

# Persmap



# Love Is All You Need

## Een film van Susanne Bier

Pierce Brosnan, Trine Dyrholm, Molly Blixt Egelind, Sebastien Jessen, Kim Bodnia, Paprika Steen

*Philip, een in Denemarken woonachtige Engelsman, is een eenzame weduwnaar van middelbare leeftijd en een alleenstaande vader. Ida is een Deense kapper, herstellende van chemotherapie, die net heeft ontdekt dat haar man haar verlaat voor een vrouw die half zijn leeftijd is. Deze twee gekneusde zielen ontmoeten elkaar wanneer ze op weg zijn naar Italië voor de bruiloft van zijn zoon, Patrick, en haar dochter, Astrid. Na een moeizame start groeien Philip en Ida naar elkaar toe, terwijl het bruidspaar vlak voor hun huwelijk voor verrassingen komt te staan.*



Speelduur: 116 min. – Land: Denemarken – Jaar: 2012 – Genre: komedie/drama/romantiek  
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Distributie: Cinéart

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## LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED (2012) is a warm, funny, life-affirming meditation on the birth pangs of starting a new life. Set at a wedding in the fantastically beautiful surroundings of Sorrento, Italy, LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED stars Golden Globe nominee Pierce Brosnan as Philip, father of the groom, and Trine Dyrholm as Ida, mother of the bride. As the union of their respective children bumpily approaches, the clashes, collisions and pratfalls among the wedding guests force Philip and Ida to reconsider the true significance of family, love and happiness.

The Academy Award® and Golden Globe® winning team of director Susanne Bier and writer Anders Thomas Jensen has delivered yet another triumph with a masterly blend of humour, sensitivity and sincerity. LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED is the fifth entry in their unfailingly successful collaboration, following 'Open Hearts' (Elsker dig forevigt - 2002), 'Brothers' (Brødre -2004), Academy Award® nominee 'After the Wedding' (Efter brylluppet - 2007) and the Academy Award® and Golden Globe® winning 'In A Better World' (2010). LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED marks Bier and Jensen's return to their respective roots in the comedic tradition, but with the tempered and profound approach that has become the trademark of these two masters of the emotional drama.



LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED is produced by Vibeke Windeløv and Sisse Graum Jørgensen for Zentropa Entertainments29 ApS in co-production with Lumiere & Co., Slotmachine, Zentropa International France, Film I Väst, Zentropa Entertainments Berlin, Zentropa International Sweden, DR, Sveriges Television, Arte France Cinéma, Network Movie, ZDF, Arte and Longride with support from The Danish Film Institute, 60/40, The Swedish Film Institute, Eurimages, Nordic Film & TV Fund, Canal+, Cine+, MEDIA, RAI Cinema and Italian Ministry of Culture – DG for Cinema. The film will be released in Scandinavia by Nordisk Film Distribution. International sales are handled by TrustNordisk.

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED is filmed by Morten Søborg, DFF, and edited by Pernille Bech Christensen and Morten Egholm. The behind-the-scenes team includes composer Johan Söderqvist, production designer Peter Grant, costume designer Signe Sejlund, make-up designer Daniel Parker, and sound designers Eddie Simonsen and Anne Jensen.

With a budget of approximately € 5,7 million, LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED was filmed on location in Italy and Denmark.

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## CAST

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Pierce Brosnan	Philip
Trine Dyrholm	Ida
Molly Blixt Egelind	Astrid
Sebastian Jessen	Patrick
Paprika Steen	Benedikte
Kim Bodnia	Leif
Christiane Schaumburg-Müller	Tilde
Micky Skeel Hansen	Kenneth

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## CREW

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Director	Susanne Bier
Story by	Susanne Bier & Anders Thomas Jensen
Screenplay	Anders Thomas Jensen
Producers	Sisse Graum Jørgensen & Vibeke Windeløv
Director of Photography	Morten Søborg, DFF
Editors	Pernille Bech Christensen & Morten Egholm
Sound Design	Eddie Simonsen & Anne Jensen
Composer	Johan Söderqvist
Production Designer	Peter Grant
Costume Design	Signe Sejlund
Make-up Design	Daniel Parker

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## TECHNICAL DATA

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Genre	Romance
Spoken languages	Danish / English
Country of origin	Denmark
Year of Production	2012
Production Company	Zentropa Entertainments29 ApS
Filmed on	Alexa
Duration	112 min.
Screen ratio	2,35:1 (Scope)
Sound	5.1

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## Director's statement – Susanne Bier

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I wanted to make a film about vulnerable people; about the things in life we'd rather suppress but, if depicted with humour, might lift our spirits. In *Ida* and *Philip* we found main characters whose vulnerability carried both the weight of the subject matter and the lightness of a humorous touch. We transported them to the most romantic place imaginable, alongside a host of comedic characters. We used humour and romance as means, not of softening their hardship, but of demarcating it more clearly, to allow the contrasting universes to emphasize each other. That way we could portray each of our characters, in all their fortune and misfortune, with the precision and tenderness they deserve.

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## Susanne Bier – Director

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Accomplished writer and director Susanne Bier's recent film '*In A Better World*' won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2011 as well as the Golden Globe, the Italian Golden Globe for Best European Film and Bier won Best Director at the European Film Awards.



In 2007, Bier directed the award winning '*Things We Lost in the Fire*', starring Halle Berry and Benicio Del Toro, her first English-language film. Prior to this, as a writer/director she had helmed the multi-award winning '*After the Wedding*', which was also Academy Award nominated for Best Foreign Language Film, and '*Brothers*', which, amongst others, won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and the Boston Independent Film Festival.

In 2002, Bier directed '*Open Hearts*', which she shot according to the Dogme '95 filmmaking aesthetic. The film won numerous awards, including the Audience Award at the Robert Festival (Danish Academy Award) and the International Film Critics' Award at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Bier also co-wrote and directed '*The One and Only*' (Den Eneste Ene – 1999), which won Best Film at the Robert Awards and was the biggest domestic film in Denmark for twenty years, a fifth of the country's population having seen it at the cinema. In addition to numerous other feature films, Bier has also directed a number of award-winning charity campaigns and commercials. Bier recently completed production on '*Serena*' starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence.

**After a string of intense dramas, Susanne Bier turns to comedy in *Love Is All You Need*, set in sunny Sorrento, Italy, and with the romantic pairing up of Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm. Mike Goodridge talks to the director about the nerve-wracking joy of winning an Oscar, her collaboration with writer Anders Thomas Jensen and how to balance an uncomfortable subject matter with all the charms of a romcom.**

“I think I am very romantic,” laughs Susanne Bier. “I think there has always been a contradiction between what people expected from me as a director and who I was. And I guess with this film there is less of a difference between who I am and what the movie is like.”

The film is *Love Is All You Need*, a delicious romantic comedy set over a wedding weekend in Sorrento where a host of characters fall in and out of love. Bathed in sunshine, lemon groves and beautiful sunsets, it’s Bier’s first romantic comedy since 1999 when she broke Danish box office records with *The One and Only*. Since then, she has become internationally acclaimed for a string of powerfully intense dramas revolving around moral dilemmas, kicking off with her Dogme film *Open Hearts*, followed by *Brothers*, *After the Wedding*, for which she was Oscar nominated, the US-set *Things We Lost in the Fire* and *In a Better World* for which she won the Oscar in 2011.

And, as you would expect from a filmmaker with those extraordinary films under her belt, this is no bland romantic comedy with twodimensional characters. She and her frequent writing collaborator Anders Thomas Jensen build all their work around authentic characters and in this case they have come up with *Ida*, a sunny, positive woman getting over cancer and a philandering husband, and Philip, a slick British businessman working in Copenhagen, who has never been able to recover from his wife’s death many years before. Most of the film takes place in Philip’s property in Sorrento where his son is marrying her daughter.

“The exciting thing about a romantic comedy is not who’s going to find each other but the journey of how they will get together,” Bier explains. “We have done a number of dramas where we dealt with the notion of “what if.” And with this film we had this woman in a very unhappy and lonely situation and we wanted to bring her back to a joyful state.” “But,” she cautions, “you can’t be heavy handed in a romantic comedy. You have to be emotionally engaging. So you have a character for whom you feel sorry but this person has to have a lot of charm and unpredictability.”

For the part of *Ida*, Bier cast veteran Trine Dyrholm who played one of the key dramatic parts in *In a Better World*. “I think it was fun for her because she has been playing characters on the dark side for a while,” says Bier, “and at the beginning I think she was afraid of playing it so light. *Ida* is someone who maintains high spirits even when things are really awful. I would say she is slightly inspired by my mother who also had cancer but always managed to see the positive side of things. We wanted the character to have traces of that: it’s intrinsic to who she is that she would at all times choose the positive way.” For Dyrholm, it was a challenging balancing act to maintain that sunny nature without being irritating either to those around her or the audience. “You must never sense that this woman is stupid,” says Bier, “because she is not.”

Meanwhile, as Philip, Bier cast the legendary Pierce Brosnan, who gives one of his most vulnerable performances to date. Bier always wanted the character to be a foreigner living in Denmark to heighten further his isolation. “For this character to be lonely, almost alienated in Copenhagen, it had to be someone who was clearly a foreigner.” “He is a great actor,” says Bier about Brosnan. “He completely understood what the film was about. I think there was a part of him that wanted to do something a little more fragile.”

## Flesh and blood

Including cancer in the story is a risk for any light endeavour, but Bier made a determined effort not to let it overwhelm the film's central charm. "I am not sure I would want to see a film about cancer and I wouldn't want to make a drama about cancer," she explains. "But we wanted to treat it in a way that was potentially painful but not disturbing. The intriguing thing was to deal with an uncomfortable subject matter in a charming way. It's just part of the story."

If the film sounds too heavy, it isn't. Bier and Jensen readily embraced romantic comedy conventions in the script. Ida and Philip start out with a frosty relationship when she backs into his car at Copenhagen Airport, but the frost melts over the course of the weekend. Meanwhile, various supporting characters fulfill certain types: Paprika Steen plays Brosnan's stuck-up, vitriolic sister-in-law who is determined to snare him for herself, Kim Bodnia is Dyrholm's obtuse husband who carelessly brings along his mistress to the wedding, and Christiane Shaumburg-Müller is the gauche sex bomb mistress who puts her foot in her mouth at every turn. "Good taste is the worst hindrance to moviemaking so you have to be courageous and take on clichés and conventions," says Bier. "If you are terrified about them, you could lose the engagement of the audience. It's about engaging with them. We all live according to clichés. The important thing is to make sure the characters are real flesh-and blood human beings and to really care for them. You can't avoid conventions, you have to make it real." She says that she likes the comedies of Richard Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Notting Hill*) for this very reason: despite the fairytale English settings, the characters are authentic. "I think he's a genius," she says. "He reinvented the romantic comedy by being pretty real."

Bier is no pushover, famously working intensively with her actors in her efforts to get the best from every scene. And that was no different on *Love Is All You Need*. "It was just as demanding as on a drama," she says. "Make no mistake, it's as difficult making a light movie as it is making a more heavy drama. We did have a lot of fun making it, but the laughter didn't necessarily go hand in hand with the material."

Shooting in glorious Sorrento of course was a bonus for everyone involved in the film. Cinematographer Morten Søborg and producer Vibeke Windeløv found the house where the wedding takes place when they went scouting for locations early on in the process. It was perfect for the film – unfurnished, empty and beside a lemon grove. Bier and Jensen had often retreated to the Amalfi coast to write some of their earlier films, so for them it was a natural spot to set a film. "We had a key Danish crew but also a big Italian crew," she recalls. "And Italian catering. It was pretty uncomplicated actually because the movie is also about people visiting Italy, so it wasn't as if we were pretending we were Italians."

Explaining that she is resolutely not a "careerist", Bier returns to why she felt the need to get romantic with this latest film. "You aren't really allowed to be overtly romantic today. Even in the good romantic comedies there's always an element of cynicism. I wanted to make one which is not cynical but which I would still like to see. That meant it had to have some real content. There had to be some edges to it." "But most importantly," says Bier, "I didn't want it to be cynical. I guess I am particularly romantic"

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## Anders Thomas Jensen – Screenplay

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Easily the most celebrated screenwriter ever to come out of Denmark, Anders Thomas Jensen continues to be a key figure in the cinema of Denmark and beyond.

As a writer/director Jensen won an Academy Award for his 1998 short film 'Election Night' (Valgften). He also received Oscar nominations in the live-action short category for his films 'Ernst & The Light' (Ernst og Lyset - 1996) and 'Wolfgang' (1997).

From the end of the 1990s and to this day he has written the screenplays for the majority of the Danish box office successes, including three Dogme films: 'The King is Alive' (2000) (co-written with Kristian Levring), 'Mifune's Last Song' (Mifunes Sidste Sang – 1998) (co-written with Søren Kragh-Jacobsen) and 'Open Hearts' (co-written with Susanne Bier). Jensen was also responsible for 'Stealing Rembrandt' (Rembrandt – 2003), 'The Duchess' (2008), as well as his frequent work with Bier, including 'Brothers', 'After the Wedding' and Academy Award winner 'In a Better World'.

In 2000, Jensen directed his first feature film, the action-comedy 'Flickering Lights' (Blinkende Lygter – 2000), and later 'The Green Butchers' (De Grønne Slagtere – 2003) and 'Adam's Apples' (Adams Æbler – 2005). 'Adam's Apples' was the Danish entry for that year's Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2005 Jensen received the prestigious award Nordisk Film Prisen.

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## Sisse Graum Jørgensen – Producer

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Sisse Graum Jørgensen is one of Denmark's most successful and prolific producers. In addition to 'Love Is All You Need', Graum Jørgensen produced Susanne Bier's Academy Award and Golden Globe winning 'In a Better World'; Academy Award® nominated 'After the Wedding' and 'Brothers'.

Graum Jørgensen has also produced films for such widely acclaimed directors as Thomas Vinterberg: Cannes Film Festival winner for Best Actor 'The Hunt' (Jagten - 2012) and 'Dear Wendy' (2005); Lone Scherfig: 'Just Like Home' (Hjemve – 2007) and 'Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself' (2002); Pernille Fischer Christensen's Fipresci recipient at the 2012 Berlinale, 'A Family' (En Familie - 2010); Kristian Levring's entry for the Toronto International Film Festival and San Sebastian Film Festival, 'Fear Me Not' (Den Du Frygter - 2008), and Niels Arden Oplev's Crystal Bear winner, 'We Shall Overcome' (Drømmen - 2006).

Graum Jørgensen was also the co-producer of Andrea Arnold's Cannes Jury Special Prize winner, 'Red Road' (2006), and David Mackenzie's Sundance entry, 'Perfect Sense' (2011). Most recently, Sisse Graum Jørgensen produced Nikolaj Arcel's box-office smash and double Berlin Silver Bear winner, 'A Royal Affair'.

European Film Promotion selected Sisse Graum Jørgensen for the prestigious title "Producer on the Move" in 2003 and Screen International featured her in their 2004 "Talent Watch". In 2011, Graum Jørgensen became a member of the Producers' Branch of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



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## Vibeke Windeløv – Producer

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For four decades, Vibeke Windeløv has enjoyed an extraordinarily varied career, ranging from being one of the most successful independent film producers in Scandinavia, to founding Refugees United in 2008 and serving on numerous film festival juries.

Vibeke Windeløv was in at the start of the new wave of Danish cinema and the birth of the Dogme movement. She produced all of Lars von Trier's films from 1994 to 2006, including 'Breaking the Waves', winner of the 1996 Cannes Grand Jury prize; 'Dancer in the Dark', winner of the 2000 Cannes Palme d'Or, 'Dogville' (2003), 'Manderlay' (2005), 'The Boss of It All' (Direktøren for Det Hele - 2006) and the TV-series 'The Kingdom' (Riget – 1994-97). Other celebrated directors with whom she has worked include Lukas Moodysson, Bille August, Gabriel Axel, and Jørgen Leth.

In 2011, Windeløv started her own production company, Windeløv/ Lassen, together with producer Stinna Lassen. Windeløv served on the board of the European Film Academy from 1998 to 2004, on the jury of the 2001 Venice Film Festival, the 2006 Montreal Film Festival and 2009 Sundance Film Festival. She is an appointed member of the School Council at the Danish Academy of Fine Arts and sits on the appointment panel of the Danish Film School. Windeløv was also appointed a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France.

'Love Is All You Need' marks Windeløv's fourth collaboration with Susanne Bier, following 'Family Matters' (Det Bli'r i Familien – 1994), 'Credo' (Sekten – 1997) and 'Open Hearts'.

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## CAST

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### Pierce Brosnan – Philip



Recognized internationally as one of the most skilled dramatic actors in Hollywood today, two-time Golden Globe Award nominee Pierce Brosnan was born in County Meath Ireland and trained at Drama Centre London. Brosnan relocated to Los Angeles in 1982 and immediately landed the role of private investigator Remington Steele on the popular ABC television series of the same name.

He is perhaps best known worldwide as James Bond, a franchise he reinvigorated in the box-office blockbusters 'GoldenEye' (1995), 'Tomorrow Never Dies' (1997), 'The World Is Not Enough' (1999) and 'Die Another Day' (2002).

His many other distinguished performances include turns in Roman Polanski's critically acclaimed film 'The Ghost Writer' (2010); the smash hit film adaptation of the Broadway hit 'Mamma Mia!' (2008), opposite Meryl Streep; 'The Matador' (2005), for which he received a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture; the box office hit 'The Thomas Crown Affair' (1999); Tim Burton's 'Mars Attacks' (1996) and 'Mrs. Doubtfire' (1993) with Robin Williams.

In 1996, Brosnan launched the production company Irish DreamTime, alongside producing partner Beau St. Clair. Irish DreamTime's productions include 'The Thomas Crown Affair', 'Evelyn' (2002), 'Laws of Attraction' (2004), 'The Matador' and 'The Greatest' (2010). Upcoming projects for Irish DreamTime include the second instalment of 'The Thomas Crown Affair' and 'The November Man'.

Some of Brosnan's many accolades include the 2007 Goldene Kamera Award for his environmental work, a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chicago Film Festival, an Honorary Doctorate from University College Cork and an Order of the British Empire bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen. Brosnan just concluded filming 'Love Punch' in France, starring opposite Emma Thompson, and will begin production on 'A Long Way Down', with Toni Collette, this fall in London.

## Trine Dyrholm – Ida

Danish actress Trine Dyrholm is among the most talented actors of her generation, acclaimed for her work in theatre, television and film. She began what has become a string of award-winning performances at the age of 18, appearing in the film 'Spring Tide' (Springflod – 1994), for which she received the prestigious Danish Critic Association Award, the Bodil – an award she has gone to win five times, the only actor ever to have done so.

Dyrholm attended The Danish National School of Theatre 1991-1995. Among her many acclaimed stage credits was Sarah Kane's notoriously challenging, suicidal solo performance '4:48 Psychosis' for which she received the Danish theatrical award Reumert in 2002, and which led to a 2012 revival at legendary Berlin Volksbühne.

Dyrholm received her first international attention for her part in Thomas Vinterberg's 'The Celebration' (Festen) in 1998 and has been a regular at The Berlinale with films like 'A Soap' (En Soap – 2005), 'Little Soldier' (Lille Soldat – 2008) and, earlier this year, 'A Royal Affair' (En Kongelig Affære – 2012).

Dyrholm played the female lead in Susanne Bier's Academy Award-winning 'In a Better World'. For that performance, Dyrholm won both a Bodil and a Robert for Best Leading Actress.



## Molly Blixt Egelind – Astrid

One of the most promising young actors in Denmark, Molly Blixt Egelind is currently attending The National School of Theatre in Odense. She is already reaping national pre-release praise for 'Love Is All You Need'.

Blixt Egelind's silver screen debut came in 2002, in Jesper W. Nielsens hit film 'Okay', for which she earned plaudits for her complex and moving performance. Since then, Molly has applied a sweetly sensitive and intriguing approach to all of her roles, including her performances in acclaimed feature films, such as 'Triple Dare' (Supervoksen - 2006), 'Fighter' (2007) and 'Rebound' (Frit Fald – 2011).



## Sebastian Jessen – Patrick

The rare example of a child actor who has made a successful transition into adult roles, Sebastian Jessen has earned critical acclaim since his debut in 1998, co-starring in the children's film 'Albert'. Since then he has appeared in Danish hits such as 'Love at First Hiccough' (Kærlighed Ved Første Hik – 1998), 'Miracle' (Mirakel – 2000), 'Flickering Lights', 'Triple Dare', 'Rich Kids' (2007) and 'Nothing's All Bad' (Smukke Mennesker – 2010).

He has also had a successful career as a voice actor in many animated films, including the Danish hit feature 'Help! I'm a Fish' (Hjælp, Jeg Er en Fisk! – 2000). On TV, Jessen has appeared in the internationally acclaimed series 'Borgen' (2010-present) and 'Those Who Kill' (Den Som Dræber - 2010-11).

## Paprika Steen – Benedikte

Paprika Steen has earned international renown as one of Denmark's most talented actors, and is considered nothing short of a national treasure in her home country. As a teen, she started her career performing in various contemporary stage productions and has been associated with the Royal Danish Theatre since 1997. In 1998, Steen became an active participant in the internationally acclaimed Dogme 95 film movement as the only performer to appear in all of its first three movies: Lars Von Trier's 'The Idiots' (Idioterne – 1998), Thomas Vinterberg's 'The Celebration', and Søren Kragh-Jacobsen's 'Mifune's Last Song'. Often referred to as the "Dogme Queen," she also appeared in Susanne Bier's 'Open Hearts', for which she won a Bodil Award and a Robert Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Steen won her first Bodil Award for Best Supporting Actress in 2000, for Bier's 'The One and Only'. In 2002, she won the Bodil Award, the Robert Award, and American Film Institute's Grand Jury Prize for her leading role in Jesper W. Nielsen's 'Okay'. In addition, she was highly praised for her performance in 'Applause' (Applaus – 2009) for which she was awarded a Bodil Award and a Robert Award as well as the award for Best Actress at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. One of Steen's biggest triumphs on stage was her sensational, critically acclaimed 2008 performance as Martha in Edward Albee's 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?'



## Kim Bodnia – Leif

Kim Bodnia is one of Denmark's most accomplished actors. He has rightly earned distinction and a glowing reputation in Denmark for his compelling and eclectic performances. His major breakthrough came in Ole Bornedal's 1994 film 'Nightwatch' (Nattevagten), for which he was awarded a Bodil for Best Supporting Actor. This was followed by a successful collaboration with renowned director Nicholas Winding Refn, starring in the latter's films 'Pusher' (1996) and 'Bleeder' (1999). Bodnia also starred in the action comedy 'In China They Eat Dogs' (I Kina Spiser De Hunde – 1999) and its sequel 'Old Men in New Cars' (Gamle Mænd i Nye Biler – 2002), both written by Anders Thomas Jensen.

Recently, Bodnia starred in the internationally successful Danish-Swedish TV-series 'The Bridge' (Broen – 2011- present). Bodnia also appeared in Susanne Bier's Academy Award-winning 'In a Better World'. Following 'Love is All You Need', 2013 will mark his third collaboration with Bier, in her upcoming film 'Serena'.



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