

Music Box Films Presents

B E C O M I N G A S T R I D



123 MINUTES | SWEDEN AND DENMARK | 2018 | NOT RATED | IN SWEDISH AND DANISH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES

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LOGLINE

The poignant true story of a character-defining period in the life of *Pippi Longstocking* author Astrid Lindgren, BECOMING ASTRID follows a teenaged Astrid as she struggles with being a young, unwed mother.

SYNOPSIS

Teenaged Astrid Lindgren, future author of *Pippi Longstocking*, leads a carefree life in rural Sweden. Eager to break free from her conservative upbringing, she accepts an internship at a local newspaper where she attracts the attention of its married editor. After Astrid becomes pregnant, she leaves home to give birth to a son, whom she reluctantly leaves with a foster mother. When the foster mother falls ill, Astrid uses her imagination and flair for storytelling to reconnect with her child.

SUMMARY

Teenaged Astrid Lindgren (Alba August), who later went on to write the *Pippi Longstocking* series, leads a carefree life with her family in the forests and fields of rural Sweden. Restless and eager to break free from the confines of her conservative upbringing, she accepts an internship at a local newspaper where she attracts the attention of its married editor, Blomberg (Henrik Rafaelsen). After Astrid becomes pregnant, she leaves her childhood home and goes to Copenhagen to secretly give birth to a son, Lasse, whom she reluctantly leaves in the care of a foster mother, Marie (Trine Dyrholm). Astrid goes into self-imposed exile in Stockholm, refusing Blomberg's offer of marriage and saving up her paltry salary for visits to see Lasse. When Marie falls ill, Astrid uses her imagination and flair for storytelling to reconnect with her son. In spite of her struggles, Astrid emerges with a newfound courage that will later form the foundation of a vast and beloved body of work.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

Dear Astrid Lindgren,

I spent much of my childhood in the forests of Småland. It was a simple life. Without electricity and hot water, no toilet, telephone or television. Without other children. I was often bored and very often alone. Luckily, I was able to immerse myself in books. Your books.

You were the first person to make me think about my existence.

You taught me that evil and goodness exists.

That death must be faced.

That forgiveness is possible, but that faith in life is the most powerful force.

You shaped me – but what shaped you?

When you were very young, something happened that I think affected you profoundly and made you the great storyteller you became.

Something that gave you a deep insight into the soul of a child.

Something that forced you to break with the norm, religion and culture of your time.

Something that made you one of the most innovative and influential artists of our time.

This is the event that shaped my story – BECOMING ASTRID.

Thank you,

Pernille Fischer Christensen

ABOUT AUTHOR ASTRID LINDGREN

Swedish author Astrid Lindgren is mostly remembered for her *Pippi Longstocking* and *Karlsson-on-the-Roof* book series. Her numerous titles have been translated into 85 languages and published in over 100 countries. Selling approximately 165 million books worldwide, much of her writing was based on her childhood memories growing up in a small Swedish village. In 1958, Lindgren received the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, the top international award in children's literature. Outspoken on topics as diverse as the Vietnam War, children refugees, nuclear power, and urban planning, she always had children and their future at the center of her concerns.

ABOUT DIRECTOR PERNILLE FISCHER CHRISTENSEN

Pernille Fischer Christensen, one of Denmark's most successful directors, received the Cinéfondations 3rd Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for her short film INDIA (1999), which she made during her training at the National Film School of Denmark. In 2003, she received the Best Short Film Award at the Danish Film Academy for HABIBTI MY LOVE. Her debut feature film, A SOAP (2006), had its world premiere at Berlinale and was awarded the Silver Bear (the Jury Grand Prize) and Best Debut Film Award. A SOAP also received Best Script at San Sebastian and won the Danish Film Critics Award (Bodil) for Best Film in 2007. Fischer Christensen is also known for SOMEONE YOU LOVE (2014) and A FAMILY (2010), both honored at Berlinale.

PERNILLE FISCHER CHRISTENSEN'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018

BECOMING ASTRID (UNGA ASTRID)

2014

SOMEONE YOU LOVE (EN DU ELSKER)

2010

A FAMILY (EN FAMILIE)

2008

DANCERS (DANSEN)

2006

A SOAP (EN SOAP)

Berlinale's Silver Bear (Grand Jury Prize)

Berlinale's Best Debut Film Award

San Sebastian Film Festival's Best Script Award

Danish Film Critics' (Bodil) Award for Best Film

2003

HABIBTI MY LOVE

Danish Film Academy Best Short Film Award

1999

INDIA

Cannes Film Festival Cinefondation Award

ALBA AUGUST'S

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

(Astrid)

2018

BECOMING ASTRID – Dir: Pernille Fischer Christensen

2018 – Present

THE RAIN – Netflix series created by Jannik Tai Mosholt, Esben Toft Jacobsen, and Christian Potalivo

2013

RELIANCE – Dir: William Olsson

2013

IRL – Dir: Erik Leijonbor

MARIA BONNEVIE'S
SELECT FILMOGRAPHY
(Hanna)

2018

BECOMING ASTRID – Dir: Pernille Fischer Christensen

2015

THE SHAMER'S DAUGHTER – Dir: Kenneth Kainz

2014

A SECOND CHANCE – Dir: Susanne Bier

2007

THE BANISHMENT – Dir: Andrei Swjaginzew

2003

RECONSTRUCTION – Dir: Christopher Boe

2002

I AM DINA – Dir: Ole Bornedal

Norway Amanda Film Award for Best Actress

Montreal World Film Festival Award for Best Foreign Actress

1996

JERUSALEM – Dir: Bille August

1991

THE WHITE VIKING – Dir: Hrafn Gunnlaugsson

MAGNUS KREPPER'S
SELECT FILMOGRAPHY
(Samuel)

2018

BECOMING ASTRID – Dir: Pernille Fischer Christensen

2014

GENTLEMEN – Dir: Mikael Marcimain

2012

CALL GIRL – Dir: Mikael Marcimain

2009

THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE – Dir: Daniel Alfredson

2009

THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNETS' NEST – Dir: Daniel Alfredson

2009

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO – Dir: Daniel Alfredson

2005

MOUTH TO MOUTH – Dir: Björn Runge

Swedish Film Award (Guldbagge) for Best Actor in a Supporting Role

TRINE DYRHOLM'S SELECT FILMOGRAPHY (Marie)

2018

BECOMING ASTRID – Dir: Pernille Fischer Christensen

2017

YOU DISAPPEAR – Dir: Peter Schønau Fog

2017

NICO, 1988 – Dir: Susanna Nichiarelli

Venice Film Festival Horizons Award

2016

THE COMMUNE – Dir: Thomas Vinterberg

Berlinale Silver Bear Award

2012

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE – Dir: Susanne Bier

2010

IN A BETTER WORLD – Dir: Susanne Bier

1998

THE CELEBRATION – Dir: Thomas Vinterberg

HENRIK RAFAELSEN'S
SELECT FILMOGRAPHY
(Blomberg)

2018

BECOMING ASTRID – Dir: Pernille Fischer Christensen

2017

THELMA – Dir: Joachim Trier

2014

BLIND – Dir: Eskil Vogt

2012

THE ALMOST MAN - Dir: Martin Lund

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival Best Actor Award

2011

HAPPY HAPPY – Dir: Anne Sewitsky

Norway Amanda Film Award for Best Actor

PRODUCERS

BECOMING ASTRID is produced by Maria Dahlin and Anna Anthony (Avanti Film) and Lars G. Lindström (Nordisk Film Production). The film is co-produced with Film i Väst, TV4, Nordisk Film Production Denmark, and DCM in collaboration with DR, with support from the Swedish Film Institute, Danish Film Institute, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung Medienboard, Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, Ordic Film & TV Fund, and Creative MEDIA Europe.

CAST

Astrid: **Alba August**

Hanna: **Maria Bonnevie**

Samuel: **Magnus Krepper**

Marie: **Trine Dyrholm**

Blomberg: **Henrik Rafaelsen**

CREW

Director: **Pernille Fischer Christensen**

Screenplay: **Kim Fupz Aakeson & Pernille Fischer Christensen**

Producers: **Maria Dahlin, Anna Anthony, Lars G Lindström**

Cinematographer: **Erik Molberg Hansen**

Editors: **Åsa Mossberg & Kasper Leick**

Casting Director, Sweden: **Jeanette Klintberg**

Casting Director, Denmark: **Djamila Hansen**

Casting Director Children, Denmark: **Jette Termann**

Production Designer: **Linda Janson**

Costume Designer: **Cilla Rörby**

Make-up Designer: **Linda Boije af Gennäs**

Sound Design: **Andreas Franck & Bent Holm**

Composer: **Nicklas Schmidt**

Executive Producer: **Henrik Zein**

Co-producers: **Tomas Eskilsson, Josefine Tengblad, Marc Schmidheiny, Tomas Radoor, René Ezra, Christoph Daniel, Dario Suter, Joel Brandeis**

U.S. Distributor: **Music Box Films**

ABOUT MUSIC BOX FILMS

Music Box Films is a North American distributor of acclaimed international and documentary features. Recent releases include Xavier Beauvois' *THE GUARDIANS*, Robert Schwentke's *THE CAPTAIN*, and Emmanuel Finkiel's *MEMOIR OF WAR*, France's official submission for this year's Oscars. Upcoming releases include Pernille Fischer Christensen's *BECOMING ASTRID*, a biopic about Swedish writer and *Pippi Longstocking* creator Astrid Lindgren, Thomas Stuber's romantic drama *IN THE AISLES*, and Christian Petzold's much-heralded *TRANSIT*. 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. For more information, please visit www.musicboxfilms.com.