



THE BOTHERSOME MAN

(Den Brysomme Mannen)
A Film by Jens Lien



Norway/2006/In Norwegian/95 min.
35 mm / 1:1.85 / Color / Dolby SRD

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SYNOPSIS

Forty-year-old Andreas (Trond Fausa Aurvåg) arrives in a strange city with no memory of how he got there. He is presented with a comfortable apartment and a stress-free office job, where soon he is making friends with co-workers. He even quickly meets and moves in with a pretty interior designer, but their life together seems to be ruled by routine and mechanical sex. Before long, Andreas starts to notice that something is very wrong—everybody in this town is always content, but without passion or strong emotion; the food is always tasteless, and even the alcohol has lost its inebriating effect --it's a superficial, insipid world.

Not being able to bear a life without emotions, Andreas makes several attempts to escape the city, but he discovers there's no way out, and even several attempts to kill himself prove unsuccessful.

It is then that he meets Hugo, an older man living in a basement, who has found a crack in a wall in his cellar. Beautiful music streams out from the crack, and even the smell of a freshly baked pie--maybe this hole leads to "the other side"? A new plan for escape is hatched, but will Andreas and Hugo be able to get out before they are found out by the city's authorities?

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This film is to me a portrait of a society which has lost something. A place where everything works, but where emotions are absent, forgotten along the way. Andreas arrives in this new world. It seems perfect but he doesn't fit in. He dreams, falls in love, has longings - but these seem alien and bothersome to the others.

What makes 'The Bothersome Man' special is how it expresses the idea of a society devoid of emotion. The absence of an opposing force creates an uneasy feeling which gradually builds in intensity. Andreas has no-one to blame but himself, since everyone is being friendly towards him. This lack of resistance gradually tears him apart. He is alive in a dead world.

'The Bothersome Man' is a stylistic and absurd depiction of a nightmare. A horror-film in an every-day setting. The film starts out stylistically like a western--wide shots in a barren landscape; dreamy music. Our hero, Andreas, arrives in this wasteland. He doesn't know where he's coming from or where he's going. He is tormented by the never-ending friendliness and emptiness around him.

CREDITS

Crew:

Director	Jens Lien
Producer	Jørgen Storm Rosenberg
Co-Producer	Július Kemp
Co-Producer	Ingvar Þórðarson
Screenwriter	Per Schreiner
Cinematographer	John Christian Rosenlund
Production Designer	Are Sjaastad
Costume Designer	Anne Pedersen
Editor	Vidar Flatakuan
Sound Designer	Christian Schaaning
Original music	Ginge
Line producer	Carina Brattvik
Casting	Folk & Film

Cast:

Andreas	Trond Fausa Aurvåg
Anne-Britt	Petronella Barker
Ingeborg	Birgitte Larsen
Hugo	Per Schaanning
Håvard	Johannes Joner
Trulsen	Ellen Horn
Harald	Anders T Andersen

FESTIVALS/AWARDS (EXCERPT)

WINNER - Jury`s Special Mention Award, AQCC Award (Association Québécoises de Critiques de Cinéma), Festival du Nouveau Cinéma Montréal 2006

WINNER - Best Narrative Feature Film, Best Cinematography, Hamptons International Film Festival 2006

WINNER - Best Production Design, Festival International De Cinema De Catalunya (Sitges) 2006

WINNER - BETV Prize for Best Film, Brussels European Film Festival 2006

WINNER - Hr Giger Award “Narcisse” for Best Fantastic Feature Film, Silver Melies For Best European Feature, Neuchatel International Fantastic Film Festival 2006

WINNER - Fipresci Prize, Magic Crystal, International Film Festival “Arsenals” Riga 2006

WINNER - City Of Athens Best Director Award, Athens International Film Festival 2006

OFFICIAL SELECTION - Cannes International Film Festival 2006 – Critic’s Week

OFFICIAL SELECTION - Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2006

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Toronto International Film Festival 2006

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Pusan International Film Festival 2006

OFFICIAL SELECTION – London International Film Festival 2006

OFFICIAL SELECTION – AFI Fest, Los Angeles 2006

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Florida Film Festival 2007

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Philadelphia International Film Festival 2007

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Minneapolis-St. Paul Film Festival 2007

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Seattle International Film Festival 2007

BIOS:

Director's Bio:

In 1990 Jens Lien went to London to play rock 'n' roll. Three years later he returned as a filmmaker, educated at the London International Film School.

He started out making documentaries and commercials along with numerous short-films. Among his short-films is "Shut the Door", which was selected for Cannes in the Official Competition program in 2000, and "Natural Glasses", which was in Cannes' Official Competition program the next year (2001). Lien has won numerous awards all over the world with his short films. His first feature, "Jonny Vang", came in 2003, and had its premiere at the Berlin Film Festival, in the Panorama section; it has also received several awards. "Bothersome Man", his sophomore effort in the feature category, premiered at the Critic's Week in Cannes in 2006.

Cast Bios:

Trond Fausa Aurvåg ("Andreas") was born in Fetsund, Norway, in 1972. He was educated at the National Theatre Academy from 1998 to 2001. He has appeared in films like "Junk Mail" and the short "Shut the Door", which wcompeted at Cannes in 2000. He is a regular with the Jo Stromgren Company. Aurvag has also made his mark in some of the most memorable Norwegian commercial films in recent years. Ythrough his various roles he has shown considerable talent for comedy, as well as being held to be one of the most promising young actors in Norway.

Petronella Barker ("Anne-Britt") was born in Colchester, England, in 1965. She was educated at the National Theater Academy from 1985 to 1988. She is one of the most distinguished female actors in Norway, and is also considered one of the most beautiful. Her track record includes 18 TV series and feature films, including the recent success "Hawaii, Oslo." She has been employed at Det Norske Theatret, Goteborg Stadsteater and is now with Nationaltheatret.

Birgitte Larsen ("Ingeborg") was born in Kristiansand, Norway, in 1981. She graduated from the National Theatre Academy in 2003, and has since been employed by both the Det Norske Teatret and Nationaltheatret. Brigitee is among the up-and-coming actors in Norway, and in this film she makes her feature debut.