

TRAVELING WITH MR. T

A Documentary on the Edge

Directed by Andreas Dalsgaard & Simon Lereng Wilmont



SYNOPSIS

Writing. Love. Pain. Nothing in Troels' life is small or easy. He dreams, thinks, and feels in capital letters. He's approaching 30, with very little to show for it, except a big talent for writing and perhaps an even bigger one for making chaos out of life. Born in a country where living is easy and success is mandatory, he dreams of escape. When Troels was 13 his mother fell sick with cancer. Troels spent his teenage years and early twenties with the imminent threat of her death hanging over his head. She died a few years back. Instead of facing her death Troels falls deeper into self-loathing and fear. And just like his life, Troels' writing is chaos - incoherent fragments from an obviously talented but bewildered young man.

His successful, well-meaning friends take action and make him sign a contract. He is to finish his book "Traveling with Mr T" within one year.

Troels throws himself over his work. The book is an autobiography about young Troels traveling around the world in escape from his mother's sickbed, hunting for happiness and release, surrounded by pain. His travel companion is the fearless Mr T, Troels' alter ego. His writing reveals a portrait of a young man with a heavy load to carry. A lonely childhood spent in the shadow of his mother's impending death. Through his writing he can express himself and be seen. Here, the pain can be released.



But Mr T is taking power over Troels who sees pain and drunkenness as the keys to writing.

The project that was supposed to help Troels find direction in his life, is leading him off track. Troels hits rock bottom when Louise, his girlfriend through 6 years, leaves him. It is time for Troels to take charge of his life and fight for what is important for him, if he can find the courage...

This is a story about being human - tiny and big in one. About having no limits, yet being totally stuck. About growing up, about dreams and identity, about letting go and being found. It is a story about going to the edge - and finding your way back.



THE FILM

The filmic approach playfully balances on the edge between documentary and fiction, thereby both underlining and adding to the theme of the film. The two directors have filmed Troels for 4 years, capturing all his ups and downs, the defining moments, both the hilarious and the sad. This material is combined with Troels' video diary where we get even closer, and animation brings life to Troels' text and inner universe in a compelling and humoristic way. The animation is done by

the artist Carl Krull whose very distinctive style matches Troels' story and personality, combining darkness and humor, the grotesque and the beautiful. It is subtly integrated into the filmed material, at times taking over completely. The story of Troels and the visual approach melt together.

The narrative is a coming of age story of a young man, who dreams of becoming an author. The extensive material and the honest and raw authenticity of it, combined with the fictional layers and strict narrative, makes it a film not only for those who can identify with being a troubled young artist, but touches upon something more universal about necessity, identity and life choices, on being a human surrounded and dependent on other people - whether we want to or not.



FACTS

Shooting Formats: DV, HDV, HD

Length: 93 min.

Premiere: November 2012 (CPH:DOX 2012)

Supported by: New Danish Screen – The talent development program at the Danish Film Institute

THE TEAM

Andreas Dalsgaard graduated from the National Danish Film School in 2009 as a fiction film director. He holds a degree in Visual Anthropology from Université Denis Diderot Paris VII in 2004 and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Aarhus 2003. "Bogota Change" (doc, 2009, part of Cities on Speed) was selected for Reflecting Images at IDFA, among many other

festivals. "Afghan Muscles" (doc, 2008) was also a big festival hit and award winner. Recently Dalsgaard released the documentary "The Human Scale", which premiered at CPH:DOX 2012.

Director Simon Lereng Wilmont graduated as a documentary film director from the National Danish Film School in 2009. His most recent film "Dormitory Master" (2009, documentary) won a Golden Panda award at the Sichuan TV festival. Additionally he has directed the award winning "Above the Ground, Beneath the Sky" (2008, documentary) (Best Short at Cinema Du Reel and Best Documentary at Vienna Film Academy International Film Festival). Simon's films have been screened and nominated at several international film festivals and TV stations around the world.

Editor Janus Billeskov Jansen has edited both fiction and documentary features since 1970. His credits include "Pelle the Conqueror" (1988 Palme d'Or, Cannes; Academy Award for Best Foreign Film; Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film) and "Family" (2001 Joris Ivens Award, IDFA), "Burma VJ", (2008 Joris Ivens Award, IDFA; World Cinema Documentary Editing Award, Sundance 2009).

Producer Signe Byrge Sørensen has been a producer for 14 years. She holds an MA in International Development Studies and Communication Studies from Roskilde University, Denmark. Her films include the critically acclaimed "The Act of Killing" (2012) "The Kid and the Clown" (2011), "Football is God" (2010), "The Perfect Muslim" (2009) and "Everlasting Moments" (2008- fiction).

Producer Anne Köhncke has been a producer at Final Cut for Real since June 2009. She has previously worked as Commissioning Editor of documentaries at DR2, the National Danish Broadcasting Corporation, and as Sales Executive at TV2 World. She holds an MA in Film Studies from the University of Copenhagen, specialized in financing of documentaries in the Nordic countries, and she has worked with Nordisk Forum for Co-financing of Documentaries for 6 years.

Final Cut for Real is dedicated to high-end creative documentaries for the international market. Our policy is to be curious, daring and seek out directors with serious artistic ambitions. We look for interesting stories, great characters and in-depth social analysis – often with a twist of humor.

