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# A MAN CALLED OVE

A film by Hannes Holm



116 min | Sweden | 2016 | PG-13 | 2.35  
In Swedish with English subtitles

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## **AWARDS AND FESTIVALS**

Sweden's Official Foreign Language Submission - 89th Academy Awards®

Winner - Audience Award, Best Actor (Rolf Lassgård), Best Make-Up (Love Larson & Eva Von Bahr), 2016 Guldbagge Awards (Sweden's Academy Awards)

Winner – Best Actor (Rolf Lassgård), 2016 Seattle International Film Festival

Winner - Audience Award, 2016 Mill Valley Film Festival

Winner - Audience Award, 2016 Traverse City Film Festival

Winner - Special Recognition, 2016 Stony Brook Film Festival

Opening Night Selection - 2016 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival

## **SYNOPSIS**

Stepping from the pages of Fredrik Backman's international best-selling novel, Ove is the quintessential angry old man next door. An isolated retiree with strict principles and a short fuse, who spends his days enforcing block association rules that only he cares about, and visiting his wife's grave, Ove has given up on life. Enter a boisterous young family next door who accidentally flattens Ove's mailbox while moving in and earning his special brand of ire. Yet from this inauspicious beginning an unlikely friendship forms and we come to understand Ove's past happiness and heartbreaks. What emerges is a heartwarming tale of unreliable first impressions and the gentle reminder that life is sweeter when its shared.

One of Sweden's biggest locally-produced box office hits ever, director Hannes Holm finds the beating heart of his source material and Swedish star Rolf Lassgård, whose performance won him the Best Actor award at the 2016 Seattle Int'l Film Festival, affectingly embodies the lovable curmudgeon Ove.

## **LOGLINE**

Ove, an ill-tempered, isolated retiree who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave, has finally given up on life just as an unlikely friendship develops with his boisterous new neighbors. Based on the bestselling novel.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Hannes Holm, Director**

Hannes Holm was born and raised in Stockholm and his entry into the film industry was somewhat serendipitous. At a concert he ran into director Birgitta Svensson who asked him if he wanted to be in an upcoming film that she was working on. Holm accepted, and in 1981 made his acting debut in *Interrail*. After working as assistant director on *Sleep*, Holm worked as a host for a number of children's programs on SVT including *The Prelude* together with his future collaborator Måns Herngren.

Holm made his directorial debut in the late 1980's with the television series *The Brothers Olsson* and together with Herngren created the cult series *S\*M\*A\*S\*H*. Later Holm was hired as an adjunct head of drama at SVT's Kanal 1 where he was responsible for purchasing scripts for television series and films. In 1994 he left SVT, and he and Herngren made their feature film directorial debut with the tragicomedy *One in a Million*, which became a critical and box office hit. Holm and Herngren's successful collaborations continued with films including *Adam and Eva* (1997) and *Wonderful and Loved by All* (2007).

Hannes has been nominated for the Guldbagge Award (Sweden's Academy Awards) three times. *A MAN CALLED OVE* is the most successful Swedish film of the last 32 years with a box office gross of more than \$20.5 million in Sweden alone. Hannes is currently working on the new Swedish mini series "Delhis vackraste händer", based on the book by Mikael Bergstrand, to be shot in Sweden and India.

2016 **DELHIS VACKRASTE HÄNDER**  
2015 **A MAN CALLED OVE**  
2013 **THE ANDERSSONS HIT THE ROAD**  
2012 **THE ANDERSSONS IN GREECE**  
2010 **BEHIND BLUE SKIES**  
2007 **WONDERFUL AND LOVED BY ALL**  
1997 **ADAM AND EVA**  
1994 **ONE IN A MILLON**  
1990 **S\*M\*A\*S\*H**  
1987 **THE BROTHERS OLSSON** (TV series)

### **Rolf Lassgård (Ove)**

One of Sweden's best known actors, Rolf Lassgård is prominent on the stage, TV and on cinema screens in Sweden. He studied at the Ingemar Lind's Institute for the Performing Arts, before joining Skanska theatre company, performing in Shakespeare plays. His breakthrough performance was as Puck in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Lassgård became well known on TV often cast a policeman most famously as the first to play Kurt Wallander, the iconic detective in Henning Mankell's celebrated crime novels in series and mini-series. He's probably best known in the US for lead roles in two past Foreign Language Oscar nominees: Colin Nutley's *UNDER THE SUN* (nominee in 2000) and Susan Bier's *AFTER THE WEDDING* (nominee in 2007). Lassgård has been nominated for Guldbagge Awards (Sweden's Academy Awards) for Best Actor four times, winning most recently for his performance as Ove.

2017 **DOWNSIZING**  
2016 **LION WOMAN**  
2015 **A MAN CALLED OVE**  
2007 **AFTER THE WEDDING**  
2000 **UNDER THE SUN**  
1995- **WALLANDER** (TV Mini-Series)

## **Bahar Pars (Parvaneh)**

Bahar Pars is a Swedish actress and director. Pars was born in Iran and came to Sweden in 1989 after her family fled the war between Iraq and Iran. Pars won the Medea Award for Actress of the Year in 2015, and the STOCKmotion Award for Best Film of the Year for the short film RINKEBYSVENSKA, which she directed. Pars was nominated for a Guldbaggen Award in the Best Supporting Actress category in 2016 for her role as Parvaneh in A MAN CALLED OVE.

2016 **ZON 261**  
2016 **VÅRDGÅRDEN** (TV Series)  
2015 **A MAN CALLED OVE**  
2015 **RINKEBYSVENSKA** (Director)

## **Fredrik Backman, Author**

Fredrik Backman is the New York Times bestselling author of *A Man Called Ove*, *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, and *Britt-Marie Was Here*. All were number one bestsellers in his native Sweden and are being published around the world in more than thirty-five languages.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

In the beginning, I think it was a matter of pure stupidity that I got into this project. The Swedish novel "A Man Called Ove" was a bestseller, praised by critics, loved by the readers and internationally acclaimed. It didn't take me long to realize the gigantic risk of making a spectacular failure, but on the other hand I quickly accepted the offer of adapting this masterpiece to the big screen. How could that be possible? Honestly it was because of two things, I really loved the novel and I was too stupid to say no. So I had to forget all about the prospect of failing, and get to work.

Now I was supposed to manage another person's story: the author Fredrik Backman. As a writer and director, I'm used to shooting my own stories. To write a story for the screen has never been too difficult for me, but this time it was harder, because I had to consider what the author would think of what I had done. My task as a director is to, like a thief, steal the story out of the book and make a film of it. I think many failures in creating a film adaptation of a popular book occur when directors keep the book in mind too far into the production. Just read it, take out the story and then forget about the book. Instead, the story must become mine, the rest of the crew and the actors. So when I began shooting, after I had read it one hundred more times than anyone will ever do, I set it aside to focus on the production.

The success of "A Man Called Ove" is in how personal the story is. The more personal we dare to be, the more interest and response you will get all over the world. In the end, everybody recognizes his or her self in the story, and I'm convinced that in some way you will find an Ove within your own life. This film is about Ove's story and nobody else's. Ove is the stubborn old man everybody knows, but is also quite a unique person. I'm happy I was so stupid to accept the offer to make this film and it will always remind me of the importance of being a bit crazy – because sometimes a little bit stupidity can make you a great bit wiser!

## **CAST**

Ove - Rolf Lassgård  
Young Ove – Filip Berg  
Sonja - Ida Engvoll  
Parvaneh - Bahar Pars  
Patrick - Tobias Almborg  
Jimmy - Klas Wiljergård  
Anita - Chatarina Larsson  
Rune - Börje Lundberg  
Ove's Dad - Stefan Gödicke  
Journalist - Anna-Lena Bergelin  
Young Rune - Simeon Lindgren  
Young Anita - Maja Rung  
Anders - Fredrik Evers  
Mirsad - Poyan Kamiri

## **CREW**

Director - Hannes Holm  
Screenplay - Hannes Holm  
Producer - Annica Bellander and Nicklas Wikström Nicastro  
Executive Producer - Fredrik Wikström Nicastro, Michael Hjort  
Co-producer - Lone Korslund, Jessica Ask, Hanne Palmquist, Per Bouveng  
Director of Photography - Göran Hallberg  
Costume - Camilla Lindblom  
Make-up - Eva Von Bahr, Love Larson  
Production Designer - Jan-Olof Agren  
Editing - Fredrik Morheden

## **About Music Box Films**

Founded in 2007, Music Box Films is a North American distributor of acclaimed international, American independent and documentary features along with the best in international television. Current and upcoming releases include Anne Fontaine's acclaimed THE INNOCENTS, the story of a convent in post-WWII Poland traumatized by war crimes; and the Swedish box office smash A MAN CALLED OVE, an adaptation of Fredrik Backman's international bestselling novel. Music Box Films is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music Box Corporation, which also owns and operates The Music Box Theatre, Chicago's premiere venue for independent and foreign films. [www.MusicBoxFilms.com](http://www.MusicBoxFilms.com)