

## NORDIC COUNCIL FILM PRIZE TO ICELAND

**The Nordic Council Film Prize 2015 has been awarded to director Dagur Kári and producers Agnes Johansen and Baltasar Kormákur for VIRGIN MOUNTAIN.**

There's no doubt that FÚSI (VIRGIN MOUNTAIN) deserves to be recognised as the best Nordic film of the year. On Tuesday evening, director Dagur Kári will receive the Nordic Council Film Prize 2015 at the annual autumn Session of the Council, which is currently being held in Reykjavík. This is the second year in a row that an Icelandic film has received the prestigious accolade and the honour of calling itself 'the best Nordic film'.

VIRGIN MOUNTAIN is the story of 43-year-old Fúsi, who – despite his age – still lacks the courage to step into the world of adulthood. He sleepwalks through day-to-day life, never deviating from fixed routines. But when an effervescent woman and an eight-year-old girl unexpectedly enter his life, he is forced to take the plunge into the unknown.

The film had its international première at the Berlinale earlier this year, and has gone on to garner accolades at festivals all over the world. For example, at the Tribeca Film Festival it scooped up three prestigious awards – for best film, best script and best male actor in the World Narrative Competition.

### **Praise for Dagur Kári**

The DKK 350,000 Nordic Council Film Prize 2015 was to go to a film with a high level of artistic quality and deeply rooted in Nordic culture, qualities the jury sees in abundance in Dagur Kári's VIRGIN MOUNTAIN.

The jury writes that the film is: "A simple and visually inventive tale about preserving your goodness and innocence in a seemingly impenetrable world. Dagur Kári's artistic ascent of a male virgin mountain results in a deeply moving and captivating film, offering a dignified portrait of its gentle giant of a man, as well as poignant depictions of the women around him."

Kári graduated from the National Film School of Denmark with the award-winning LOST WEEKEND (1999), which he followed up with his big international breakthrough, NÓI ALBINÓI (2003). He has been nominated for the Nordic Council Film Prize once before, for his English-language film THE GOOD HEART, in 2010. Kári works at the National Film School of Denmark, where he teaches the art of direction.

The prize is shared with the two producers, **Agnes Johansen** and **Baltasar Kormákur**, in recognition of the fact that film is an artistic medium based on collaboration between director, scriptwriter and producer.

### **The Nordic "Oscar"**

The Nordic Council Film Prize is one of Northern Europe's most coveted film awards, on a par with the most prestigious awards in the world.

The prize goes to films that display both high quality and deep Nordic artistic roots, and this is the 12th time it has been awarded. Iceland won the prize for the first time just last year (2014), when Benedikt Erlingsson received the honour for *Of Horses and Men* (Hross í oss).

The winner of the annual prize is selected from a total of five nominations, one from each country. The decision is made by a Nordic jury consisting of one representative from each country. In 2015, the jury was made up of Per Juul Carlsen (Denmark), Jaana Puskala (Finland), Kristín Jóhannesdóttir (Iceland), Silje Riise Næss (Norway) and Jannike Åhlund (Sweden).

#### **TO EDITORS:**

Attached is an interview with director Dagur Kári, which may be used freely. It was conducted by Annika Pham on behalf of the Nordic Film & TV Fund, prior to the announcement of the winner of the Nordic Council Film Prize 2015.

Read more about the Nordic Council Film Prize, the 2015 winner, the other nominations and watch trailers for all of them at the links below:

[www.nordiskrådsfilmpris.com](http://www.nordiskrådsfilmpris.com)

[www.nordiccouncilfilmprize.com](http://www.nordiccouncilfilmprize.com)

<http://www.norden.org/da/nordisk-raad/nordisk-raads-priser>

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