



THE GULLSPÅNG MIRACLE

a film by **MARIA FREDRIKSSON**

BALLAD FILM PRESENTS THE GULLSPÅNG MIRACLE PRODUCED BY INA HOLMQUIST FILM EDITING BY MARK BUKDAHL ORVAR ANKLEW ORIGINAL SCORE COMPOSED BY JONAS GOLSTRUP CINEMATOGRAPHY BY PIA LEHTO SOUND DESIGN BY RUNE HANSEN COLOR GRABE BY AXEL RUNDOQUIST ALBIN ABRAHAMSSON GRAPHIC DESIGN AND POSTER BY MARTIN HULTMAN DIRECTED BY MARIA FREDRIKSSON A CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN BALLAD FILM SVT FILM TVÅST & FILM STOCKHOLM WITH BALLAD FILM'S CO-PRODUCERS MER FILM & GOOD COMPANY PICTURES WITH SUPPORT FROM SWEDISH FILM INSTITUTE DANISH FILM INSTITUTE NORDISK FILM & TV FOND NORDNORSK FILMSENTER THE SWEDISH ARTS GRANTS COMMITTEE FILMBASEN FILM CAPITAL STOCKHOLM NRK DR YLE

FILM GOVERNMENT BAKAD SVT Sveriges Radio PBLA NRK DR YLE dok.tacubator metfilm

"A HAUNTING UNSOLVED CRIME, complete with LYNCHIAN ECHOES of TWIN PEAKS."

—THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



"One of the TWISTIEST DOCUMENTARIES this side of THREE IDENTICAL STRANGERS."

—SCREEN DAILY



Ballad Film
presents



THE GULLSPÅNG MIRACLE

A feature documentary by Maria Fredriksson

108 min. | Sweden, Norway, Denmark | 2023



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SYNOPSIS

A seemingly divine premonition leads Norwegian sisters Kari and May to buy an apartment in the small Swedish town of Gullspång. To their surprise, the seller looks surprisingly similar to their older sister Astrid, who committed suicide thirty years earlier. What's even more odd is that this doppelgänger used to go by "Lita," the same nickname as their deceased sister.

What begins as an eerie story of destiny, faith and improbable coincidence soon becomes a Pandora's Box of stranger-than-fiction revelations and awkwardly comical mishaps in this "riveting" and "one-of-a-kind" documentary that is "complete with Lynchian echoes of *Twin Peaks*" (*The Hollywood Reporter*).

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I first met Kari, May and Olaug shortly after they received the results from a DNA test confirming they were sisters. I thought this encounter was astonishing, but what intrigued me the most was exploring their significant differences and strong convictions. I instantly recognized the transformative consequences that this discovery-would have on their lives, but never could I have imagined the detective work and emotional intrigue I was about to be thrown into. The story contains many striking twists, but at its core, it is a film about family relationships, which I believe many can relate to in their own lives. Despite its darker undercurrents, I wanted to make an entertaining film that captures the strength of these women. My hope is that the audience will be able to connect with Olaug's emotional struggle and her desire for belonging, as well as with the other sisters, thrown between hope and despair.

Several of my previous short films have focused on older women reflecting back on their lives, but what I find exciting about this film is how one's stories and truths about one's own life can suddenly be taken away. Olaug is forced to redefine her identity and who she thought she was at the age of 80. I believe that we as humans have a need to seek the truth, to understand and to explain it. However, I think we also need the enigmatic, the inexplicable. Here these needs intertwine. For the film's contributors, the desire to define their own truths becomes more important than knowing what is really true. I want this story to be a reminder of the strangeness of life and the magic in existence. I hope as a viewer you'll be as captivated as I was watching this story unfold.

– Maria Fredriksson, 2023

FILMMAKER BIOS

Maria Fredriksson – Director

Maria Fredriksson finished her Master of Fine Arts degree at Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2012. She has also studied film directing at the New York Film Academy. She has made several short documentaries that have screened at international film festivals such as Hot Docs, Visions du Réel, Sheffield DocFest and Palm Springs. Her debut feature, *The Gullspång Miracle*, premieres at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2023. Maria is one of the founders of the all-female production company Ballad Film.

Ina Holmqvist – Producer

Ina Holmqvist graduated from Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2011. She has produced and directed several award-winning documentaries that have been screened at festivals such as Visions du Réel, Hot Docs, IDFA and the Berlinale. She runs Ballad Film, an independent production company in Stockholm, Sweden. Her latest films, *The Voice Break Choir* and *Svonne vs The Swedish Tax Agency*, had their international premieres at Hot Docs and are distributed by The New Yorker and The New York Times.

Pia Lehto – Cinematographer

Pia Lehto is a Stockholm-based cinematographer with experience in both narrative and documentary films. She has a Bachelor's degree in Cinematography from Stockholm University of the Arts. Her latest work includes the feature-length documentaries *Leaving Jesus*, *The King* and *Idomeni*.

Mark Bukdahl – Editor

Mark Bukdahl graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2017 and his work has since competed at Sundance, Berlinale and IDFA, among others. Variety and the Hollywood Reporter have described his gaze as critical and impressionistic, displaying genuine virtuosity in selection and juxtaposition.

Orvar Anklew – Editor

Orvar Anklew has over twenty years of experience as an editor. Among his more recent work is *Yung Lean - In My Head*, which premiered at Tribeca in 2020. He also edited the feature-length documentary *Trespassing Bergman*, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2013. Variety called it “an informative and entertaining look at Ingmar Bergman's legacy as told by the great filmmakers he influenced.”

Jonas Colstrup – Composer

Jonas Colstrup is a Danish composer and musician. He has composed the music for a long line of documentaries, feature films and TV series. One of his more notable scores is for *The Square*, which won the 2013 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award for World Cinema in documentary, garnered three Emmys and was nominated for a 2014 Academy Award. Besides his work as a film composer, Jonas is also a recording artist and in 2022 he released his second album, “At The Crest,” with music for orchestra, choir and various soloists.

COMPANY BIO

BALLAD FILM

We love the small stories and big drama in everyday life.

Ballad Film was founded by fellow filmmakers Ina Holmqvist, Martina Carlstedt and Maria Fredriksson. We produce documentaries in all formats.

Our films have premiered at Berlinale, Hot Docs, Visions du Réel and IDFA and have been distributed by, among others, The New Yorker and The New York Times.

Our work is character-driven and known for its ability to create recognition, entertain and inspire. We collaborate with Sweden's leading female directors and film workers. The stories we tell are often local, always universal.

ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002 as one of the first-ever subscription film services with its DVD-of-the-Month club, Film Movement is now a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.





MAIN CREDITS

Directed by Maria Fredriksson
Produced by Ina Holmqvist
Cinematography by Pia Lehto
Edited by Mark Bukdahl, Orvar Anklew
Original Score Composed by Jonas Colstrup
Sound Design Rune Hansen

A **Ballad Film** Production.

Co-produced by SVT, Film i Väst, Kristina Börjeson, Film Stockholm, Ivana Lalovic, Mer Film, Maria Ekerhovd & Gary Cranner, Good Company Pictures, Katrine A. Sahlstrøm

Featuring Kari Klo, May-Elin Storsletten, Olaug Bakkevold Østby

