

THE KING'S CHOICE

Samuel Goldwyn
SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS



THE KING'S CHOICE

DRAMA / NORWAY / 2016 / RUNNING TIME 133 MIN / SCREENING FORMAT DCP / ORIGINAL TITLE: KONGENS NEI

CAST

King Haakon	Jesper Christensen
Crown Prince Olav	Anders Baasmo Christiansen
Curt Bräuer	Karl Markovics
Crown Princess Märtha	Tuva Novotny
Fredrik Seeberg	Arthur Hakalahti
Peder Wedel Jarlsberg	Svein Tindberg
Hartvig Pohlman	Andreas Lust
Anneliese Bräuer	Katharina Schüttler
Halvdan Koht	Ketil Høegh
Johan Nygaardsvold	Gerald Pettersen
C.J. Hambro	Jan Frostad
Birger Eriksen	Erik Hivju
Magnus P. Sødem	Espen Sandvik
Princess Ragnhild	Sofie Falkgård
Princess Astrid	Ingrid Ross Raftemo
Prince Harald 3 years	Magnus Ketilsson Dobbe
Sergeant Brynjar Hammer	Rolf Kristian Larsen
Diana Müller	Juliane Köhler
Frode Vestli	Herbert Nordrum

CREW

A film by	Erik Poppe
Screenplay by	Jan Trygve Røyneland, Harald Rosenløw Eeg
Inspired by the book	The King's Choice by Alf R. Jacobsen
Producer	Finn Gjerdrum, Stein B. Kvae
Executive Producers	Henrik Zein, Jesper Christensen, Malene R. Ehlers, Erik Poppe, Lone Korslund, Jan Petter Dickman, Thomas Gammeltoft, Stein B. Kvae, Tomas Eskilsson, Finn Gjerdrum
Co-producers	Jackie Larkin, Madeleine Ekman, Lesley McKimm
Line producer	Katarina Krave
Director of Photography	Kaare Storemyr
Production Design	John Christian Rosenlund FNF
Costume Designer	Peter Bävman
Make-up	Karen F. Gram
Composer	Elizabeth Bukkehave
Visual Effects Supervisor	Johan Söderqvist
Casting	Arne Kaupang
	Øystein Kjennerud, Ulrike Müller, FriFilm

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LOGLINE

Erik Poppe's commanding take on the true events that turned a brave man into the people's king.

SYNOPSIS

THE KING'S CHOICE is based on the true the story about the three dramatic days in April of 1940, when the King of Norway is presented with the monstrous ultimatum from the Germans: surrender or die.

With German Air Force and soldiers hunting them down, the royal family is forced to flee from the capital. They decide to go separate ways, not knowing if they'll ever see each other again. While Crown Princess Maertha leaves Norway with the children to seek refuge in Sweden, King Haakon and Crown Prince Olav stay on to fight the Germans.

After three days of desperately trying to evade the Germans, King Haakon makes his final decision, one that may cost him, his family and many Norwegians their lives.

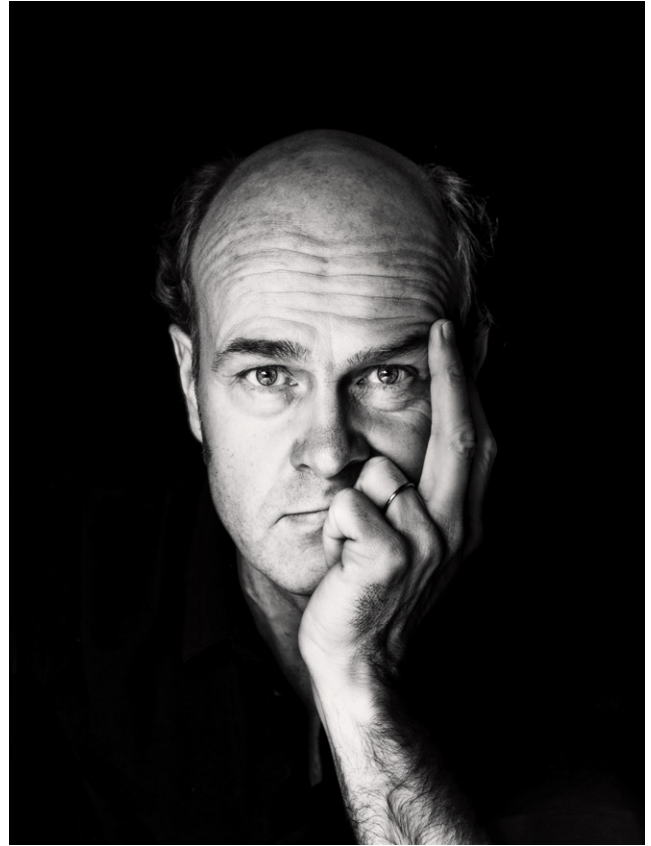
DIRECTORS NOTE BY ERIK POPPE

History has always been a huge part of my life. Books, articles, research and films have always enthralled me. Our immediate history, from the industrialization of Norway in the middle of the 1850s, until the oil finds in the North Sea in the 1970s, is filled with victories and defeats. With discoveries and losses, with life and death. The coming into being of a young nation, and its journey from dire poverty to enormous wealth is fascinating to follow.

The Most Thrilling Story

The war in Norway is probably the part of this history that has received the most attention, so what more is there to tell about this period? Perhaps the most fascinating part of this story is that it is historically documented in a compelling and moving way. A story that reaches an audience with a combination of strong and moving drama, and leaves a feeling of having gained new knowledge and wisdom, is a story that captivates and excites.

So, is there anything left to say about the war? Yes, of course there is more to tell, more to understand, and more to learn and be entertained by. The most central part of the war has not yet been told, neither on TV nor film. The dramatic and thrilling story of those who were the primary target for the attack, those who were pressured, and whom the Nazis finally attempted to murder - the King, his family and the Government.



Character Driven

This is a character-driven drama where all the main characters develop as they accumulate knowledge and bitter experiences. Experiences that will define them for the rest of their lives.

THE KING'S CHOICE is the story of King Haakon, and of the attack on Norway. But it's also a story about a father and his son, Haakon and Olav. First and foremost, we follow Haakon, up close and personal. It is his subjective experience we will depict, and it is his psyche that colours the film's tone and energy. As a counterweight to King Haakon's purely subjective story, the film also tells the story of the German liaison Curt Braeuer. This will be recounted in depth, but not subjectively, like Haakon's.

When we experience the Government, Vice President Hambro, Prime Minister Nygaardsvold or Foreign Minister Koht , the narrative point of view is always either Haakon's or Braeuer's.

Surrounding this central drama, we also experience the story of the ineffectual Prime Minister who desperately wants to leave his position and his responsibility, as well as the story of the tug of war between Braeuer who hopes for a resolution by negotiating with the King, and the German military leader, Pohlman, who is intent only on following the order from Berlin - kill the King and his family.

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An Emotional Thriller

The film is up close and personal, with many thriller elements. As a contrast and a dynamic to the thriller, we will show in some scenes the great events of April 1940. Surrounded by war and death, and seeing life in that scale makes even a King or a Government feel small.

There are some stories that we have chosen to intertwine, and which will complement our main story, and further help us to understand the event, and the gravity of this drama, the fact that war is death and danger. It is the story of the ship "Bluecher" in the Oslo fjord, which was sunk early in the morning of April 9th, and it is the story of the rising intensity and anguish of the battle at Midtskogen, which also depicts the seriousness of this war. Both battles have a decisive impact on the King's life.

Modernize Biographical Fiction

To be able to make THE KING'S CHOICE is a dream come true. It is a period drama and a portrait of a central, but also mythical moment in our common history. In THE KING'S CHOICE, we want to captivate the audience and to enlarge the scope of what a biographical fiction film can be. I look forward to this task with a certain reverence, but with great eagerness and enthusiasm.

PRODUCERS NOTE BY FINN GJERDRUM

A review of Alf R. Jacobsen's book caught my attention in the spring of 2011. The review painted a picture of King Haakon the 7th, who in tears told the Government that he had rejected the German messenger's offer to make Norway a protectorate under the Third Reich, and that he would be held responsible for the deaths of several thousands of Norwegian men and women.

I immediately thought, we have a film here: The dramatic aspect of the story, people with enormous dilemmas. It's about the Royal family, and takes place during the Second World War. All good ingredients to stir up a good film for a huge audience.

This is a kind of film which will fit perfectly in our new line-up, which consists of making good quality mainstream films with a twist, to reach a larger audience, both national and international. The background for starting this line-up, lies in the question: Why should talented director's with a clear voice settle with making films with limited commercial potential, for a small audience?

When the rights was secured, it was down to establishing a strong creative team to manage the project. I wanted a screenwriter who could work independently both regarding the publisher and the director. We chose Jan Trygve Røynealand



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to develop the first draft. As the project developed and our intended director for *The King's Choice* was Erik Poppe, Harald Rosenløw Eeg was teamed up with Jan Trygve and together they made up a strong writing team. With their previous successful collaboration on several projects, they complement each other in the writing process, and know Erik Poppe very well as a director.

With the team in place, the next natural step was to attract actors who can perform, and do justice to these characters. Jesper Christensen stood out at an early stage, for the main role. The Norwegian King Haakon the 7th, was of Danish origin, so having a Dane playing this part is only natural. Jesper Christensen has also had several international roles. Our own Anders Baasmo Christiansen has both been the Shooting Star in Berlin, and also shown that he can carry great roles in Norwegian films. He has a natural resemblance to Crown Prince Olav, and ended up being our first choice to play the part.

With the experience from our previous films, I feel that this project has great opportunities to reach an international audience. As previously mentioned, it contains all the ingredients which makes it easy to both pitch and visualize. And it will be made with an artistic touch which will enhance it from the broad epic story, so it will end up as a personal adaptation of something great and human. Thus creating the cinematic experience which people are requesting internationally and nationally.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

KING HAAKON VII (68)

Haakon is the first king of Norway since the 12th century. In the time leading up to the German invasion of Norway, Haakon finds himself and the Monarchy under threat from the Socialist government.

Haakon's place is not at all safe, and he is forced to act according to the wishes of the elected government. This is a major challenge to Haakon, as he fights for his beliefs while faced with the passive stance of a pacifist government. With the death of his beloved wife Maud just a few years earlier, Haakon feels alone at both the palace and in the dark days to come.

CROWN PRINCE OLAV (35)

Olav becomes Crown prince and heir apparent to the throne of Norway when his father is elected King in 1095. In preparations for his royal duties, he attend both civilian and military schools. In 1929 he marries his cousin Princess Maertha of Sweden. During World war II his leadership is much valued and he is

appointed Norwegian Chief of Defense in 1944. He however always wishes he could do more during the invasion and war. Olav is a military man, and wielding executive power while on the run from the Germans, is not something he relishes. He has to figure out where his place is – on the battlefield or at his fathers side.

CURT BRAEUER (50)

BrAEuer is a German career diplomat and the German Envoy to Norway at the time of the invasion. After losing his first wife in 1920, he travels the world as a diplomat. But love strikes again when he meets a new woman, Anneliese. They marry in the late 20s, and move to Norway in 1939 to get away from a Europe beset by the threat of war. Just after their arrival, Anneliese gives birth to a beautiful daughter and their lives seem almost perfect.

However, on the evening of April 8, 1940, he receives orders from Berlin — he is to be Hitler's representative and deliver a German ultimatum for the occupation of Norway to the Norwegian government the next morning. The war has caught up with them. Braeuer is now back in the midst of war. Will he be able to broker peace, and keep his family by his side.

CREW

BIOGRAPHY AND FILMOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR ERIK POPPE

Erik Poppe is a Norwegian film director and the co-owner of Paradox Film and the Paradox Group, entities that produce feature films. He helmed the acclaimed Oslo Trilogy, which began with his directorial debut *BUNCH OF FIVE* (1998). Next came *HAWAII, OSLO* (2004) and *TROUBLED WATER* (2008). The trilogy screened at a number of major festivals and won awards such as the Berlin Film Festival's Panorama Award, the Vesuvio Prize at the Napoli International Film Festival, Portugal's Festroia Award for Best Directing, the Nordic Ministerie Council Award for Best Nordic Feature, and several others. One of the films was the Norwegian entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards and *TROUBLED WATER* made history at the Hamptons International Film Festival in 2008 by being the first feature to win both the Audience Award and the festival's Golden Starfish Award for Best Narrative Feature.

1,000 TIMES GOOD NIGHT marked Poppe's first English-language film. It opened in Norway in October 2013 and won the Special Grand Prix at the Montreal Film Festival, where it was sold to more than 50 territories worldwide. Poppe is a three-time winner of the Norwegian Film Critics' Award (*HAWAII, OSLO, TROUBLED WATER*, and *1,000 TIMES GOOD NIGHT*), which honors the best feature released in Norway that year. Poppe began his career as a photographer for the newspaper

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Verdens Gang and Reuters, covering domestic news as well as international conflicts around the globe. His work was honored by the Norwegian press association and World Press Photo. In 1991 he graduated from the Dramatiska Institutet in Stockholm with a degree in cinematography. He served as director of photography on several features, winning a Kodak Award and Cinematographer of the Year in Norway in 1995. He then began directing commercials, winning awards in Norway as well as several Clio Awards, a Cannes Lion and both EuroBest and EPICA prizes.

Since 2011 Poppe has been a research fellow at the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme as well as an associate professor at Lillehammer University College and the Norwegian Film School.

BIOGRAPHY OF WRITER HARALD ROSENLØW EEG AND JAN TRYGVE RØYNELAND

Harald Rosenløy Eeg was born in 1970 in Tønsberg, Norway. He has a Master in Comparativ Religion at the University of Oslo. Since his debut as an author in 1995 with the novel "Broken Glass", awarded with the Tarjei Vesaas Prize (the official Norwegian "New writer-prize"), he has written twelve novels

and has been awarded with the Brageprize (the National Norwegian Book Prize) twice for "Inside Out" (1997) and "Yatzy" (2004) who also won the Ministry of Culture Literature Prize for young adults. His books are translated into Swedish, Danish, German, Dutch and French. As a screenwriter he also started with "Broken Glass", adapting it into the film SCARS in 2002. Since then he has written a number of films, including the Un Certain Regard selection URO in 2006, and the last three films by Erik Poppe, HAWAII, OSLO (2004), TROUBLED WATER (2007) and A THOUSEND TIMES GOOD NIGHT (2013). Harald has vast experience in the field of screenwriting with his 7 feature films and two TV-series.

Jan Trygve Røyneland graduated from the Norwegian Film School with a bachelor in screenwriting in 2010. Since then he has written for film, TV and theatre. Recently he co-wrote the TV-series "Kampen" for NRK Super and also acted as an additional screenwriter on the film A THOUSEND TIMES GOOD NIGHT, Jan Trygve has several projects in development and both in 2011 and 2013 he won pitching competitions with two feature films projects, one of them being THE KING'S CHOICE. Jan Trygve has worked together closely with Harald, the last three years with Erik Poppes projects, but also with the TV-series Occupied.



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BIOGRAPHY OF PRODUCER FINN GJERDRUM

Finn Gjerdrum was born 20.03.1961 in Sandefjord as a son of a whaler. He's married to his lovely Danish Yvonne, and they have two children Asta and Halfdan. Finn applied three times to the Department of editing at the Danish film school, but ended up with a Master degree in Film- & Communication studies at University of Copenhagen. Then he attended postgraduate studies in Production at Volda University College, and his career as a producer started working with shorts and commercials. In 1995 he co-founded BulBul Film A/S together with director Bent Hamer, and worked as producer and managing director. In 1998 he co-founded Paradox Produksjon A/S together with director Erik Poppe and producer Torleif Hauge. He is heading the feature film department, specializing in development, and is managing director of the company. Besides being a producer, he is also Professor at the Department of TV-production at Lillehammer University College. Selected feature films:

2011 - TWIGSON IN TROUBLE – producer.

2012 - STELLA DAYS – co-producer.

2013 - BEFORE SNOWFALL – producer.

2013 - GRANNY & THE KIDS – producer.

2013 - A THOUSAND TIMES GOOD NIGHT – producer.

2014 - IN ORDER OF DISAPPEARANCE – producer.

2015 - MY NAME IS EMELY – co-producer.

BIOGRAPHY OF COMPOSER JOHAN SOEDERQVIST

Born in 1966 in Taebø outside of Stockholm in Sweden, **Johan Soederqvist** attended the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, studying composition and arranging. A versatile musician who has been a keyboard player in many different jazz bands and folk music groups, Johan has toured extensively around the world before concentrating his activities on composition for film, television, radio and theatre.

He wrote his first film score in 1991, Agnes Cecilia, and since then he has written numerous scores for film and television, including nine scores for films directed by the acclaimed Danish director, Susanne Bier. Among those titles are the award-winning score for BROTHERS, AFTER THE WEDDING and, THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE, where he collaborated with Academy Award-winning composer Gustavo Santaolalla, and most recently the Academy award winning IN A BETTER WORLD.

He has also made a prizewinning score to Tomas Alfredson's LET THE RIGHT ONE IN. In 2005 & 2009, Johan Soederqvist was nominated as Best Composer by the European Film Academy for his BROTHERS (2005) and LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (2009). The BROTHERS score was also awarded for Best Film Music in Cannes as well as the 'Rencontres cinématographiques de Cannes' Award for Best Music in Film. Johan has worked together with Erik Poppe on TROUBLED WATER (2007).

CAST

BIOGRAPHY OF JESPER CHRISTENSEN - KING HAAKON VII

Jesper Christensen is a veteran of European cinema. He is one of the greatest Danish actors of his generation. He had his international breakthrough with his lead role in Bænken by Per Fly, and later Drabet also by Per Fly. Since then he has had a string of outstanding roles in several international films, including two James Bond movies. He is known for portraying inner conflict in his work, and that creates an excellent basis for the work of exploring Haakon as a character.

In Denmark, Christensen has won four Bodil Awards, three for Best Actor (Hør, var der ikke en som lo?, Bænken, and Drabet) and one for Best Supporting Actor (Barbara).

In 2006 Jesper Christensen declined the offer to receive the Knight's Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog. He said that he thought the entire idea of Monarchy is a crime against the members of the Royal Family, and does not fit with modern ideas. Despite this, he is greatly excited by the role of King Haakon in THE KING'S CHOICE, and enthusiastically agreed to play it.

BIOGRAPHY OF ANDERS BAASMO CHRISTIANSEN - CROWN PRINCE OLAV (35)

Anders Baasmo Christiansen was a Shooting Star in Berlin in 2010. Anders stands out as an exceptional emerging talent in his generation of Norwegian actors. Anders' register as an actor is enormous, and his method is thorough. Anders is very dedicated to the task of portraying Olav on the big screen. To understand who Olav was in April 1940, Anders' work begins with exploring Olav's thoughts, actions and perceptions back to the mid 30s. What he brought with him, when faced with the challenges of those crucial days in 1940.

Anders Baasmo Christiansen graduated from the National Academy of the Arts in 2000 and has since worked continuously in films and theatre. He is the only actor in Norway to have received all three Best Actor awards for both film (an Amanda for Buddy, 2003), TV (a "Gullruten" for A Man Immortal - young Henrik Ibsen) and Theatre (a "Hedda" for Hamlet). In 2012 he co-starred in the box-office hit Kon-Tiki.

BIOGRAPHY OF KARL MARKOVIC - CURT BRAEUER

Karl Markovics started his career 1982 at the Serapion Theater in Vienna. Since 1985, he has been performing in Michael Schottenberg's „Theater im Kopf“, as well as in Karl Welunschek's legendary „Wiener Ensemble“. In 1991, Markovics took on his first feature film role in Michael Sturminger's HUND UND KATZ. He could be seen playing the role of Kirchingerwirt in Paul Harather's 1993 tragicomical roadmovie INDIA. Winning

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the Romy Award twice, he was introduced to a wide mainstream audience with his role of District Inspector Stockinger in the Austrian crime show "Rex: A Cop's Best Friend", which he later took up again for its spin-off series "Stockinger". Numerous roles in film and TV followed, amongst them he starred in "Drei Herren", "Hinterholz 8", "Late Show" and more than 50 other Austrian and international productions. Karl Markovics preformed next to Liam Neeson in the thriller UNKNOWN IDENTITY as well as with Harvey Keitel and Ralph Fiennes in THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL and in Terrence Malick's newest film RADEGUND the year before.

His leading role of Salomon Sorowitsch in Stefan Ruzowitzky's film THE COUNTERFEITERS (2007), which received an Oscar™ for Best Foreign Picture in 2008, was Markovics' biggest international success so far. He became co-founder of the Akademie des Oesterreichischen Films in 2009. In 2011, he made his debut as a director and script writer with his feature film BREATHING. With Thomas Schubert in the leading role, the film was invited to the 64th edition of the International Film Festival in Cannes to be screened in the QUINZAINES DES RÉALISATEURS, received 40 international awards as well as six Austrian Film Awards in 2012. His second feature SUPERWORLD, starring Ulrike Beimpold, celebrated its world premiere 2015 at the 65th International Film Festival in Berlin.

BIOGRAPHY OF TUVANOVOTNY - MAERTHA

Tuva Novotny, born 1979, is one of Scandinavia's most popular and well-known actors. Born and raised in Sweden but living in Denmark, Tuva is fluent in all three Scandinavian languages, Swedish, Danish and Norwegian as well as English and Czech and she has done a large amount of TV series and features in productions around the world.

In Norway, Tuva became a household name because of the TV series "Dag", where she had the recurring role, and in 2016 she could be seen in both Erik Poppe's "Kongens nei" and Sara Johnson's "Framing Mum". The same year she appeared in Denmark's "A War" by Tobias Lindholm, which was nominated for an Oscar in the category Best Foreign Film.

For the Swedish audience, Tuva had her big breakthrough in 2000 in Josef Fares' "Jalla Jalla" and has starred in several award-winning productions since then.

Tuva has been nominated on many occasions as Best Female Actress and Best Supporting Actress at award shows such as Guldbaggen, Zulu, Bodil award, Danish Award Robert prize and the Norway's Golden Screen Award. In 2002 she was nominated to Sweden's Shooting Star at the Berlinale.

During 2017 she is starring in the international high-end production "Borg VS MacEnroe" directed by Janus Metz and "Annihilation" directed by Alex Garland.

PRODUCTION COMPANY PARADOX

Paradox was established in 1998, and has produced over 20 feature films, 6 short films, and hundreds of commercials since 1998. In just six years, Paradox has produced 11 feature films, and attracted 1.8 million admissions at the Norwegian cinemas. Paradox has been selected two times in the Berlinale Main Competition with: "In order of Disappearance" starring Bruno Ganz and Stellan Skarsgård. Paradox has participated two times at the Berlinale Main Competition with "In Order of Disappearance" (2014), starring Bruno Ganz and Stellan Skarsgård, and with "A Somewhat Gentle Man" (2011), also starring Stellan Skarsgård. Paradox is owned by the producers Stein B. Kvae and Finn Gjerdrum and director Erik Poppe.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2011 - STELLA DAYS - co-producer Paradox
2013 - BEFORE SNOWFALL - producer Paradox
2013 - GRANNY & THE KIDS - producer Paradox
2013 - A THOUSAND TIMES GOODNIGHT - producer Paradox
2014 - IN ORDER OF DISAPPEARANCE - producer Paradox
2016 - THE LAST KING - producer Paradox
2016 - THE KING'S CHOICE - producer Paradox

WORLD SALES BETA CINEMA

World sales and co-financing company **Beta Cinema** has established itself as a "boutique-operation" for quality feature films that combine commercial viability with artistic integrity. Prime examples are Oscar winners and worldwide B.O. hits like THE LIVES OF OTHERS, IL DIVO, MONGOL and DOWNFALL.

Current highlights include the Emma Watson, Daniel Brühl, Michael Nyqvist thriller COLONIA and Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner SAND STORM.

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