



*World Wide  
Motion Pictures Corporation*

Presents:

# *The Kiss*

*A Love And Passion That Has No Restraints*

From **Academy Award** winning Director, **Bille August**

Directed by Bille August

Written by Bille August and Greg Latter

Produced by Henrik Zein

Starring:

Esben Smed

Clara Rosager

Lars Mikkelsen

David Dencik

Rosalinde Mynster

110 minute TRT



# Cast & Crew

Directed by: Bille August  
Produced by: Thomas Heinesen  
Lars Sylvest  
Steve Wright  
Peter Mads Clausen  
Henrik Zein  
Lee Smith  
Written by: Bille August  
Greg Latter  
Stefan Zweig (the original novel)  
Starring: Esben Smed  
Clara Rosager  
Lars Mikkelsen  
David Dencik  
Rosalinde Mynster  
Music: Henrik Skram  
Cinematography: Sebastian Blenkov  
Edited by: Janus Billeskov Jansen  
Anne Østerud  
Country: Denmark  
Language: Danish (with english subtitles)

# Awards & Festivals

Robert Awards, Denmark

- Nominated for the Audience Award

Warsaw International Film Festival, Poland

- Nominated for the Grand Prix

Barcelona Sant Jordi International Film Festival, Spain

- Winner of Best Director
- Winner of the Castell de Peralada Award
- Winner of the Film-Història Award

Göteborg Film Festival, Sweden

- Official Selection

European Film Festival, Lebanon

- Official Selection

Film by the Sea International Film Festival, The Netherlands

- Official Selection

BIF&ST - Bari International Film Festival, Italy

- Official Selection

# Reviews/Comments

## Ekko

“The kiss is more than anything else a modern fairy tale. [lead] Esben Smed is a kind of male Cinderella who comes to the ball at the castle. [co-lead] Young Clara Rosager's role is a welcome and elegantly toured diversity on film.”

“The kiss is both a delicate and elegant film that is romantic to the fingertips with its light fabrics, twirling ballerinas and elegant garden scenes, which was shot at the beautiful Funen castle Ravnholt Gods near Ørbæk [Denmark].”

## IMDB

“Overall, a beautifully cinematographed, cut and edited piece, with stellar writing and performances.”

“One of the best films of the year for sure, and very much recommended for any lover of film!”

## Kinosaur

“...the successful script [adaptation from the original novel] makes The Kiss something of a Gordian knot of emotions and ethics.”

## Variety

“[Director]August spoke exclusively to Variety about “The Kiss,” his enduring interest in the complexity of human beings, book-to-screen adaptations and his belief in the big screen experience.”

## Screen Daily

“The beautiful epic romantic drama is set in 1913 Denmark, on the eve of the First World War, about a noble young man training to be a cavalry officer. He meets a baron’s daughter, a beautiful young woman in a wheelchair following a tragic accident, and can’t figure out if his growing feelings for her are out of true love or pity.”

# Synopsis

Based on Stefan Zweig's German classic *Beware of Pity*, *The Kiss* is a romantic drama set against the backdrop of 1913 Denmark at the start of World War I, following the journey of Anton Abildgaard, a noble cavalry officer, hoping to complete his military training with distinction. After helping the local Baron Løvenskjold out of a tough situation one day with his automobile, he is invited to join him and his family for dinner at their castle, where he meets the Baron's beautiful wheelchair bound daughter, Edith. The two begin spending more and more time together as Edith slowly falls in love and Anton struggles with being able to discern if his feelings for her are genuine or merely out of pity, all while the ominous threat of the first World War looms over them.

## The Author

The film's screenplay and story are based on the classic best-selling novel, *Beware of Pity*, by renowned author Stefan Zweig whose literary works have been adapted for the screen many times over the years including for the 1988 film, *Burning Secret*, starring Klaus Maria Brandauer and Faye Dunaway; the 2013 film, *The Promise*, starring Alan Rickman and Rebecca Hall; the 2014 film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, starring Ralph Fiennes, F. Murray Abraham, Jeff Goldblum, and Bill Murray and 2016's Academy Award contender for best foreign language film from Germany, *Farewell to Europe*. Zweig was a prolific award-winning Austrian writer at the turn of the 20th century. During the 1920s and 1930s, Zweig was the most widely read and translated writer in the world. He had a style of writing that was extremely popular and every short story, novella, and biography he wrote became very successful.

# Director's Biography

## BILLE AUGUST - Director and Writer

Born in Brede, Denmark, Bille August is an acclaimed director and writer in the Danish film industry. Beginning his career in the 1970s after attending the National Film School of Denmark, August's filmography spans a wide variety of feature film genres. Several of his films have won national awards and many others have had prestigious nominations including the epic film *Pelle the Conqueror* (starring Max von Sydow) ultimately winning both the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and the Golden Globe Award. August is one of only ten directors to win two Palme d'Or awards at the Cannes International Film Festival. He is best known for directing the film version of *Les Misérables* (starring Liam Neeson, Uma Thurman, and Geoffrey Rush), *The House of Spirits* (starring Jeremy Irons), and *Night Train to Lisbon* (starring Jeremy Irons).



## Director's Statement

Even though “The Kiss” takes place in a historic environment, it was definitely not my intention to make a “period piece,” a “costume drama.” On the contrary, the time, the period is simply thought as a grand, picturesque, cinematic backdrop, where the actual content, the form and progressive style of storytelling is the bearing, present, energetic and irresistible element. Where aesthetic and moral – the visually fantastic and the life affirming drama – come together in a larger, ubiquitous entity, a matchless filmic universe.

# Cast Biographies

## ESBEN SMED - Anton



The film's lead actor Esben Smed is an award-winning film actor from Odder, Denmark who has worked with director Bille August in the past on the film *A Fortunate Man* which he starred in and was released by Nordisk Film. He's best known for his role in the films *Summer of '92* (starring Ulrich Thomsen), *A Fortunate Man*, and *Held for Ransom* (which also stars Smed) along with the television series *Follow the Money* (which also stars Smed). He has won several international awards including the Shooting Stars Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, Best Actor in a Leading Television Role at past Robert Awards, and Best Actor in a Leading Role at the most recent Robert Awards. Additionally, he has previously been nominated for other Robert Awards, Bodil Awards, and Zulu Awards in several categories.

## CLARA ROSAGER - Edith

Hailing from Denmark's capital city, Copenhagen, Clara Rosager is a popular European film actress and print/television model with a large online following. She is best known for her performance in the film *Before the Frost* (starring Jesper Christensen), released by Nordisk Film and which she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress at the Bodil Awards and Best Actress at the Danish Film Awards. Other well-known roles of hers include her performances in the film *Misbehaviour* (starring Kiera Knightley), the television series *The Rain* (starring Alba August) and *1899* (starring Emily Beecham).



## LARS MIKKELSEN - Baron Løvenskjold



Being the older brother of the world-renowned actor Mads Mikkelsen, Lars Mikkelsen is no stranger to the acting profession. Born in Gladsaxe, Denmark, Mikkelsen's performances can be seen and heard in some of the biggest franchises in the world. He is best known for his multiple appearances in the *Star Wars* franchise, the television series *House of Cards* (starring Kevin Spacey), *Herrens Veje* which he starred in and *Forbrydelsen* (starring Sofie Gråbøl), the films *Headhunter*, also starring Lars, and *The Day Will Come* (starring Sofie Gråbøl). Throughout his career he has been nominated for numerous awards, and has taken home two Bodil Awards, an International Emmy Award, and three Robert Awards.

## DAVID DENCIK - Dr. Faber

As a Swedish-Danish actor from Stockholm, Sweden, David Dencik has found remarkable success in his career all across the world. He has appeared in numerous Swedish and Danish feature films alongside major Hollywood productions such as the James Bond film *No Time to Die* (starring Daniel Craig). Dencik has earned ten major awards in his time as an actor including three Robert Awards, in addition to many more nominations. He is best known for his performances in *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (starring Gary Oldman and Colin Firth), *Chernobyl* (starring Stellan Skarsgård), and *The Homesman* (starring Tommy Lee Jones).





## ROSALINDE MYNSTER - Anna



Born in Frederiksberg, Denmark, Rosalinde Mynster was raised in a family of established actors and chose to join them in the field. Throughout her career she has built up an impressive portfolio, with nine award nominations and one win, for Best Supporting Actress at the Zulu Awards for her performance in *Truth About Men* (starring Thure Lindhardt) released by Nordisk Film. Other films she is also known for include *Worlds Apart* (starring Pilou Asbaek) which she starred in, *Persona non Grata* (starring Koyuki) which she starred in and *A Royal Affair* (starring Mads Mikkelsen). She is also well known for her breakout role as Fie in the television series *Badehotellet* (starring Anne Louise Hassing).

# Principle Crew

## Producers' Biographies

### THOMAS HEINESEN - Producer



Growing up in Copenhagen, Denmark, Thomas Heinesen crafted his outstanding career in the Danish film industry. Having been educated at The National Film School of Denmark and having worked on over forty films in the industry, Heinesen brings an immense amount of talent and experience to *The Kiss*. His work has been nominated dozens of times at the Robert Awards, and he has taken home four awards in the Best Children/Family Film category for *The Little Alien* (starring Jesper Christensen), *The Incredible Story of the Giant Pear* (starring Alfred Bjerre Larsen), *Triple Dare* (starring Amalie Lindegård), and *The Trouble with Terkel* (starring

Bill Bailey). He is best known for his work on the films *The Trouble with Terkel*, *A Fortunate Man* (starring Esben Smed), *Worlds Apart* (starring Rosalinde Mynster) and the television documentary series *Scandinavian Star*.

### LARS SYLVEST - Producer

Lars Sylvest is an accomplished film producer with an extensive career both in and out of the film industry. He has earned both a Master's Degree of Law at the University of Copenhagen and an MFA from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles, leading to him forming several successful companies throughout his career specializing in film and television production. He is best known for his work as a producer on *Premonition* (starring Sandra Bullock), *Death Sentence* (starring Kevin Bacon) and *Ferrari* (starring Adam Driver).



## HENRIK ZEIN - Executive Producer



As the COO of European film producer and distribution company, Nordisk Film Production, Henrik Zein has earned over a hundred film credits throughout his career. Nordisk Film is a large entertainment company in Europe that has found considerable success with Zein's contributions and guidance.. Prior to Nordisk, Zein has worked in numerous roles such as a production assistant and an accountant on past projects, and he is best known for being a producer for *The Guilty* (starring Jakob Cedergren), *Kon-Tiki* (starring Pål Sverre Hagen) and *The 12th Man* (starring Thomas Gullestad and Jonathan Rhys Meyers).

## Cinematographer's Biography

### SEBASTIAN BLENKOV - Cinematographer

Born in Århus, Denmark, Blenkov found his calling behind the camera, working as a director of photography and cinematographer on many major productions including *Operation Mincemeat* (starring Colin Firth) and *Miss Sloane* (starring Jessica Chastain). His cinematography has earned him several Robert Awards nominations and a Bronze Tadpole Award at the International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography Camerimage. Some of his best known works include *Adam's Apples* (starring Ulrich Thomsen) and *Their Finest* (starring Gemma Arterton).



# Production Designer's Biography

## JETTE LEHMANN - Production Designer



Graduating from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, Denmark, Jette Lehmann's extensive portfolio showcases her considerable artistic talents and keen eye for production design. She has worked on both traditional architectural projects for commercial buildings such as hotels and restaurants, along with providing her skills to multiple major motion pictures including *Melancholia* (starring Kirsten Dunst) and *It's All About Love* (starring Joaquin Phoenix). Lehmann's design work has won multiple Robert Awards, a Bodil Award, and more. She is best known for her production design on *Flame & Citron* (starring Mads Mikkelsen), *Dear Wendy* (starring Jamie Bell and Allison Pill) and *The Promised Land* (starring Mads Mikkelsen).

# Music Designer Biography

## HENRIK SKRAM - Composer



He started playing the piano and composing music at a very early age, he then graduated to and studied classical composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where he was awarded the 1st Prize in the Lutoslawski Prize for Young Composers. Among many different entertainment related projects, Henrik is well known for his compositions for the feature films *Kysset* (starring Esben Smed), *Rose* (starring Lene Maria Christesen) and the television series *Snøfall* (starring Kevin Haugan). He has a variety of other film and television projects he will be scoring in the future, both in the United States and Europe.

# Theatrical Trailer (European)

<https://youtu.be/gkTdXrPWJsg?si=35499QAR9ColGtgw>

## Interviews

<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/bille-august-the-kiss-craft-streamers-1235167510/>

[https://youtu.be/T-HSq8C\\_fw?si=6lmPf1DV7TeB3ZhV](https://youtu.be/T-HSq8C_fw?si=6lmPf1DV7TeB3ZhV)

## One Sheet



# Production Stills

