

Programme of Danish Film Screenings at the Danish Institute at Athens 2018

“Aspects of Danish Cinema”.

By Ioanna Athanassatou/Film Historic at the Greek Open University & the University of Athens

Screening on the 22nd of March 2018

Submarino (2010) by Thomas Vinterberg

Today we have chosen to screen “Submarino” (2010) by Thomas Vinterberg, the fourth movie this year. Thomas Vinterberg has been awarded many times and is known for “always creating within borders” and thereby overturning cinematic stereotypes. Together with Lars Von Trier, he was the co-founder of the Dogma 95 movement (a radical cinematic avant garde movement).

Vinterberg was awarded already with his very first short films “Last Round” and “The boy” when graduating from the Danish Film School in 1993. It made a great impact, when Vinterberg, along with other initiators of the Dogma movement, went to Paris in 1995 and presented a new kind of cinema that was unconventional and free from the limitations of classic cinema the presentation of “naked truth” through an ultimate realistic dramaturgy with natural lighting, handheld camera - a rejection of the melodramatic and beautified form. The plausibility of the story is emphasized by the power of the script as well the performing of the actors.

The movie “The celebration” (in Danish “Festen”) from 1998 was the first movie from the Dogma movement and it was awarded with the Golden Palm at the Cannes festival, The European Fassbinder Award as well as the Oscar for best foreign movie (Roussos 2016). After this, Vinterberg, together with other directors, distanced himself from the Dogma movement as he believed, that “it had become just another cliché”.

After “The celebration” came a line of remarkable movies such as “It’s all about love” (2003), “Submarino” (2010) – official representative from Denmark at the Berlin Film festival and awarded as Nordic Council Film, “The hunt” (2012), Oscar nominated as best Foreign movie and last “The Commune” (2016).

In today’s movie “Submarino”, Thomas Vinterberg “returns in a spectacular form”, as Le Marsall underlines in Screen Daily, basing his movie on the novel by Danish writer Jonas Bengtsston. “I like the direct language in the book”, the director says. “The rigid truth of the written word reminds me of my first steps in cinema. I immediately felt that the subject matter was essential. In some way, the characters are people trying to keep their heads beyond water. The movie is about people that do not manage to do that. The title “Submarino” refers to the torture method of violently keeping the head under water”.

Tobias Lindholm has written the scenario and it is beautifully carried out by the actors Jakob Cedergren, Peter Plaugborg, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Morten Rose and the young Gustav Fischer Kjærulf

with the support of leading photographer Charlotte Bruss Christensen. The result is a daring heart breaking drama that touches not only the emotions but also the consciousness of the audience.

Thomas Vinterberg: "I wanted to tell the story of people helping each other, even under difficult conditions in bleak environments. The characters in "Submarino" have reached the bottom. They belong to a ruthless part of society where survival comes first. In spite of the sad story, the experience of the filming was very enriching and satisfying. All through the shootings, we felt that we did something right".

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[Htpps: // tvxs.gr/news/sinema](https://tvxs.gr/news/sinema), Georgos Roussos, *A tribute to Thomas Vinterberg*, 2016