Haslund and Dencik have been distributed in a wide range of platforms in Denmark with appearances on many international film festivals. MISS OSAKA is the third film in the collaboration between director Daniel Dencik and producer Michael Haslund-Christensen, after their debut feature film *The Gold Coast* (2015) and the documentary *The Expedition to the End of the World* (2013). All films have been shot exclusively at locations in Asia, Africa and the Arctic, respectively.

C&I ENTERTAINMENT (JP) is the Japanese production partner. C&I Entertainment has produced a wide range of films and TV dramas – from hit films such as *Nana* and *The Floating Castle* to low-budgeted yet long-lived films such as *Josee, the Tiger and the Fish* and *House of Himiko*. *Asako I & II* was officially in the main competition at 2018 Cannes Film Festival, and received international acclaim and was released in 21 countries.

REIN FILM (NO) is a film production company established in 2009, focusing on telling stories from the Barents region. Based in Oslo and Kirkenes, Rein Film has the “know how” of how to produce in Northern Norway. Previous productions include the TV-drama *Monster* (2017), the French feature *Donne Moi des Ailes* (2019) and films by acclaimed Norwegian directors: Tommy Wirkola’s *Kurt Josef Wagle* (2017).



# MISS OSAKA A film by Daniel Dencik

REACTIONS FROM DANISH THEATRICAL RELEASE ON THE 09/09/2021

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"The phenomenal achievement from  
Victoria Carmen Sonne, sits in the  
soul afterwards"  
ALT FOR DAMERNE / EVERYTHING  
FOR THE LADIES

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"Challenges the notion of a person's  
true self"  
AVISEN.DK

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"Neon of neon-lit style"  
MOOVY

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"Fascinating"  
The film magazine EKKO

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"Captivating"  
The film magazine NOSFERATO

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"Movie magic that creeps under the  
skin"  
FEMINA

"Victoria Carmen Sonne impresses as  
a human chameleon"  
INFORMATION

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"Hypnotic and sensual"  
"Delicious and alluring experience"  
THE FILM PODCAST OF THE WORD

"Put the glasses away and let your  
dreams get wings"  
THE CULTURE CHAPEL

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"Simply one spot shots from the  
Danish film treasure box"  
"Exactly the kind of mind fuck that  
makes the film media so exciting  
when it succeeds - and it happens  
here" CINEMA ONLINE

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"Magic binding"  
"Poetic journey"  
ORDET/THE WORD

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"A good and different introduction to  
Japan"  
BØRSEN / THE STOCK EXCHANGE  
MAGAZINE

"Vertigo meets Lost in Translation, but  
again, it's not quite that kind of film"  
"Dencik is good at painting moods  
forward"

"Miss Osaka has more in common  
with literary modernism and American  
independent films of the Sundance  
school"  
WEEKENDAVISEN

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"Seductive drama"  
"Beautiful and alluring"  
SOUNDVENUE

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GOOD MORNING, DENMARK – TV2

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"Beautiful and dirty but most alluring"  
FILMSKRIBENTEN.DK

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