

## **NORDIC COUNCIL FILM PRIZE 2013**

### **NORWAY**

#### **I BELONG**

##### **SYNOPSIS**

What happens to us when people stop acting like they're supposed to?

A nurse gets into a dispute at work because she switches to speaking English when she gets nervous. A translator compromises her integrity when persuaded to translate a book she doesn't believe in. An elderly woman and her daughter are humiliated when offered a present of one million kroner from a relative.

##### **ABOUT THE FILM**

Dag Johan Haugerud has a distinctive way of observing human behaviour with his short films and novels. His intention with his first feature film was to show everyday situations that seem of little importance to one person but can feel like disasters to others. It's about existential dilemmas that anyone can experience in daily life, about how people who act on integrity and feelings are seen as troublesome in a society where the ideal is to behave rationally.

*I Belong* had its world premiere at the 2012 Norwegian International Film Festival in Haugesund where it picked up the Viaplay Award for Best Nordic Film. It was voted Best Norwegian Feature Film 2013 by the Norwegian Critics' Association and collected five Cannon awards from Norwegian film trade associations at the Kosmorama Trondheim International Film Festival for Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Newcomer (Haugerud), Best Editing (Jens Christian Fodstad) and Best Supporting Actress (Andrea Bræin Hovig).

*I Belong* was also one of three short-listed candidates for Norway's submission at the 2013 Academy Awards nomination for Best Foreign Language Film.

##### **DIRECTOR, DAG JOHAN HAUGERUD**

Born in 1964, Dag Johan Haugerud was educated as a librarian, with additional courses in Film and Theatre studies from the universities of Stockholm and Oslo, as well as creative writing. He has worked as a journalist and as a dramatist for various dance and theatre companies. He has also published three novels.

He made his debut as film director with the short film *16 Living Clichés* in 1998, and has since directed several shorts such as *Trouble* that won an Honorary Mention at Nordisk Panorama 2006. *I Belong* is his first feature film.

His next feature project *Children* (working title) will deal with parenthood and kids' role and place in contemporary Norway.

##### **PRODUCER, YNGVE SÆTHER**

Born in 1964, Yngve Sæther has spent much of his youth at film societies and film houses. He joined Norway's well established production house Motlys in 2001 as producer and head of development. *The Man Who Loved Yngve* based on Tore Renberg's eponymous novel

was Sæther's debut as feature film producer. The film won a dozen awards, including four national Amandas, and was nominated for the 2008 Nordic Council Film Prize. The producer made two other films based on Renberg's versatile character Jarle Klepp: *I Travel Alone* (2011) and the 2012 Nordic Council Film Prize nominee *The Orheim Company*. Sæther also produced Joachim Trier's internationally acclaimed *Oslo, August 31st* (2011 Nordic Council Film Prize nominee), and the NRK TV drama *Buzz Aldrin, Whatever Happened to you?*. Sæther also co-produced the Swedish documentary *The Armwrestler from Solitude*.

After having produced several short films for his long-time friend Dag Johan Haugerud, Sæther helped him make his feature debut with *I Belong*. Stian Kristiansen's new romantic comedy drama will next open in Norway. Then two first feature films are in development: *Wait Blink* by Yngvild Sve Flikke -a comedy about finding oneself- and Sæther's own debut behind the camera *Inventory* that he will co-direct with the internationally established writer Erlend Loe. Based on Loe's own script, the project will be a dark comedy about a woman aged 65, who makes an inventory over her own life and contemporary society.

Yngve Sæther was 'Producer on the Move' in Cannes 2009.

#### **KEY PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

Original Title	Som du ser meg
Director	Dag Johan Haugerud
Scriptwriter	Dag Johan Haugerud
Producer	Yngve Sæther
Main Cast	Laila Goody, Ragnhild Hilt, Andrea Bræin Hovig
Production Company	Motlys AS
Duration	118 min
Domestic distribution	Norsk Filmdistribusjon
International Sales	K5 International