



**Release:** 4. Marts 2024 (series, DR1, prime time) **Country:** Danmark  
**Length:** 90 min + 4x 28:30 min **Language:** Danish **Subtitles:** English, Danish



THESSALONIKI  
INTERNATIONAL  
DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

**NEWCOMERS  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMPETITION  
SILVER ALEXANDER**

TiDF26

**Directed by** Camilla Magid (*Land of the Free*)

**Produced by** Heidi Elise Christensen, Final Cut for Real (*Songs of Repression, Land of the Free* etc.)

**Co-producers** Kerstin Übelacker, We have A Plan & Lisa Nyed, Film I Skåne

**SALE & FESTIVAL:** Cinephil

**Sale:** Shoshi Korman, [shoshi@cinephil.com](mailto:shoshi@cinephil.com)

**Festival:** Tal Elkayam, [tal@cinephil.com](mailto:tal@cinephil.com)

**OFFICIAL FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS**

Thessaloniki Int. Doc. Film Festival, Greece – *World Premiere, Newcomers Competition*

# *FIGHTING DEMONS WITH DRAGONS*

## **Synopsis**

Luca, Ask, and Josefine have all experienced being outsiders at their old schools. They've struggled to make friends and fit in, but at Østerskov Efterskole in Hobro, there's plenty of room to be different. It's Denmark's only role-playing school, and the role-playing games helps students figure out who they are in their own way. Over two years, we follow the students as they battle insecurity and anxiety dressed in costumes and wielding swords. It's a journey away from childhood towards independence, filled with vulnerability, courage, and the wildness of youth. Can Ask learn that he doesn't have to be good at everything all the time to be good enough? Can Josefine dare to be herself, even when she's not playing someone else? Will Luca's newfound confidence hold up when she moves into her own apartment outside the school's safe confines?

## **Logline**

A coming-of-age documentary series about being an outsider - and about finding oneself and a community for the first time, through imagination and creativity.

## **Directors Statement**

The wish to belong and the shame of getting rejected is a general theme in all my previous films. I am interested in the need to be a part of a group in order to survive, and what it does to us when we are not accepted. It is one of the basic conditions in life, that we must adjust to be accepted by "the others", and it often means that we have to sacrifice the things that truly make us stand out. Østerskov have due to the role play, created a space where there is room for both: The students can hold on to their uniqueness and be a part of the community at the same time. Through Josefine, Ask, Luca we experience a development and transformation from childhood to adulthood, but with an even greater layer of complexity due to their various challenges. We experience both the shining hope and the profound desperation. It is a story about finding out who you are and finding a place, where you can be yourself. I hope it will inspire the youth and everyone around them.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **CAMILLA MAGID**

Camilla Magid is an award-winning documentary filmmaker born in Copenhagen, Denmark. She studied film at the University of Copenhagen, graduated from the Film School SUPER 16 as director and studies of Arabic Language and Culture at the Royal Danish Defense College. From this platform she made her first documentary, *The Black Lines* (2006), shot in Syria. She has since made several documentaries in Denmark, Australia, Africa and the United States and the US. Her two previous films, *White Black Boy*

(2012), about a boy with albinism in Tanzania, and Land of the Free (2017), about people being released from prison in the USA, were both nominated for the Danish Critics Award and has travelled to numerous film festivals around the world. She is married and has seven-year-old twins.

## **HEIDI ELISE CHRISTENSEN**

Heidi 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 (Nordisk Panorama). She has studied Comparative Literature and holds a BA in Film and Media from the University of Copenhagen. She is a Eurodoc graduate from 2015.

## ***PRODUCTION COMPANIES***

### **FINAL CUT FOR REAL**

Final Cut for Real is a production company based in Denmark dedicated to producing high-end, creative documentaries and fiction films 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. We aspire 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. Over the past ten years, four films produced by Final Cut for Real have been nominated for a total of six Oscars®.

### **WE HAVE A PLAN**

We Have a Plan was started by Kerstin Übelacker and Michael Cavanagh in 2020. After working together for 15 years, the vision was to combine their two professional branches, film production and post production, into a company that can and understands the entire film process. Kerstin produces films. And Michael runs the post-production part that offers all kinds of post-production; grading, audio, VFX, mastering and deliveries.

### **FILM I SKÅNE**

Film I Skåne is a regional film organization with the task of promoting filmculture activities and contributing to growth in Skåne through film production.

Film I Skåne was formed in 1995 and is now financed by Region Skåne Holding and the Cultural Committee of Skåne Regional Council. Film shot and produced in Skåne favors growth and development of the region's film industry, while also helping to make Skåne more visible internationally.

## CREDITS

A warm thank you to Josefine, Luca, Ask, the Østerskov Efterskole staff, the students and their families.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Director            | Camilla Magid                                   |
| Producer            | Heidi Elise Christensen                         |
| Co-producere        | Kerstin Übelacker<br>Lisa Nyed                  |
| Photographer        | Mathias Døcker Petersen<br>Maria von Hausswolff |
| Editor              | Estephan Wagner                                 |
| Sound Designer      | Peter Schultz                                   |
| Composer            | Joaquin Garcia                                  |
| Colorist            | Michael Cavanagh                                |
| Post Producers      | Francesc Sitges-Sardà<br>Maria Kristensen       |
| Executive Producer  | Signe Byrge Sørensen                            |
| Associate Producers | Anne Köhncke<br>Monica Hellström                |

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DR



NRK

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*Cinephil*