



35. Venice
International Film
Critics' Week

**TOOLBOX FILM,
DANISH FILM INSTITUTE, SCANBOX ENTERTAINMENT, DRTV,
CHARADES AND CREATIVE EUROPE**

PRESENT

SHORTA

A FILM BY
Anders Ølholm & Frederik Louis Hviid

with

JACOB HAUBERG LOHMANN, SIMON SEARS, TAREK ZAYAT

DANISH RELEASE : OCTOBER 8TH 2020

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SHORTA

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **Anders Ølholm**
Frederik Louis Hviid

PRODUCERS **Morten Kaufmann**
Signe Leick Jensen

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **Jacob Møller**

PRODUCTION DESIGNER **Gustav Pontoppidan**

COMPOSER **Martin Dirkov**

EDITOR **Anders Albjerg Kristiansen**

PRODUCED BY **TOOLBOX FILM**

NORDIC DISTRIBUTOR **SCANBOX ENTERTAINMENT**

DANISH THEATRICAL RELEASE **OCTOBER 8TH 2020**

DURATION **108 MINUTES**

SHORTA

CREDITS

Mike Andersen
Jens Høyer
Amos Al-Shami

JACOB HAUBERG LOHMANN
SIMON SEARS
TAREK ZAYAT

Sami
Iza
Danijel
Abia
Amira
Osman
Osmans security
Hedegård
Rønning
Møller
TV-Journalist
Cameraman
Talib Ben Hassi
Abias Neighbor
Talib's Mother

DULFI AL-JABOURI
ISSA KHATTAB
ABDELMALIK DHAFLAOUI
ÖZLEM SAGLANMAK
LARA AKSOY
ARIAN KASHEF
ALI ABDUL AMIR NAJEI
MICHAEL BROSTRUP
JOSEPHINE PARK
MADS RØMER
ANNE PLAUBORG
MORTEN BROVN
JACK DEPAIVA PEDERSEN
HANIN GEORGIS
ROSE BROHOLM

SHORTA

SYNOPSIS

The exact details of what took place while Talib Ben Hassi (19) was in police custody remain unclear. Police officers, Jens and Mike, are on routine patrol in Svalegården's ghetto when news of Talib's death comes in over the radio, igniting uncontrollable, pent-up rage in the ghetto's youth, who lust for revenge. Suddenly, the two officers find themselves fair game and must fight tooth and claw to find a way out.

SHORTA

DIRECTORS' NOTES

When we started working on *Shorta*, the themes of the story weighed heavily on our minds, and we felt compelled to talk about them the only way, we knew how; through storytelling. But we never imagined that the story, we were going to tell, would become even more relevant in years to come.

We believe in the power of cinema as a way to provoke thought and inspire change. Our aim is to thrill and entertain, but also to spark conversation about a difficult subject matter without any clear-cut solutions.

We don't consider *Shorta* to be a political film, but simply about people. Our aim is neither to defend nor to criticize, but merely to try and understand the "why" behind people's actions and worldviews. The angry, disenfranchised young men from the housing projects, who feel demonized and misunderstood, as well as the overworked and underpaid police officers for whom the same holds true.

Shorta, which is Arabic for "police", is very much a genre film. It owes a great debt to directors such as William Friedkin, Sidney Lumet and Walter Hill and their gritty thrillers and complex antiheroes from the 70's and 80's. But also to filmmakers like Spike Lee and Mathieu Kassovitz whose work simmer with anger, outrage and defiance and deliver strong social commentary with a heightened visual style.

Through our own visual storytelling, we have strived to make a film with a sense of urgency that puts the audience right in the middle of the chaos. A film that makes the viewer an active participant in an ever-escalating conflict and forces them to not look away. We live in a dark time. Humanity needs hope. And ultimately that is what *Shorta* is to us, a story of hope. You have to be willing to go through a lot of darkness, but there is light on the other side.

Anders Ølholm & Frederik Louis Hviid

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DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Anders Ølholm

Anders Ølholm graduated as a screenwriter from the National Film School of Denmark in 2009. He made his debut with the superhero film *Antboy*, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2013. The following year, he wrote the screenplay for *Antboy: Revenge of the Red Fury*, which was selected for the Berlinale in the Generation Kplus and won a Danish Robert Award for Best Children's Film. In 2015, he made his directorial debut with the short film *King (not the same as Frederiks)*, which was selected for Toronto. In 2017 he received a Robert nomination for his screenplay for the third film in the *Antboy* trilogy.

Frederik Louis Hviid

Frederik Louis Hviid first short film: *Palma*, was nominated at the Stockholm FF 2013, and secured him a place at the prominent independent film school, Super16. His short film *King* was selected for OFF in Odense, Denmark, in 2015, and later shortlisted for a Robert Award before finding its way to Cannes in 2016. His graduation film *Halfman* opened the CPH PIX Festival 2016. The film won gold at Cannes 2017 in the category Young Directors Award and was nominated for a Robert Award at the 2018 ceremony. Frederik has directed several episodes of the acclaimed 3rd season of series *Follow The Money* (Berlinale 2019) for DR-DRAMA.

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Jacob Hauberg Lohmann

Following graduation from The Acting School at Aarhus Theatre in 2002, Jacob Hauberg Lohmann has performed in several theatre productions throughout Denmark. Prior to *Shorta*, he could be seen in the thriller *Darkland* (2017). In addition to his film work, Jacob Hauberg Lohmann is a familiar face on Danish television, appearing in such series as TV2's *Norskov* (2015), DR's *Follow the Money III* (2019) and most recently in the DR drama series *When the Dust Settles* (2020). For his role in *Follow the Money* (2019) Jacob won a Robert Award for best male actor in a supporting role. Jacob Hauberg Lohmann is a versatile actor and besides his performances in thriller, crime and drama genres he has held leading roles in several Danish comedies including *That Time of Year* (2018) and *Out of Tune* (2019).

Simon Sears

As of 2020, Simon Sears has appeared in two films, namely *Shorta* and *The Exception*. He can also be seen in the upcoming Netflix series *Shadow and Bone*, scheduled for airing next year. Simon Sears is known for his sophisticated and powerful portrayal of complex characters – a talent that was clearly in evidence in the award-winning film *Winter Brothers* (2017) and DR's two TV series *Follow the Money* (2016) and *Ride Upon the Storm* (2017-2018) – the latter securing Simon nationwide renown and not least recognition of his prodigious talent. Simon Sears graduated from The Danish National School of Performing Arts in 2014 and in addition to his film and television work, he has appeared in several theatrical productions around the country. For his role in Mammutteatret's play *At the end of the day we are all Human* he was awarded the Reumert Talent Prize (2016).

Tarek Zayat

The young talent Tarek Zayat made his debut in *Shorta*.

Key roles

Playing the role of Tarek Zayat's mother is Özlem Saglanmak, while the role of 'mediating' youth club leader Sami Hashim is played by Dulfi Al-Jabouri. In other key roles we find Issa Khattab, Abdelmalik Dhaflaoui, and Arian Kashef whose breakthrough came in DR's TV series *When the Dust Settles* (2020).

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ABOUT TOOLBOX

Producers Morten Kaufmann and Signe Leick Jensen credit lists include several of the most prominent films in Danish cinema in recent years. In 2019 they released the local box office hit *Daniel* (Cairo FF) which won numerous awards at the Danish Academy Awards and also *Hacker* an action film for children, which won the audience award at both CineKid, Chicago FF and Stockholm FF 2019. Signe Leick Jensen was appointed Producer on the move in Cannes 2012 by EFP, the same year that Thomas Vinterberg's *The Hunt* produced by Morten Kaufmann was in Competition in Cannes. Signe attended EAVE in 2012 and is a member of the ACE.

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TOOLBOX FILM PRESENTS

SUPPORTED BY DANISH FILM INSTITUTE IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCANBOX ENTERTAINMENT DR
FILMKLUBBEN CREATIVE EUROPE AND CHARADES

A FILM BY FREDERIK LOUIS HVIID & ANDERS ØLHOLM "SHORTA"

JACOB HAUBERG LOHMANN SIMON SEARS TAREK ZAYAT ISSA KHATTAB AND ÖZLEM

SAGLANMAK COMPOSER MARTIN DIRKOV EDITOR ANDERS ALBJERG KRISTIANSEN

SOUND DESIGN MORTEN GREEN CASTING DIRECTOR GRO THERP

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JACOB MØLLER, DFF PRODUCTION DESIGN GUSTAV

PONTOPPIDAN COSTUME DESIGN SARAH THANING MAKEUP DESIGN HENRIK STEEN VISUAL
EFFECTS SUPERVISORS JONAS DREHN JAN TVILLING 1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BJØRN KOPP

PRODUCERS MORTEN KAUFMANN SIGNE LEICK JENSEN

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANDERS ØLHOLM & FREDERIK LOUIS HVIID

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