After You ● American Jazz Musician ● Bikes vs Cars ● The Clip Concerning Violence ● Conquering China ● Displaced Persons ● Forest of the Dancing Spirits Freak Out! ● Mothers Without Children ● A Separation ● Trespassing Bergman
Welcome to
the world of
Swedish docs!
2013 has been a landmark year for Swedish docs with an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature for *Searching for Sugar Man* by Malik Bendjelloul. And there’s more to come. This special edition of *Swedish Film* presents new documentary features ready to hit international festivals and markets. Please visit our website www.sfi.se for updated information on Swedish features, documentaries and shorts.
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After You

My mother is spending all her time with her dying father. I’m spending all my time filming her. To understand her, I say. But how much can I actually grasp? And what exactly am I trying to understand? As the incomprehensible gets closer, my mother and I increasingly share the actual filming. It becomes our way of dealing with the time we have left.

Original title Efter dig
Director/Screenwriter
Marius Dybwad Brandrud
Participants Nina Dybwad, Jens Dybwad
Producer Tobias Janson
Produced by Story, with support from the Swedish Film Institute/ Cecilia Lidin
Duration 75 min
Released November 1, 2013
Sales TBA

Marius Dybwad Brandrud, director, producer, editor and cinematographer, was born and raised in Bohuslän in the west of Sweden. In addition to studies in philosophy, Marius has a BA in Photography (School of Photography, Gothenburg University), an MA in Fine Arts (University College of Arts, Craft and Design, Stockholm) and an MA in Film Directing (School of Film Directing, Gothenburg University).
American Jazz Musician (working title)

One snowy night in February 1972 a major jazz star was shot dead by his common-law wife during a gig at a club in New York City. “He said to me: ‘Honey, I know you didn’t mean it. I know you didn’t mean to do this …’ and then he was gone.” (The wife in a recorded interview about the moments right after the shot.) American Jazz Musician is a film about music, love and America.
Many people suffer from climate change anxiety, yet still we consume more than ever. But change is possible: imagine if more cities were to copy Copenhagen where 40% of people commute on bikes. We’d have less pollution. Oil prices and car sales would fall. The very core of the financial system would tremble. This is a conflict that interests me profoundly.”

Bikes vs Cars

The bicycle, an amazing tool for change. Activists and cities all over the world are moving towards a new system. But will those who hold financial power allow it? There’s an ongoing war: bikes vs cars. A multi-billion dollar industry has done everything to make society car dependent right from the outset. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been invested in selling the dream of car freedom. Now, oil prices and traffic gridlock have opened a window of opportunity for bicycle revenge.

Fredrik Gertten is a filmmaker based in Malmö, Sweden. One of the founders of WG Film in 1994, he is a former foreign correspondent and columnist who has worked for radio, TV and newspapers in Africa, Latin America, Asia and around Europe. Gertten combines documentary filmmaking with a creative production role in films shown on TV and in theatres and festivals all over the world.

Original title Bikes vs Cars
Director/Screenwriter Fredrik Gertten
Participants Aline Cavalcante, Dan Koeppel, Ivan Naurholm, Raquel Rolnik, Nicolas Habib, Don Ward, Molly Arevalo, Rob Ford
Producers Margarete Jangård, Elin Kamler
Produced by WG Film in co-production with SVT and Film i Skåne, with support from the Swedish Film Institute/Cecilia Lidin
Duration 90 min
To be released TBA
Sales Outlook Filmsales
The Clip

When local dancers Mario and Xavier get hired to perform at a wedding in Mozambique, they have no idea that megastar Beyoncé will watch them on YouTube and ask them to be her teachers. After four months of searching she found them in a Mozambique suburb. Since then, Mario and Xavier’s ideas of what life is and what it could be will never be the same.

“I was immediately intrigued by this story; the amazing chain of coincidences and the drama it unfolds. Truly, this is a film about identification and dreams. What happens when, and after, your wildest dreams come true?”
Concerning Violence

*Concerning Violence* is based on the classic book *The Wretched of the Earth* by Franz Fanon. Written 50 years ago, Fanon’s work is a major tool for understanding and illuminating present day neocolonialism and the unrest and reactions it provokes. *Concerning Violence* builds on newly discovered and powerful archive footage of some of the most audacious moments in the struggle for liberation in the Third World. The film will extend the techniques employed in Göran Hugo Olsson’s most recent film, *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975*, to create a visual narrative from Africa – with images of the pursuit of freedom, the Cold War and Sweden.

“European and American film on Africa is mostly bad and totally unnecessary. The genre carries a stigma. However; I know that this one will bring something different and great to the table. The archive images will display this crucial period in a new way. In a way that will illuminate how dedicated so many people were in the struggle for freedom. And how that work must and will continue.”

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**Original title** Concerning Violence
**Director/Screenwriter** Göran Hugo Olsson
**Producers** Annika Rogell, Tobias Janson
**Produced by** Story in co-production with SVT, Louverture Films, Helsinki-filmi, Final Cut for Real and Rainbow Circle Films in collaboration with YLE and DRK, with support from the Swedish Film Institute/Cecilia Lidin, the Danish Film Institute, EU MEDIA Slate Funding and the Swedish Arts Grants Committee
**Duration** 86 min
**To be released** Spring, 2014
**Sales** Films Boutique

Conquering China

Johan Jonason leaves Sweden and a Europe in crisis, and heads to Shanghai. His goal is to establish himself as a pop singer in China because that’s where the future seems to be. In Shanghai, Johan meets various people involved in the Chinese music industry – producers, DJs and promoters who give him insights into the new, young and contradictory China. *Conquering China* is an emotional and humorous music documentary that examines and problematizes the paradigm shift taking place in our world right now.

“I wanted to make a personal and exotic documentary about China, exploring the western view of the country as well as the real China itself.”

Original title  *Conquering China*  
Director/Screenwriter  Johan Jonason  
Participants  Johan Jonason, Jean Michel Jarre, Dave K, Ben Huang, Elvis T, Robert Wells, DJ Ghost  
Producer  Anna Byvald  
Produced by  Silverosa Film in co-production with Film i Väst and SVT, with support from the Swedish Film Institute/Cecilia Lidin  
Duration  80 min  
To be released  TBA  
Sales  TBA  

Writer and director  
Johan Jonason was born in 1970 in Stockholm. He has a BA in Fine Arts from Chelsea College of Art, London and an MA from the Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm. His work includes the Swedish Guldbagge-nominated short film *Terrible Boy* (2003), his 2009 feature debut *Guidance*, and *Dance Music Now* (2012), the recent winner of the Swedish Guldbagge Award for Best Short Film, which was also selected by the César Academy as part of The Golden Nights 2013.
Displaced Perssons

Per Persson left Sweden 40 years ago. In Pakistan he fell in love and became the father of two daughters. Trouble starts when the girls grow up and the family decides to emigrate to Sweden. When they end up living in a caravan outside Hässleholm, all their expectations are dashed.

“It's not often that you pick up on a story which hasn't really got started, so to speak. But with Displaced Perssons we got a call informing us of the major drama which faced Per Omar Persson and his family. It gave us the chance to portray their life in Pakistan before their move, and since then we've followed their itinerant life in a Sweden that wasn't quite what they'd expected. The story takes a number of dramatic turns: the family splits up, babies are born, they're reunited… Our image of Sweden, Pakistan and what freedom really is have changed several times since we started filming. For us it's both exciting and very cool that this film about the Persson family and their gallows humour is about to find an audience!”

Original title Familjen Persson i främmande land
Directors Åsa Blanck, Johan Palmgren
Screenwriters Åsa Blanck, Petter Brundell
Participants Familjen Persson
Producer Åsa Blanck
Produced by Strix Television in co-production with SVT, with support from the Swedish Film Institute/Tove Torbiörnsson, NRK and YLE
Duration 85 min
Released August 23, 2013
Sales Strix Television
Forest of the Dancing Spirits

The Aka are hunter-gatherers living in the Congo rainforest. Having met filmmaker Linda Västrik, they invite her to film their unique way of life. Natural storytellers, they describe their mythical origins, their gods and day-to-day life with humour and patience, even as their forest is increasingly coming under threat from the outside world.

“It’s a beautiful thing to be able to present Forest of the Dancing Spirits. Our film seems to awaken something spiritual in the people it touches. It wasn’t planned that way, but it has been a true privilege to be involved in it.”

Linda Västrik, born in Gothenburg 1972, studied at the University of Film in Gothenburg, the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts and the International Center of Photography in New York.
Freak Out! – the Alternative Movement Begins

Freak Out! – the Alternative Movement Begins tells the little-known story of a group of young people from the middle class who in 1900 revolted against the values of their time and started the original alternative community based on veganism, feminism, pacifism and free love. Through their eyes we reveal the uncanny similarities between our own times and what they revolted against back then.

“In 1900, if you belonged to the middle class in Europe you experienced the beginnings of the consumer society. You could buy or experience virtually anything as long as you could pay for it. Growing up with these prospects was something completely new. Some young people decided they wanted something different, and asked themselves the simple question – how do I want to live my life? This film is about the courage to attempt to act out these dreams of a better world, and about the foundations of the counter-culture movement that has existed in society, for good and bad, ever since.”

Original title Freak Out! – the Alternative Movement Begins
Director Carl Javér
Screenwriters Carl Javér, Fredrik Lange, David Wingate
Participants Gottfried Heuer, Valerie Preston-Dunlop, Karen Ellwanger, Hermann Müller, Pat Thane, Eileen Boris, Andreas Schwab, Gordon Kennedy, Christian Bachiesl, Nicholas Brauns, Jochen Thermann, Liz Aggiss
Producer Fredrik Lange
Produced by Vilda Bomben Film in co-production with Majade Filmproduktion, Final Cut for Real, Hallum og Jensen, Filmgate Films and Film i Väst, in collaboration with MDR/Arte, SVT, NRK, YLE, DR, RUV and ERR, with the support of the Swedish Film Institute/Lars G Lindström and Cecilia Lidin, DFI, NFI, BFI, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee and MEDIA
Duration 90 min
To be released TBA
Sales Deckert Distribution

Carl Javér is a filmmaker and pioneer of small crew, observational style documentaries. Since his debut The High School at the age of 23 in 1996 his work has included a number of documentaries, shorts and three major documentary series. Freak Out! marks his international documentary feature debut.
Mothers Without Children (working title)

What are the sacrifices of caring? This story follows a group of nurses who work with socially-disadvantaged pregnant women in Toronto. They strive to give them the opportunity of a new life with their babies. But there’s a wall of resistance that must be breached: cycles of trauma, abuse, homelessness and addiction. At the same time, the nurses are struggling to deal with their own lives, dreams and families.

“They do it because it gives meaning. They do it to feel that they’ve healed. They do it because they believe it is possible to break a vicious circle. They do it because they can’t ignore the situation. They do it because there is no one else who does. I do it because I want to know how they survive, how they cope with their jobs and what price they have to pay.”

With a strong passion and respect for her subjects and a deep cinematic voice, Frida Kempff has made several award-winning shorts focusing on the vulnerability and existential questions of her protagonists. Born in 1977 and educated at the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, in 2010 Frida directed Bathing Micky, which won the Jury Prize in the Official Selection at Cannes the same year.
A Separation

Is it OK to throw away your old wedding dress? What do you do with those crystal glasses that nobody wants? A Separation is a tragicomic documentary exploring the very last acts of a long marriage. A film about the tentative search for a new beginning when something – finally, and unfortunately – is over.

“It was a combination of the gaping holes in the walls after hastily removed pictures, the ridiculous bickering about family heirlooms and the extremely uncomfortable way mum and dad skirted around each other that sparked my impulse to start filming. I wanted to capture the practical and emotional events and also the passage towards an uncertain future. Later, the focus shifted to what actually makes us stay and what happens when we dare to let go.”

Original title Att skiljas
Director/Screenwriter Karin Ekberg
Producer David Herdies
Produced by Momento Film in co-production with SVT, in collaboration with NRK, with support from the Swedish Film Institute/ Cecilia Lidin and the Swedish Arts Grants Committee
Duration 70 min
To be released January, 2014
Sales Deckert Distribution

Karin Ekberg (born 1979) studied for her BA in Fine Arts in the Netherlands. 2011 – 2012 she studied at the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, and is currently taking an MA in Film at the Vland Academy, Gothenburg. A Separation is Karin’s feature documentary debut. She is currently working on her next documentary project.
Trespassing Bergman

Ingmar Bergman’s home on Fårö Island enjoys something of a mythical status among filmmakers. Some call it Mecca, others are intimidated by the long, narrow house at Hammars, near the Persona beach. In Trespassing Bergman some of the world’s leading directors and actors, several on site at the house, talk about their relationship with the demon director and his films.

“Trespassing Bergman hinges on the exclusive access we were given to Ingmar Bergman’s home and his video library, which became the real door opener. Telling contemporary filmmakers that Bergman owned personal copies of their films made each of them ecstatic! Could we perhaps interview them about those films? But of course!”

Original title Bergmans video
Directors/Screenwriters Jane Magnusson, Hynek Pallas
Producer Fatima Varhos
Produced by Gädda Five in co-production with Pretty Pictures, First Hand Films, SVT, Gotlands Filmfond and Stiftelsen Bergmangårdarna på Fårö, with support from the Swedish Film Institute/Cecilia Lidin
Duration 107 min
Released August 29, 2013
Sales First Hand Films

Jane Magnusson, born 1968, is an award-winning screenwriter (The Swimsuit Issue, 2009) and director (Ebbe the Movie, 2010).
Hynek Pallas, born 1975, is a renowned film critic and academic with a PhD in Film Studies from Stockholm University.
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