

A SILENT STORY

A film by Anders Skovbjerg Jepsen

Press notes

LOGLINE:

A film director seeks out his childhood friend who sexually abused him when they were both children. He hesitantly agrees to meet and together they return to the repressed past in a brave and deeply unusual tale that breaks a terrible taboo.

SYNOPSIS:

Director Anders Skovbjerg Jepsen tries to understand what really happened during the summer holidays when he was a child. Behind closed doors, there was more going on than computer games and innocent play. From the time Anders is 6 years old, he is sexually exploited by the 13-year-old boy, Peter. It continues for a number of years during the boys' summer holidays. No one notices and neither of the two boys say anything to anyone.

Today, both are adult men, and Anders wants to confront Peter with what happened in their childhood. Peter has not shared the story with anyone and finds it difficult to talk to Anders about it. Still, he agrees to try - both for Anders' sake and his own.

It turns into a poignant journey, driven by honesty, illustrating how guilt and shame are nourished by silence and can cast long shadows into adulthood. But also, that there is hope and light to be found in defying the pain and breaking the silence.

Jepsen's debut film, "A silent story" is a deeply unusual and completely incomprehensible brave film that focuses on a taboo subject: Around one in three sexual assaults against children and adolescents are committed by other children and adolescent under the age of 18.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/808694591>



DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Feelings of shame and guilt are something I have learned a lot about over the years, living with this secret. To this day, I have missed a story like mine, which I could recognise myself in, which could help me to understand that this kind of abuse between children is actually something that happens. That it happened to me. The film is a journey to open up a space for and help create a language for talking about this type of abuse.

I wanted to break the silence for my own sake, but also in the hope that my story can help others to seek help. It was absolutely key to me to allow Peter, who abused me, to speak, and make sure he does not come across as a monster in the film, as he was also a child and a teenager at the time of the abuse. I wanted to shed light on as nuanced a truth as possible, and also to break the silence and pain, even though it was hard.

DIRECTOR'S BIO:

Director Anders Skovbjerg Jepsen was born in Denmark in 1986 and graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2015 as a documentary film director with the graduation film "The boys". He also has a BA in Film and Media Studies and was doing a Masters in Journalism when he got accepted into the film school. He also works as an editor. Anders has previously made short documentaries films often focusing on boys and men's identity and sexuality. "A Silent Story" is Jepsen's debut feature documentary.

PRODUCTION COMPANY:

Final Cut for Real is a six-time Oscar®-Nominated productionhouse in Copenhagen, dedicated to high-end creative films for the international market. The company was founded in 2009 by producers Signe Byrge Sørensen and Anne Köhncke, and has since the beginning worked with young directors as well as established talent to create a productive mixture of experience and innovative approaches to filmmaking. Final Cut for Real's policy is to be curious, daring and to seek out directors with serious artistic ambitions. Previous titles include: *Flee*, *A House Made of Splinters*, *The Distant Barking of Dogs*, *The Look of Silence*, *The Act of Killing*, *Raising a School Shooter*, *Pervert Park*, *President*, *What Walaa Wants*

MAIN CREDITS:

Director: Anders Skovbjerg Jepsen

Producer: Anne Köhncke

Editor: Lars Sigsgaard Berg

Cinematographers: Mathias Døcker, DFF, Marie Suul Brobakke

Composers: Irya Gmeyner, Martin Hederos

Sound Designer: Martin Hennel & Jatte Nilsson

Sound Mix: Claus Lyngge

Colourist: Michael Cavanagh

Post Producer: Maria Kristensen

Post Production Coordinator: Francesc Sitges-Sardà

Post production Coordinator Sweden: Kerstin Übelacker

PRODUCED IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH:

Anagram Sweden, Co-Producer Martin Persson

Film i Skåne, Commissioning Editor Lisa Nyed

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

Danish Film Institute

Swedish Film Institute

Nordisk Film & TV Fond

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

TV 2 Denmark

SVT

VG TV

PRODUCTION FACTS:

Original title: En Tavs Historie

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