

SYNOPSIS

SHORT

The people in this little village are just like you and me. But they have one big challenge. They keep forgetting things. Sometimes they forget separately and sometimes they all forget the same thing. But most importantly, they have forgotten about Christmas! Now it's up to one little girl to save Christmas before it's too late...

LONG

This is the story about a little village. The village is about the same as other villages even though it is located on the top of a hill, all by itself. The people living in this village are just like you and me... Some are big, some are small, some mean this and some mean that. Just like with other folks in similar villages, really. But when it comes to one thing, they are all the same... They keep forgetting things. And they can forget the strangest things, everyone at once! Now, they are about to forget the most important thing of all, Christmas!

Forgotten Christmas is a new and adventurous Christmas tale from the producers that gave you Santa Swap. Carpenter Andersen and Santa Claus are back again and this time they have to help young Elise save Christmas before it's too late!

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When diving into the universe of Forgotten Christmas, it was important to take the 'Alf Prøysen' and the Norwegian fairytale heritage seriously by not trying to modernize the story and the universe too much. The effort was to continue the successful essence from the first film, 'Santa Swap'. It became important to adopt the same warmth, humor and the joy of Christmas traditions from the first film further into the second film.

Forgotten Christmas is about a seemingly ordinary little village, but with one big problem. The problem is that they keep forgetting things. It was vital to fill the village with warm, colorful and funny characters who are seemingly ordinary but with a little unusual side to fulfill the story with dignity and laughter.

The visual expression of the film aims to be realistic and authentic with images of certain real world texture as well as a touch of magic. One might call it 'Magical realism.' In other words, what we see within the frame should come across as real and authentic, things you can touch and feel. Not glossy imagery filled with bright colors and perfection, but warm and cozy imagery with a hint of quirkiness. A traditional fairytale with a dash of magic feel.

Finding Elise's characteristics and behavior that children can recognize in themselves became vital when creating the main role. Working with children is the most challenging and wonderful thing there is. Unlike adults, children have no filters. They say what is on their mind and their imagination is often colorful and vivid. It became important to exploit these childish features and adding it to this magical Christmas tale. Getting Trond Espen Seim and Anders Baasmo onboard for the second film as Carpenter Andersen and Santa Claus was amazing. They played their characters beautifully in 'Santa Swap' and their characters appealed to the whole family as well as taking the children seriously.

Teaching empathy to our children is important. So as a director I feel responsible to create characters with diverse features who portrays a variation of feelings. To communicate the character's feelings to the children watching the film, rather than telling them explicitly what to feel, is essential in this story and to me as a director.

Being able to create a magical cinematic experience for the whole family that can live on for a long time is the ultimate goal. To plant a seed in the subconscious to be picked up later because not everything is experienced there and then. To create situations and scenes containing details and digressions will be essential when creating a rich, warm and capturing adventure that will reach out to many and live on forever.

PRODUCERS STATEMENT

We could not have a better foundation for creating a new Christmas film from the well-known Norwegian author and folk singer, Alf Prøysen's universe. Our continuing journey into the traditional folk tale universe is filled with humor and joyfulness that can be found in the original story. Yet again we will bring a warm, charming and adventurous Christmas fairytale for the whole family to experience and enjoy.

Our goal is to yet again bring the ultimate Christmas spirit to the audience with this sequel to 'Santa Swap'. We meet the charming characters, Carpenter Andersen and Santa Claus yet again, as well as some new exciting characters from the forgetful little village.

It is with great respect and honor that we embark on this adventure yet again and we aim to create a warm, traditional, authentic, funny and adventurous sequel to this fairytale universe.

We want to take our core audience seriously, but also aim to reach out across generations. The challenge with children's films is usually to find the balance where both kids and adults enjoy the film together.

Yet again we have a story and a universe that are both funny, exciting and adventurous for children as well as providing nostalgia and situations through the film that will appeal to the grow-up audience. This balance is key to success.

ANDREA ECKERBOM

Andrea Eckerbom is a writer and director born in Stockholm 1981. She graduated film school in Perth, Australia 2003 with a degree in film editing and directing.

She has casted more than 400 commercials and featured films like Max Manus, A somewhat Gentle Man, Limbo, The Wave and Kon-Tiki. She eventually left casting and focused on directing and has since made over 100 commercial spots. Eckerbom is considered as one of the most active commercial directors in Norway.

Her meticulous attention to detail and broad experience has put her in demand for international jury duty in the world of commercial filmmaking. Most recent she took a seat in the Cannes jury for Craftsmanship. She is however no stranger to receiving awards herself, her trophy room contains, among other glowing prizes, a Silver Lion from Cannes.

Forgotten Christmas is her first feature film as a director.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

MIRIAM KOLSTAD STRAND

Makes an incredible feature film debut playing the main character, Elise. Miriam is 10 years old and lives with her family in Lillehammer, about two hours north of Oslo, Norway's capital. Miriam likes to perform in front of audiences both in private and public settings. She won a talent show at her local school performing a self written poem. Miriam has also played in several short films at The Norwegian Film School.

TROND ESPEN SEIM

Plays the role as Carpenter Andersen, yet again. Trond Espen graduated from Oslo Academy of Theatre in 1996. He worked as an actor at smaller and local theatres in Norway before joining The National Theatre in 2001. He is still a resident at The National Theatre in Oslo. In addition to his theatre acting, Trond Espen has appeared in numerous films and TV-shows. Trond Espen is probably most famous for his character through a series of twelve films, police detective Varg Veum.

ANDERS BAASMO

Plays the role of Santa Claus yet again. Anders graduated from Oslo Academy of Theatre in 2000 and has since then played many roles in theatre, film and television in Norway. Anders is one of Norway's leading actors and he's been nominated and won all the prestigious Norwegian awards within his field. He also won the Shooting Star Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2010.

CHRISTIAN SKOLMEN

Plays Elise's father in the film. Christian is a film, theatre and television actor who has played many exciting and different roles within the Norwegian industry. He is also son of entertainment legend, Jon Skolmen. He is a resident actor at The National Theatre in Oslo.

MARIE BLOKHUS

Plays the role of Aunt Maja. Marie graduated from Oslo Academy of Theatre in 2010 and has since then been with The Norwegian Theatre as a resident actress. Marie has appeared in a few critically acclaimed Norwegian films and in the popular Norwegian sitcom "Side om Side" (Side by Side). Marie has won "Heddaprisen" several times, which is an award presented by The Norwegian Theatre in Oslo.

JAN GUNNAR RØISE

Plays Ole in the film. Jan Gunnar has made quite a remark in many acclaimed Norwegian films throughout his years as an actor. He graduated from Oslo Academy of Theatre in 2000 and has since then played a diverse range of characters within film, television and theatre. He is a resident actor at The National Theatre in Oslo.

ALEKSANDER OTTESEN-KAALSTAD

Is eight years old and plays the role of Børre. This is his first feature film he appears in. He enjoys playing football with his friends in his spare time. Aleksander's mother and father are both actors and his dream is to have his own You Tube channel when he is older.

MARIANNE KROGNESS

Plays Mrs. Mayor. Marianne is an Norwegian actress, singer and entertainment artist who has appeared in many films, television, theatre and shows through her career in the industry.

FANTEFILM

FIKSJON

Producer

Martin Sundland (born 1969) established Fantefilm in 1997. With Fantefilm, Martin produced a number of commercials before venturing into the feature film industry. Fantefilm is to this day one of the leading companies within producing commercials in Norway.

In 2005, Martin founded Fantefilm Fiksjon AS. Since then the company has produced several films in Norway with great commercial success. Fantefilm is now Norway's leading provider of genre films, delivering blockbuster entertainment for a wide ranged audience. Amongst the blockbuster successes is *The Wave* (2015), directed by Roar Uthaug and *The Quake*, directed by John Andreas Andersen. *The Wave* received an Amanda award for *Best Norwegian movie* in 2016. *The Quake* won Amanda for *Best Visual Effects* and *People's Choice Award* in 2019.

Back in 2016, the company released the Christmas family film, *Santa Swap* (2016). The film is based on a novel by *Alf Prøysen*, one of Norway's most popular authors. *Santa Swap* became Norway's most successful Christmas family film of all time and sold over 500.000 cinema tickets.

Fantefilm Fiksjon have previously produced the *Cold Prey* trilogy (2006, 2008, 2010), *Jackpot* (2011) and *Ragnarok* (2013). Both *Cold Prey* and *Ragnarok* received the honorable, *People's Choice Award* in Haugesund during the Amanda awards in 2012 and 2014.