



MUSIC BOX FILMS PRESENTS

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

Based on the novel
"The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo"
by
Stieg Larsson

Script written by
Rasmus Heisterberg
Nikolaj Arcel

Directed by
Niels Arden Oplev

*****Winner*** Guldbagge Awards**
(Sweden's Oscar Equivalent)
Best Film
Best Actress – Noomi Rapace
The Audience Award for Best Film

*****Winner*** Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival–Audience Award, Best Narrative Feature**

152 minutes. Unrated. In Swedish with English subtitles.

Please download photos at www.musicboxfilms.com/thegirlwiththedragontattoo

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SYNOPSIS

Forty years ago, Harriet Vanger disappeared from a family gathering on the island owned and inhabited by the powerful Vanger clan. Her body was never found, yet her beloved uncle is convinced it was murder and that the killer is a member of his own tightly knit but dysfunctional family. He employs disgraced financial journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) and the tattooed and troubled but resourceful computer hacker Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) to investigate. When the pair link Harriet's disappearance to a number of grotesque murders from almost forty years ago, they begin to unravel a dark and appalling family history. But the Vanger's are a secretive clan, and Blomkvist and Salander are about to find out just how far they are prepared to go to protect themselves.

Author Stieg Larsson, who died suddenly in 2004, left behind three unpublished novels, known as the "Millennium" trilogy, which have become a global sensation, elevating Larsson to the world's second best-selling author last year (behind "The Kite Runner"'s Khaled Hosseini). "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is one of the decade's major literary success stories, selling over 8,000,000 copies worldwide and the film adaptation is the highest grossing Swedish film in history.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Many people have asked me if I felt honored to be chosen to direct the feature film *THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO* based on the first book in the "Millennium" trilogy by Stieg Larsson. The truth is: When the producer Sören Staermose asked me the first time, I said no. I had heard of the books, but hadn't read them. Furthermore, I didn't have the time and intention to do a thriller for the cinema.

Sören came back half a year later and asked me again. The production time had been pushed and he was very enthusiastic about me doing the film. So I read the book, it was very intriguing but I didn't see it as a thriller. I saw it more as a mystery drama with strong and special characters who develop throughout the story. I really connected with this material, Lisbeth being a dark rebel and *BLOMKVIST* a leftist watchdog.

I told Sören that I would do the film, but only if I had artistic control over cast, script, length, final cut, etc. Having this control, I saw it as the only way for me to do a successful film based on such a popular book.

I wanted a film with strong emotions, strong characters and a controversial and intriguing story. This is my trademark already and this book had it all. The visual style and production design had to show a big and special film. I wanted all the small clues and details in Larsson's book to be there – old still photos, which make Harriet come alive, old footage from the bridge accident, Lisbeth having a photographic memory, etc. And I would like the film to keep the edge that the book has; that it dares to show the dark side of society.

I asked two of the best writers in Scandinavia, Rasmus Heisterberg and Nikolaj Arcel, to write the script for me. Together we dissected the book and plotted out the storyline. Rasmus and Nikolaj then wrote like crazy. The time left before the start of shooting was already short.

It took the casting director Tusse Lande and I months to cast the film. There must be a special connection between the actor and the character. The actors must have the shine of the character. The Swedish actor Michael Nyqvist presents us with the humanity, empathy and heavyweight intellectualism which we expect from his character Michael Blomkvist. And he does this so well that we are captured in excitement all the way through the story.

Lisbeth Salander is possibly the character in modern Scandinavian drama with the most expectations attached, and I can't believe the luck we had had in finding Noomi Rapace for this part. Noomi has transformed herself into her character to a chilling perfection. Her performance as Lisbeth is outstanding.

I talked cinematographer Eric Kress and production designer Niels Sejer into traveling to Sweden to do this film under hectic conditions, a decision, I do not regret at any moment. They have raised the bar for this film, giving the art department work amazing details and the images a dark exciting feel.

The prep time was short and early on it became clear to me that we needed a miracle to bring the film home on time and budget. At that time the Swedish

crew came on board, a team that was determined to make a quality film even if it took long days and hard work under tough conditions. And man, did they deliver; as did the whole ensemble of actors. The feeling of the set was that every shooting day was a battle for quality. A battle we were determined to win. And now, that the film is finished, I know we did...

Niels Arden Oplev
Copenhagen

STIEG LARSSON – AUTHOR OF THE MILLENNIUM TRILOGY



Stieg Larsson (1954-2004) was a journalist. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the magazine Expo from 1999, and had previously worked at a major news agency for many years. He was one of the world's leading experts on anti-democratic, right-wing extremist and nazi organizations, and he was often consulted on that account. He was just as ready to give a lecture in a secondary school as at Scotland Yard.

The "Millennium" series is a surprisingly confident debut in the thriller genre. The action in the books takes place in 2003 and later, mainly in Stockholm but even in other parts of Sweden and out in the world. Stieg Larsson's primary strength was his unaffected style, free of clichés. He wrote effectively, his tone spot-on and professional.

On top of this, he exhibited a great knowledge of the field he wrote about, a knowledge as wide as it is deep, which gives credibility to his stories. He had a fantastic ability to keep many complicated plots going at the same time. And he didn't leave any part of the mystery unsolved.

ABOUT THE CAST

MICHAEL NYQVIST PLAYS MIKAEL BLOMKVIST



After graduating from the Swedish Academic School of Drama, Michael Nyqvist worked mainly with theatre but also landed smaller parts in several different film productions. His first big breakthrough came in 2000 with the film TOGETHER directed by Lukas Moodysson. The movie reached great international success and Nyqvist won a Best Actor Award at the Gijon International Film Festival.

After that he has played leading parts in award-winning movies such as THE GUY IN THE GRAVE NEXT DOOR (2002) directed by Kjell Sundvall for which he won a Guldbagge Award (Sweden's equivalent of the Oscars) for Best Actor for his performance, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN (2004), directed by Kay Pollak, DAY AND NIGHT (2004), directed by Simon Staho and SUDDENLY (2006) directed by Johan Brisinger. The cast from DAY AND NIGHT won a Silver Hugo Award for Best Ensemble Acting at the Chicago International Film Festival in 2004. Michael shared this award with his THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO co-star, Lena Endre. He also starred in LONDON VOODOO (2004) with his other DRAGON co-star, Sven-Bertil Taube.

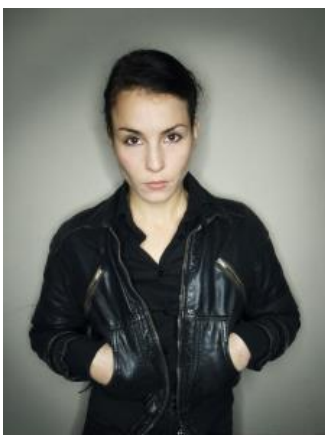
Nyqvist has most recently starred in THE BLACK PIMPERNEL (2007), ARN: THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR (2007), THE KAUTOKEINO REBELLION (2007), and DOWNLOADING NANCY (2008).

Having just wrapped up production on the last film in the "Millenium" trilogy series, Nyqvist is currently filming ANGLAVAKT in Sweden to be released next year.

Nyqvist was always in the running for playing the part of Mikael BLOMKVIST, but it was his charisma that suited the role the most. Director Neils Arden Oplev found the match he was looking for – someone who had the right looks, the charm and the likeability factor.

Today he is one of Sweden's most beloved actors.

NOOMI RAPACE PLAYS LISBETH SALANDER



Noomi Rapace is fast becoming Europe's most popular young actress following her commanding and unnerving portrayal of Lisbeth Salander in the film adaptations of Stieg Larsson's "Millennium" trilogy: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO; THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE and THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST. She was recently nominated for a Best Actress European Film Award and won the Best Actress Guldbagge Award

(Swedish Oscar) for her role in THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO.

A renowned stage, television and screen performer, Rapace made her acting debut in the 1996 television series "Tre kronor." She has since appeared in over twenty motion pictures and television shows.

For her role in the 2007 Danish film DAISY DIAMOND, Rapace was honored with the Bodil Award (Danish Critics Award) and a Robert Award (Denmark's Oscar) for Best Actress.

She recently completed production on LUFTSLOTTET SOM SPRÄNGDES and SVINALÄGORNA and is slated to star in the 2010 production of CLEAN OUT.

The daughter of Flamenco singer Rogelio Durán, Rapace is married to actor Ola Rapace.

LENA ENDRE PLAYS ERIKA BERGER

Lena Endre is a Swedish actress who broke out in her career during the 1980s from two popular Swedish television series – *The Department Store* and *Lorry*. Endre is best known for her role in Liv Ullman's FAITHLESS (written by Ingmar Bergman), for which she won the Guldbagge Award (Sweden's equivalent to the Oscars) in 2001 for Best Actress and was nominated for a European Film Award (2000) in the same category.

Endre has appeared in two films by acclaimed Danish director Simon Staho—DAY AND NIGHT and HEAVEN'S HEART. She was nominated for a Robert Award (Danish equivalent of the Oscars) for the former in 2004 and a Guldbagge Award for the latter in 2008. She, along with her DRAGON TATTOO co-star Michael Nyqvist, won the Silver Hugo Award for Best Ensemble Acting at the Chicago International Film Festival (2004) for DAY AND NIGHT.

Endre is currently filming LIMBO directed by Maria Sodahl to be released in 2010.

SVEN-BERTIL TAUBE PLAYS HENRIK VANGER

Sven-Bertil Taube is a successful Swedish actor and singer born to the great Swedish poet/songwriter Evert Taube. Taube started out his career in the music industry recording covers of his father's songs before establishing himself as an actor.

He has starred in various films and TV shows since the 1970s, including THE EAGLE HAS LANDED (1976) and IN THE HANDS (1994) for which he won the Guldbagge Award for Best Actor. In 1997, Taube was nominated for another Guldbagge Award (Sweden's equivalent of the Oscar) for Supporting Actor for his performance in JERUSALEM.

He has appeared in a couple of films with his THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO co-star, Michael Nyqvist, including LONDON VODOO (2004) which won several international awards and ARN: THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR (2007).

Taube was recently nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Guldbagge Award (Sweden's Oscar) for his role in THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

NIELS ARDEN OPLEV – DIRECTOR

Niels Arden Oplev graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 1989 when his film KYNDELMISSE and his documentary HUGO FRA HIMMERLAND provided him with an impressive debut. For DR/Danish Broadcasting Corp, Niels Arden Oplev directed the drama documentary DEN SOVENDE (1990) and the short fiction films TUSMØRKE (1990) and NØGEN (1992), the documentary RITUALER, ENERUM (1992), and the television film EN SUCCES (1993).

Oplev directed nine episodes of the Channel One (DR) series *Taxa/Taxi*. His work for television continued with the 2002 International Emmy Award winner *Rejseholdet/Unit One* (2000-2003), as he developed the visual concept for the series, cast the recurrent roles and directed the first three episodes.

After doing the same work for *Forsvar/Defense* (2003-04 - TV2/Danmark), he continued the conceptual work as the director of *Ørnen/The Eagle* (2003-2006), which also won the International Emmy Award in 2005.

His feature debut PORTLAND (1996) was the first and most controversial film in the "new wave" of Danish films from the mid nineties. The film, portraying a violent underground in the northern and rural part of Denmark, was selected for competition at the Berlin International Film Festival (1996). It also opened the Danish Film Week (1997) at the Lincoln Center in NY, and was critically acclaimed in The Hollywood Reporter and NY press. Niels Arden Oplev then made the crazy black comedy FUKSSVANSEN/CHOP CHOP (2001) for the silver screen which won 3 Danish Film Awards.

In March 2006 he directed his third feature, WE SHALL OVERCOME (Drømmen). The film was the highest grossing Danish film in 2006 and it won 30 international awards, including the Crystal Bear at the Berlin Film Festival.

Following this success, Oplev directed WORLDS APART (To Verdener) in 2008 which has been a box office hit in Denmark. It was an official selection at the Berlin Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival and AFI Film Festival. It also won the SIGNIS prize at the Festroia International Film Festival in Portugal.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (Mænd der hader kvinder), based on the book by the late Swedish writer Stieg Larsson, is Oplev's fifth feature film. It has been a huge success in Europe, having been well received by critics and audiences alike. The film is the most successful Scandinavian film in history.

NIELS ARDEN OPLEV

Awards and Film Festivals

HUGO FROM HIMMERLAND (1988)

Tel Aviv Film School Festival 1990, Best film
Mexico City Film School Festival 1990, Best Documentary
Montreal Film School Festival 1990, Best Documentary

WINTERS END (1989)

(Staring Max von Sydow)
Mexico City Film School Festival 1990, Best fiction film
Montreal Film School Festival 1990, Nominee for Best fiction film
Student Academy Awards, LA 1990, Nominee for Best fiction film

PORTLAND (1996, first feature)

Berlin International Film Festival 1996, Selected for Main Competition
Went to a number of film festivals after Berlin
Opened at the Film Forum in Manhattan in 1997

HEADBANG IN MAINLAND (1996, documentary)

Danish ITVA 1997, Best Documentary
Sixth Annual ITVA International Video Festival, USA 1998, Best Director

CHOP CHOP (FUKSSVANSEN) (2001, feature)

Danish Film Academy, Robert Award for Best Supporting Actress (Danish equivalent of Oscars)
Danish Film Academy, Robert Award for Best Set Design
Danish Film Critics Awards, Bodil Award for Best Supporting Actor

WE SHALL OVERCOME (DRØMMEN) (2006, feature)

Berlin International Film Festival 2006, Crystal Bear
Amsterdam Cinekid, Cinekid Lion, Jury Award
Athens Olympia Int. Film Festival For Children and Young People, Best Actor
Chicago Int. Children's Film Festival 1st Prize Children's Jury
Chicago Int. Children's Film Festival, 2nd Prize Adult Jury
Cologne Children's Film Festival, Cinepänz Award
Giffoni Film Festival, Best Film
Göteborg International Film Festival, Oecumenical Prize
Hamptons Film Festival Audience Award, Best International Film
Laon - International Film Festival For Young People, Mention spéciale (Special Mention)
London Children's Film Festival, Audience Award
Oulu Int. Children's Film Festival, Children's Jury's 1st Prize
Oulu Int. Children's Film Festival, CIFEJ Jury Award
Reykjavik Film Festival, Audience Award
Rimouski Carrousel Int. Youth F.F., Best feature Camério, Best Actor Camério,
Int. Youth F.F. Humanitas Camério
Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Children's Jury Award
Toronto Sprockets International Film Festival for Children, Young People's Jury Award

Zlin Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth Audience Award, Zlin Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth FICC Jury – Don Quijote Prize Zlin Int. Film Festival for Children & Youth 2006 Golden Slipper
Vienna International Children's Film Festival, UNICEF Award
Danish Academy Awards 2006, Best Director, Best Film, Best original screenplay, Best Costume, Best Male Supporting Actor

WORLDS APART (TO VERDENER) (2008, feature)

Festroia International Film Festival, SIGNIS prize
Danish Film Academy, Robert Awards for Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Editor, Best Original Score
Danish Film Critics Awards, Bodil Award for Best Supporting Actress

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (MÆND DER HADER KVINDER)

Nominated for three European Film Awards: Audience Award, Best Actress, Best Composer. Nominated for four Guldbacke Awards – won Best Film, Best Actress and The Audience Award.

TELEVISION DRAMAS

Unit one/rejseholdet. International Emmy, New York 2002
The Eagle/Ørnen. International Emmy, New York 2005

NIKOLAJ ARCEL – CO-WRITER

Nicolaj Arcel is an award-winning Danish writer and director. He co-wrote the screenplay for *THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO* with Rasmus Heisterberg, whom he frequently collaborates with. In 2009, both writers shared a Robert Award (Danish Oscar equivalent) for Best Screenplay for their collaboration on the animated film, *JOURNEY TO SATURN* (directed by Kresten Vestbjerg Andersen, Thorbjørn Christoffersen, and Craig Frank).

Previously, Arcel co-wrote and directed the film, *ISLAND OF LOST SOULS*, for which he won the 2008 Robert Awards for Best Children/Family Film and Best Director. Arcel's film *KING'S GAME*, which he also co-wrote and directed, won the 2005 Bodil Award (Copenhagen Critic's Award) for Best Film and the Audience Award at the 2004 Copenhagen International Film Festival, in addition to garnering eight Robert Awards in 2005, including Best Film, Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay (shared with Rasmus Heisterberg).

In 2003, Arcel was nominated for the Robert Award for Best Screenplay for *CATCH THAT GIRL* (directed by Hans Fabian Wulleneber), a critically acclaimed children's film that won several international awards, including the Robert Awards for Best Children/Family Film and Best Special Effects, along with the Crystal Bear - Special Mention for Best Feature Film at the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival. The film was remade in the U.S. in 2004 as *CATCH THAT KID* (20th Century Fox) and starred Kristin Stewart (*TWILIGHT*).

Arcel's next film, *SANDHEDEN OM MÆND*, co-written by Rasmus Heisterberg is in post-production. He will then direct *A ROYAL AFFAIR*, also co-written by Heisterberg in addition to Lars von Trier, which is currently in pre-production.

Arcel has additional directing projects in development, including the U.S. remake of his film *ISLAND OF LOST SOULS* (Universal Pictures) and *DEADMAN* (Warner Bros.), which is based on the original DC Comics book, to be produced by Guillermo del Toro.

RASMUS HEISTERBERG – CO-WRITER

Rasmus Heisterberg began his career as a television writer in 2000 before moving onto film. He wrote the screenplay for Carsten Myllerup's *MIDSUMMER* (2003), which was nominated for several Robert Awards and won Best Song. Heisterberg next wrote the script for *SKYMASTER* (directed by Steen Rasmussen and Michael Wikke), which also garnered several Robert Award nominations and won Best Song and Best Production Design, in addition to a Bodil Award (Copenhagen Critic's Award) for Best Supporting Actress (Bodil Jørgensen).

Heisterberg's first collaboration with Nicolaj Arcel was their script for *KING'S GAME* (2004). He has co-written several other scripts with Arcel since then, including *ISLAND OF LOST SOULS* (2007), *JOURNEY TO SATURN* (2008), *THE*

GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (2009), in addition to the upcoming SANDHEDEN OM MÆND and A ROYAL AFFAIR (co-written by Lars von Trier).

Heisterberg's additional scripts include Søren Kragh-Jacobsen's WHAT NO ONE KNOWS (2008), which he co-wrote with Søren; Hans Fabian Wullenweber's CECILIE (2007); and Natasha Arthy's FIGHTER (2007), which he co-wrote with Natasha—all of which were acclaimed films.

SÖREN STÆRMOSE - PRODUCER

Danish producer Søren Stærmosé began his filmmaking career producing documentary and short films in 1985 and moved onto feature films and scripted television shows in 1988.

Some of his best known works include the film GRANDPA'S JOURNEY (1993) starring Max von Sydow, in addition to the film and television movie franchise series -THE FIRE ENGINE THAT DISAPPEARED (1993; premiered on TV in the US in 2005), MURDER AT THE SAVOY (1993), THE POLICE MURDERER (1994) and STOCKHOLM MARATHON (1994), based on the works of Swedish mystery novelists, Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö.

Stærmosé also served as an associate producer on the Swedish television series "Wallander, created and written by internationally acclaimed Swedish writer Henning Mankell.

He produced the sitcom "Shut Up" for Swedish television and several other feature films, among them CAPRICCIOSA, starring Noomi Rapace, which played in competition at the 2004 Berlin and Toronto film festivals.

Stærmosé is the producer of all three film adaptations of author Stieg Larsson's "Millennium" trilogy.

Stærmosé has an MA in Literature & Film from Copenhagen University.

CAST

Mikael Blomkvist
Lisbeth Salander
Erika Berger
Henrik Vanger
Martin Vanger
Nils Bjurman
Cecilia Vanger
Dirch Frode
Gustav Morell
Harriet Vanger
Holger Palmgren
Dragan Armanskij
Annika Giannini
Malin Eriksson
Plauge
Janne Dahlman
Hans-Erik Wennerström
Harald Vanger
Gunnar Brännlund
Christer Malm
Isabella Vanger
Enrico Giannini
Mimmi Wu
Birgit Falk
Otto Falk
Alexander Zalachenko
Agneta Salander
Polis i Dalarna
Receptionist
Domare
Bildredaktör
Birger Vanger
Ekonomichef
Polisman i skogen
Huliganer

Äldre dam
Miltontekniker
Kvinnlig TV reporter
Programledare
Ung Lisbeth
Jennie Giannini
Monica Giannini
Gottfried Vanger
Plit

MICHAEL NYQVIST
NOOMI RAPACE
LENA ENDRE
SVEN-BERTIL TAUBE
PETER HABER
PETER ANDERSSON
MARIKA LAGERCRANTZ
INGVAR HIRDWALL
BJÖRN GRANATH
EWA FRÖLING
PER OSCARSSON
MICHALIS KOUTSOGIANNAKIS
ANNIKA HALLIN
SOFIA LEDARP
THOMAS KÖHLER
DAVID DENCİK
STEFAN SAUK
GÖSTA BREDEFELDT
FREDRIK OHLSSON
JOCOB ERICKSSON
GUNNEL LINDBLOM
REUBEN SALLMANDER
YASMINE GARBI
MARGARETA STONE
CHRISTIAN FIEDLER
GEORGI STAYKOV
NINA NORÉN
EMIL ALMÉN
LOUISE RYME
PALE OLOFSSON
MIKAEL RAHM
WILLIE ANDRÉASON
JAN MYBRAND
LENNART R SVENSSON
CARL OSCAR TÖRNROS
KALLED MUSTONEN
HENRIK KNUTSSON
BARBRO ENBERG
OLA WALLINDER
ALEXANDRA PASCALIDOU
SIEWERT ÖHOLM
THEILLA BLADH
LAURA LIND
ISABELLA ISACSON
RICHARD FRANC
MAGNUS STENIUS

CREW

Director
Niels Arden Oplev

Screenplay by
Rasmus Heisterberg
Nikolaj Arcel

Producer
Sören Staermose

Director of photography
Eric Kress DFF

Additional Director of photography
Jens Fischer FSF

Editors
Anne Østerud
Jannus Billeskov Jansen

Production Designer
Niels Sejer

Composer
Jacob Groth

Supervising sound editor
Peter Schultz

Sound recording
Anders Hörling

Casting
Tusse Lande
Kompani Lande AB

Costume
Cilla Rörby

Make up
Jenny Fred

Line Producer
Susann Billberg Rydholm

Production manager
Tobias Åström

First assistant director
Daniel Chilla

Coordinating Producer
Jon Mankell

Property master
Paul Gustavsson

Location manager
Pia Ekedahl