

# DEATH OF A CHILD - Press kit

A film by Frida & Lasse Barkfors

## Synopsis (818 characters)

How do you live with the unbearable? When the worst has happened to you and your loved ones and you have nobody but yourself to blame?

Doug, Lyn, Norman and Antonio are all responsible for their own children's deaths. Through their honest and deeply personal stories, we get an insight into what it means to live with what they have done. The legal, social and personal aftermaths differ, often depending on gender, social status, social networks and relationships. But overall, there is something about what these parents have done that always seems to trigger a very specific social rage and condemnation. Because what kind of parent forgets a baby in a car?

DEATH OF A CHILD challenges our preconceptions of guilt, punishment and forgiveness. It is an attempt to comprehend the incomprehensible, a note-to-self about being less sure of what we don't know. DEATH OF A CHILD is Frida and Lasse Barkfors' second film in a trilogy exploring social stigma. PERVERT PARK was the first.

## Synopsis, short (278 characters)

How do you live with the unbearable? When the worst has happened to you and your loved ones and you have nobody but yourself to blame?

Doug, Lyn, Norman and Antonio are all responsible for their own children's deaths. Through their honest and deeply personal stories, we get an insight into what it means to live with what they have done.

## Directors' intentions

**Death of a Child** is our second film in a trilogy where we shed light on the subjects that challenges us the most, trying to understand what many usually have strong presumptions about. **Pervert Park** was the first.

Becoming parents a few years ago, we know what protective instincts and fears it awakens to have a child. We understand why judgment is passed on the parents that forget their own children in the car – because it's every parent's worst nightmare. But as filmmakers, we see it as our finest job to challenge this and depict society just as complex and difficult as it is. We strive to avoid any kind of sensationalism, focusing on making a humane portrait, to create understanding instead of judgment.

### Biographies & Filmographies Main Team

**Frida Barkfors** (director) was born in Sweden in 1983. She has a degree in Film Directing at the National Film School of Denmark (2005-2009). Her first feature documentary, *PERVERT PARK*, 2014, together with Lasse Barkfors, won a Special Jury Prize for Impact at the Sundance Film Festival in 2015 and has been screened at over 30 festivals around the world. Her and Lasse Barkfors' second feature documentary *DEATH OF A CHILD* premieres in competition at Göteborg Film Festival in February 2017. Frida is currently working on her first fiction feature as well as the third documentary in the Barkfors' trilogy on social stigma.

Finished films:

*DEATH OF A CHILD*, 80 min, 2017

*PERVERT PARK*, 75 min, 2014

*TICK TICK BOOM*, 29 min fiction, 2009

**Lasse Barkfors** (director) was born in Denmark in 1980. He has a degree in Fine Arts from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (2007-2012). His first feature length film was *PERVERT PARK*, 2014, directed together with Frida Barkfors. His and Frida Barkfors' second feature documentary *DEATH OF A CHILD* premieres in competition at Göteborg Film Festival in February 2017. He has directed several short films, fiction and experimental. He is currently working on the third documentary in the Barkfors' trilogy on social stigma, and is in post-production with his first feature fiction, which he has written, directed, filmed and edited.

Finished films:

*DEATH OF A CHILD*, 80 min, 2017

*PERVERT PARK*, 75 min, 2014

*TOKYO TRANSPARENT*, 10 min. fiction, 2007

*A BLIND WOMAN'S NIGHTS*, 10 min. fiction, 2007

*INVISIBLE IN BERLIN*, 12 min. fiction, 2007

*SAMURAI*, 18 min. fiction, 2005

**Signe Rebekka Kaufmann** (editor) graduated as film editor from the National Film School of Denmark in 2009. She edited *PERVERT PARK* and *DEATH OF A CHILD* along with Lasse Barkfors, and have among many titles edited the prizewinning and Emmy Nominated *DANCE FOR ME* (2012) by Katrine Philp.

Selected films:

DEATH OF A CHILD – documentary by Frida & Lasse Barkfors, 2017

VENUS – documentary by Lea Glob, Mette Carla Albrechtsen, 2017

RETURNING RAVALOMANANA – documentary by Lotte Mik-Meyer, 2016

PERVERT PARK – documentary by Frida & Lasse Barkfors

HOME SWEET HOME - documentary by Katrine Philp, 2015

DANCE FOR ME – documentary by Katrine Philp, 2012

**Anne Köhncke** (producer) is originally from Norway, living in Denmark, Copenhagen since 1997, co-founder and producer at Final Cut for Real since 2009. She came from a job as Commissioning Editor of documentaries at DR2, Danish Broadcasting Corporation. Prior to that she worked as Sales Executive at TV2 World. She holds an MA in film from the University of Copenhagen.

Selected films:

DEATH OF A CHILD, Frida & Lasse Barkfors, 2017

15 MINUTES – THE DVOR MASSACRE, Georg Larsen & Kasper Vedsmand, 2015

PERVERT PARK, Frida & Lasse Barkfors, 2014

LIFE IS SACRED, Andreas Dalsgaard, 2014

CATHEDRALS OF CULTURE: HALDEN PRISON, Michael Madsen, 2014

TPB AFK: THE PIRATE BAY AWAY FROM KEYBOARD, Simon Klose, 2013

THE ACT OF KILLING, Joshua Oppenheimer, Christine Cynn & Anonymous, 2012

THE KID & THE CLOWN, Ida Grøn 2011

FOOTBALL IS GOD, Ole Bentzen 2010

Production companies:

**Final Cut for Real** is dedicated to high-end creative documentaries for the international market. Founded in 2009 by Signe Byrge Sørensen and Anne Köhncke, **Final Cut for Real** consists of two more producers, Monica Hellström and Heidi Elise Christensen, and Post Producer Maria Kristensen. Selected recent titles: **The Look of Silence** (2014) and **The Act of Killing** (2012) by Joshua Oppenheimer, **Les Sauteurs / Those who Jump** (2016) by Estephan Wagner, Moritz & Abou Bakar Sidibé, **Land of the Free** (2017) by Camilla Magid, **Pervert Park** (2014) and **Death of a Child** by Frida & Lasse Barkfors, **Life Is Sacred** (2014) by Andreas Dalsgaard  
<http://www.finalcutforreal.dk/>

**De Andra** is a Swedish production company founded by Frida and Lasse Barkfors in 2014. As the name suggests (De Andra means "the other ones" in Swedish) the company make films about difficult social subjects, aiming to describe the complexity in a world so often pictured one-dimensional.

[vimeo.com/deandrafilm](https://vimeo.com/deandrafilm)

## Credits

### **Main crew**

Directors: Frida & Lasse Barkfors  
Editors: Signe Rebekka Kaufmann & Lasse Barkfors  
Cinematographer: Lasse Barkfors  
Sound designer: Frank Mølgaard Knudsen  
Composer: Tom Third  
Editing consultant: Maya Hawke  
Colorist & postproduction: Lasse Barkfors  
Producer: Anne Köhncke  
Co-producer: Frida Barkfors

### **Principal Cast/Participants**

Dough & Dianna Grote  
Norman & Catherine Collins  
Raelyn & Jarret Balfour  
Antonio Balta  
Dr. David Diamond

### **Produced with the support of**

Danish Film Institute, by Film Commissioner Cecilia Lidin  
Swedish Film Institute, by Film Commissioner Antonio Russo Merenda  
Cinereach  
Nordisk Film & TV Fond, by Documentary Advisor Karolina Lidin  
Malmö Stad  
Svenska Kyrkan  
Danish Arts Foundation

### **In collaboration with**

DR, Commissioning Editors Mette Hoffman Meyer & Anders Bruus  
SVT, Commissioning Editor Charlotte Madsen  
NRK, Commissioning Editor Tore Tomter  
RTS, Commissioning Editors Gaspard Lamunière & Irène Challand  
VPRO, Commissioning Editor Nathalie Windhorst

### **Co-produced by:**

De Andra  
Film i Skåne, Commissioning Editor Lisa Nyed

Produced by:  
Final Cut for Real ApS

Trailer:  
<https://vimeo.com/201695651>

Website:  
<http://www.finalcutforreal.dk/death-of-a-child>

A Danish and Swedish Co-production  
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