

PLAYERS AMBER LABAHE BRYSON SHEPPARD KRISTIN WAGNER MAKENZIE BUSH SYDNEY BAKER DIRECTED BY JON BANG CARLSEN
PRODUCED BY HEIDI ELISE CHRISTENSEN SIGNE BYRGE SØRENSEN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ERIK PÖLLUMAA
EDITORS FRANCESC SITGES-SARDÀ NICOLAS NØRGAARD STAFFOLANI SOUND DESIGNER HÅKON LAMMETUN
COMPOSER STEN SHERIPOV CO-PRODUCERS IVO FELT TORE BUVARP GRAPHIC DESIGN MARGUS TAMMIK
PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF DANISH FILM INSTITUTE ESTONIAN FILM INSTITUTE NORWEGIAN FILM INSTITUTE
PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH TV2 VGTV PRODUCED BY FINAL CUT FOR REAL
CO-PRODUCED BY ALLFILM FENRIS FILM C&C PRODUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL SALES SCRIPTOFILM



A FILM BY
JON BANG CARLSEN

D R E A M I N G
A R I Z O N A



A DOCUMENTARY FANTASY PLAYED BY REAL PEOPLE



writer & director *Jon Bang Carlsen*

producers *Heidi Elise Christensen
Signe Byrge Sørensen*

produced by *Final Cut for Real
C&C Productions*

co-produced by *Allfilm
Fenris Film*

starring *Makenzie Bush
Amber Labahe
Kristin Wagner
Sydney Baker
Bryson Sheppard*

SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time, deep in the Arizona desert, in a small town of little interest to the world, there was a group of brave teenagers who decided to put on a play about their own lives - and to play themselves as convincingly as possible. All the teenagers had emotional baggage and big dreams for the future but feared deep down that they would remain just that: fantasies.

Playing themselves, the teenagers found the courage to confront traumatic events from their childhood and ask questions they would otherwise not have dared to ask: Do we have to love our parents even when they keep us from growing freely? Are we indebted to them from birth?

Faced with the challenges standing in the way of their freedom, the teenagers began to invent an alternative reality for themselves, beyond their play, in which they were strong enough to seek revenge, to reach out, to leave loved ones behind. They imagined themselves as characters in a movie...

Behind this unconventional documentary fantasy is prolific Danish filmmaker Jon Bang Carlsen who has argued passionately against objectivity since the 70s and dedicated much of his career to finding new ways of excavating truth from reality by way of dramatization.



World Premiere

IDFA 2022, 13 nov
International Competition
idfa.nl/dreamingarizona

Press contact

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Screening Times @ IDFA

Nov 13	09:00	Pathé City 1 <i>(press and industry only)</i>
Nov 13	18:30	Munt 12
14	15:15	Tuschinski 6
17	15:45	Tuschinski 5
19	10:00	Munt 13

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Although I have made more than 40 of them since I graduated from The Danish Film School in the late 1970s, the documentary form, and the expectations around it, continue to challenge me as a filmmaker. I was always provoked by the practitioners of this art form that stubbornly claim to be able to separate reality from dreams, which in my world is like trying to separate body and soul. To me reality and dreams are like conjoined twins, if one dies both will perish.

When I drift into the realm of fantasy with my protagonists in *Dreaming Arizona*, it is in no way a question of me turning my back to the truth. On the contrary. The fictional elements constitute an attempt to add extra layers to my portrayal of five young, American teenagers living in a remote town sandwiched between the railroad tracks and the freeway, and in the vastness of the neighboring Navajo Nation. Their hopes and fears about the freedom they will face in adult life, and the turmoil back home that threatens to clip their wings, are at the core of this movie.

Together with the teenagers from Winslow High School's drama club, I go further into the wilderness of truth and fiction than ever before. The film gradually loses its grip on reality as I, the storyteller, together with my protagonists, develop their documentary stories into a hypothetical fantasy about what might happen later in their lives, based on the knowledge that the film already has acquired about them and their inherent conflicts and dreams.

It is my hope that this kind of fictionally augmented reality will offer the audience an even more realistic portrait of the world in which these young Americans live.

- Jon Bang Carlsen, November 2022



Writer and director Jon Bang Carlsen on location in Arizona, USA.

FILMOGRAPHY SELECTION

Dreaming Arizona (2022)

The Banality of Grief (2021)

Déjà vu (2014)

Just the Right Amount of Violence (2013)

Blinded Angels (2007)

Addicted to Solitude (1999)

How to Invent Reality (1996)

It's Now or Never (1996)

Before the Guests Arrive (1986)

Phoenix Bird (1984)

Hotel of the Stars (1981)

Jenny (1977)

BIOGRAPHY

Jon Bang Carlsen is a Danish film director, born 28 September 1950. He graduated from the Danish Film School in 1976, and has since written and directed more than forty films - both documentaries and feature films. Jon Bang Carlsen's signature hybrid style combines documentary and fictional interpretations, and many of his documentaries are visually and symbolically powerful, often staged portraits of marginal figures and milieus.

PRODUCERS



Heidi Elise Christensen has worked as a producer at Final Cut for Real since 2014. From 2009-2014, she freelanced in the documentary industry and worked as a production manager at Magic Hour Films for a few years. From 2001-2009 she was in charge of Nordisk Forum for Co-financing of Documentaries, in addition to facilitating the Nordic documentary industry at Filmkontakt Nord. She has studied Comparative Literature and holds a BA in Film and Media from the University of Copenhagen. Heidi is a Eurodoc graduate from 2015.

Recent titles include

Elsewhere (2021)
Songs of Repression (2020)
Land of the Free (2017)
Les Sauteurs (2016)
Pebbles at Your Door (2015)



Signe Byrge Sorensen is a four-time Oscar® nominee for producing *The Act of Killing* (2012), *The Look of Silence* (2014) and *Flee* (2020). She was nominated for the Producer's Guild Award for *The Look of Silence* and *Flee*, and won Cinema Eye Awards for all three films. Signe has been a producer since 1998, first at SPOR Media, later at Final Cut Productions, and she then co-founded Final Cut for Real ApS in 2009. She holds an MA in International Development Studies and Communication Studies from Roskilde University, Denmark, 1998 (1st). She is a graduate of EURODOC (2003), EAVE (2010), ACE (2018) and Inside Pictures (2022).

Recent titles include

The Killing of A Journalist (2022)
Our Memory Belongs To Us (2021)
President (2021)
Flee (2021)
Songs of Repression (2020)
Dreaming Murakami (2017)
Land of the Free (2017)
The Look of Silence (2014)
The Act of Killing (2012)

Final Cut for Real is a five-time Oscar® nominated production company based in Denmark, dedicated to producing high-end, creative documentaries for the international market.

We work with young directors as well as established talent to create a productive mixture of experience and innovative approaches to filmmaking. Our policy is to be curious, daring and to seek out directors with serious artistic ambitions. We work with the best cinematographers, editors, sound designers, composers and colorists in the industry, both locally and internationally.

CHARACTERS

KRISTIN WAGNER as
KRISTIN



BRYSON SHEPPARD as
BRYSON



MAKENZIE BUSH as
MAKENZIE



SYDNEY BAKER as
SYDNEY

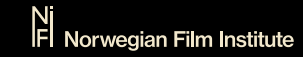


AMBER LABAHE as
AMBER





produced with support from



produced in association with



Specs / Credits / Crew

<i>Title</i>	Dreaming Arizona
<i>Runtime</i>	76 minutes
<i>Country of Origin</i>	Denmark
<i>Country of Filming</i>	America
<i>Language</i>	English
<i>Subtitles</i>	English
<i>Starring</i>	Amber Labahe Bryson Sheppard Kristin Wagner Makenzie Bush Sydney Baker
<i>Writer and director</i>	Jon Bang Carlsen
<i>Producers</i>	Heidi Elise Christensen Signe Byrge Sorensen
<i>Co-producers</i>	Ivo Felt Allfilm Tore Buvarp Fenris Film
<i>Editors</i>	Francesc Sitges-Sardà Nicolas Nørgaard Staffolani
<i>Director of photography</i>	Erik Pöllumaa
<i>Sound designer</i>	Håkon Lammetun
<i>Composer</i>	Sten Sheripov
<i>Graphic design</i>	Margus Tammik



