



**MUSIC
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FILMS**

presents

THE LAST SENTENCE

a film by Jan Troell

2011, Sweden, 124 min. Unrated.

In Swedish with English subtitles

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<http://www.musicboxfilms.com/thelastsentence>

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Summary

Oscar-nominated director Jan Troell, one of Sweden's most acclaimed filmmakers, directs the biopic *The Last Sentence*. Set against the backdrop of WWII, *The Last Sentence* is based on the life of crusading journalist Torgny Segerstedt, editor-in-chief of one of Sweden's leading newspapers, highlighting his one-man battle against Nazism and his country's policy of appeasement to Hitler.

With Sweden caught between Nazi Germany and Stalin's Russia, the country's elites chose a policy of neutrality and compliance, with few daring to speak up against the evil around them. Among those who did, nobody was as loud and as uncompromising as Segerstedt (Danish star Jesper Christensen, *Nymphomaniac: Volume 1, Melancholia*), one of the most prominent Swedish journalists of the 20th century. In the eyes of many of his countrymen, his pen was far more dangerous than the Nazi sword. Amidst the political turmoil of the era, Segerstedt's own personal life took a dramatic and scandalous turn as he entered into a very public affair with Maja Forssman, the Jewish wife of his close friend, the newspaper's publisher. Maja Forssman is played by Pernilla August, winner of the Cannes Best Actress Award for Bille August's *Best Intentions*.

Jan Troell is best known to US audiences for his critically acclaimed film *Everlasting Moments* (also starring Jesper Christensen), as well as *The New Land* and *The Emigrants* (1972), starring Max Von Sydow and Liv Ullman, which received 5 Oscars nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress, Best Screenplay and Best Foreign Language Film. Beautifully filmed in black-and-white, *The Last Sentence* is a gripping tale of a man who risked his life for his beliefs and refused to be silenced.

About Torgny Segerstedt

Torgny Karl Segerstedt, one of Sweden's most legendary and influential newspaper editors, was born on November 1, 1876 in Karlstad, and died March 31, 1945 in Gothenburg. The editor and religious historian was best known for his staunch opposition to Nazism as the editor-in-chief of the *Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfartstidning* newspaper. In 1905, Torgny married Norwegian Augusta Wilhelmina Synnestvedt, and they had four children together.

Early on, Segerstedt earned a reputation as a firebrand liberal journalist and commentator, especially for the Swedish newspaper *Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfarts-Tidning* (GHT). In 1917, he took over as editor-in-chief, a post he held until his death. Under his leadership, the GHT experienced its real heyday. His sharp, lucid style was put to good use in fiercely polemical, often ironic editorials like "filosofisk kammarmusik" (philosophical chamber music) in the cultural pages or in the day section of the paper. After Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933, the GHT took a firm stand against Nazism. Segerstedt asserted vigorously that Hitlerism would lead to war, a war that Germany would lose.

For 28 years, he led a tireless crusade against Nazism in the *Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfarts-Tidning* with his pen as his only weapon. His sharply formulated and uncompromising articles reached far beyond the country's borders, reviled in Berlin and cheered in London. In 2007, Kenne Fant's acclaimed biography *Torgny Segerstedt - En levnadsskildring* [Atlantis], was published, which provided the inspiration for THE LAST SENTENCE.

The Torgny Segerstedt Memorial Foundation works to promote interdisciplinary research aimed at strengthening fundamental democratic values such as freedom of thought, freedom of opinion, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion.

Important Dates in the Life of Torgny Segerstedt

- 1876** Born November 1 in Karlstad. His father, Albrekt Segerstedt, is a lecturer and works for conservative *Nya Wermlands-Tidningen* newspaper, among others.
- 1894** Graduates from the classics program at the Higher Secondary Grammar School in Karlstad. Enrols at Lund University in the fall to study technology.
- 1898** Studies in Berlin, as well as at the venerable university in the northern German city of Rostock.
- 1899** Becomes engaged in Berlin to Augusta "Puste" Synnestvedt, a radical teacher from Oslo.
- 1901** Gets his bachelor's degree in technology from Lund University.
- 1903** Technology faculty at Uppsala University rejects his doctoral thesis. Appointed docent in comparative religion in Lund. Founds the periodical *Kristendomen*.
- 1907** Marries Puste.
- 1908** Son Torgny is born. [Goes on to become Sweden's first professor of sociology, dean of Uppsala University, member of the Swedish Academy].
- 1911** Daughter Ingrid is born. [Goes on to become a journalist, writer, politician, commentator].
- 1913** Obtains a professorship in comparative religion at Stockholm University.
- 1914** Editor of the liberal weekly *Forum*, where Hjalmar Söderberg works as a journalist.
- 1917** Becomes editor-in-chief of *Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfarts-Tidning*, where he has already been working as a journalist for many years. His employment contract is negotiated by his close friend Axel Forssman, lawyer and GHT board member.
- 1924** Writing on the death of Lenin, describes the Russian leader as "a curse" on the Russian people in a very scathing article.
- 1930** Offers poetic praise of the memory of the polar explorer S.A. Andrée, who died in an ill-fated expedition back in 1897, and whose remains are returned to Sweden in October. [Per Olof Sundman's novel *Flight of the Eagle* is adapted to the screen in 1982 by Jan Troell].
- 1933** On 3 February [a few days after Hitler comes to power], publishes perhaps his most daring and renowned article under the title *Herr Hitler är en föroläppning* (Mr. Hitler is an insult). The reaction from Berlin is violent and leads to a very threatening telegram sent to the GHT from the newly installed Reichsminister Hermann Göring. This is followed five days later by an even more scathing editorial in the GHT in response to the telegram.
- 1934** Wife Puste dies.

- 1936** Writes an article arguing that Sweden should not take part in the Olympic Games to be held in Berlin.
- 1939** Urged in a letter from the newly appointed Swedish foreign minister Christian Günther to stop writing articles critical of Nazi Germany.
- 1940** Is summoned in the fall to the Royal Palace in the Stockholm for an audience with King Gustaf V, who is concerned that GHT's critical stance toward Hitler could be putting Sweden in danger. The government decides to confiscate a few issues of the newspaper.
- 1942** Long-time mistress Maja Forssman [wife of Axel F.] dies.
- 1944** Suffers a heart attack, but continues writing articles.
- 1945** Final article appears in GHT 15 March. Dies 31 March in Gothenburg, just a few weeks before the surrender of the Third Reich.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

JAN TROELL - writer and director

A true *auteur*, Jan Troell is a director, writer, editor, cinematographer, and one of Sweden's foremost modern filmmakers. After a few excellent short films, Troell got his breakthrough in 1966 as a feature film director with *Here's Your Life*, based on a book by Eyvind Johnson. The film is now a recognized cinema classic. Over the years, Troell's films have won an array of prestigious domestic and international awards.

Troell's film *Everlasting Moments* has won many awards, including a Guldbagge for best film, the Danish Robert Award, as well as a Golden Globe nomination. He also received the top award at the Gothenburg Film Festival. In 2010, Troell received the Swedish Academy's highest honor, a gold medal awarded very rarely "for particularly outstanding achievements within one of the Academy's disciplines."

Jan Troell – Filmography

1966 HERE'S YOUR LIFE
1968 WHO SAW HIM DIE
1971 THE EMIGRANTS (nominated for five Academy Awards: Best Foreign Language Film (1972); Best Picture, Best Actress (Liv Ullmann), Best Director, Best Writing, & Best Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium (1973))
1972 THE NEW LAND
1974 ZANDY'S BRIDE
1977 BANG!
1979 HURRICANE
1982 FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE
1988 LAND OF DREAMS (Documentary)
1991 IL CAPITANO: A SWEDISH REQUIEM
1996 HAMSUN
1997 A FROZEN DREAM (Documentary)
2001 AS WHITE AS IN SNOW
2008 EVERLASTING MOMENTS
2012 THE LAST SENTENCE

KLAUS RIFBJERG – writer

For decades, Klaus Rifbjerg has been a central figure within contemporary Danish literature. Klaus is incredibly productive within various genres and has published approximately 150 works. His poetry is of particular importance. Since 1967, he has been a member of the Danish Academy. In 1970, he was awarded the Nordic Council's Literature Prize.

Among those published in Swedish are his breakthrough 1958 novel *Den kroniska oskulden* [made into a film in 1985], *Dikter från Amager*, *Operaälskaren*, *Anna (jag) Anna* [also made into a film], *Vaxdukshjärtat* and *Kriget*. Rifbjerg previously collaborated with Jan Troell on *Flight of the Eagle*.

FRANCY SUNTINGER – producer

Francy Suntinger was born in Stockholm and has worked professionally in film production since graduating from the Dramatiska Institutet in 1995. Since 2008, Francy has been working as a producer at Filmlance International AB. He has produced *The Last Sentence*, *Bröderna Karlsson* (2010), *Bu och Bä får besök* (2009), *Pirret* (2007), *Till slut* (short, 2007), *Länge leve Lennart* (short, 2005), and *Disco Kung Fu* (short, 2002). In 2012, Francy

produced Åsa Linderborg's novel *Mig äger ingen*, directed by Kjell-Åke Andersson and written by Pia Gradvall.

MISCHA GAVRJUSJOV – director of photography

Born in 1950 in Örgryte, Mischa Gavrjusjov works as a cinematographer and has a history of successful collaborations with Jan Troell. He was awarded a Guldbagge in 2002 for best cinematography on Jan Troell's *As White as in Snow*. He was also nominated for a Guldbagge for his work on Troell's *Everlasting Moments*.

Films he has worked on include *Everlasting Moments* (2008), *Kocken* (2005), *Mongolpiparen* (2004), *En förälskelse* (2001), *As White as in Snow* (2001), *St. Mikael* (TV) 1998, *Hamsun* (1996), *Fiendens fiende* (TV) 1990, *Bulan* (1990), *Enkel resa* (1988), *Nya tider* (TV) (1988), *PS sista sommaren* (1988), *Om kärlek* (1987), *Amorosa* (1986), and *Ronja Rövardotter* (1984).

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

JESPER CHRISTENSEN in the role of Torgny Segerstedt

For the past 35 years, Jesper Christensen has been a sought-after, multi-award-winning Danish theatre, cinema and TV actor. In 1976, Jesper performed his first film role in Anders Refn's *Snuten som rensade upp*. Included among his many other Danish films are Søren Kragh-Jacobsen's *Skuggan av Emma*, Astrid Henning-Jensen's *Vinterbarn*, Nils Malmros' *Barbara* (for which he won both the Bodil and Robert Awards for best male supporting actor), Erik Wedersøe's *Anna*, Anette K. Olesen's *Små danska olyckor* and Jesper W. Nielsen's *Okay*. In 2001, he once again received both the Robert and Bodil Awards for his brilliant portrayal in Per Fly's *Bänken*. Jesper has also appeared in *Sommaren*, *Vita lögner*, *Den vita lejoninnan*, *Hip Hip Hurra!*, *God afton, herr Wallenberg* and *Kommer du med mig då?*

In recent years, Jesper has launched a successful international career. In 2005, he appeared in *The Interpreter*, Sydney Pollack's last film as a director. He also played the villain Mr. White in the two Bond films *Casino Royale* and *Quantum of Solace*. He was recently seen in *The Debt* opposite Helen Mirren, and in *Schwestern* opposite Juliane Köhler. Jesper worked with Jan Troell previously on *Hamsun*, and most recently on *Everlasting Moments*, for which he was awarded a Guldbagge for best male supporting actor.

Jesper Christensen - selected filmography

1992 SOFIE (dir. Liv Ullmann)
1996 HAMSUN (dir. Jan Troell)
2000 BÄNKEN (dir. Per Fly)
2000 ITALIENSKA FÖR NYBÖRJARE (dir. Lone Scherfig)
2003 ARVET (dir. Per Fly)
2005 THE INTERPRETER (dir. Sydney Pollack)
2005 DRÅPET (dir. Per Fly)
2006 CASINO ROYALE (dir. Martin Campbell)
2008 EVERLASTING MOMENTS (dir. Jan Troell)
2008 QUANTUM OF SOLACE (dir. Marc Forster)
2009 STORM (dir. Hans-Christian Schmid)
2009 YOUNG VICTORIA (dir. Jean-Marc Vallée)
2010 EN FAMILIE (dir. Pernille Fischer Christensen)
2010 THE DEBT (dir. John Madden)
2011 JULIE (dir. Linda Wende)

- 2011 MELANCHOLIA (dir. Lars von Trier)
- 2011 SCHWESTERN (dir. Anne Wild)
- 2012 THE LAST SENTENCE (dir. Jan Troell)
- 2013 NYMPHOMANIAC: VOL. I (dir. Lars von Trier)

PERNILLA AUGUST in the role of Maja Forssman

Pernilla August is one of the great actresses of our time, as well as an internationally celebrated film director. Throughout her critically acclaimed career, Pernilla has worked at the Royal Dramatic Theatre (Dramaten), where she has triumphed in such productions as Ingmar Bergman's *Hamlet*, *A Doll's House*, *A Winter's Tale*, *Maria Stuart* and in 2002 in his last Royal Dramatic Theatre production *Ghosts*.

In 1982, Pernilla had her screen breakthrough as the nanny Maj in Bergman's last feature film *Fanny and Alexander*. In 1991, she played Anna Åkerblom in Bille August's TV series *The Best Intentions*, which was written by Bergman. The film version was awarded the Palme d'Or at Cannes and Pernilla won the award for best actress. She also received a Guldbagge for her performance. In 1999, Pernilla received a second Guldbagge for best supporting actress in *Där regnbågen slutar*.

She has played opposite Jesper Christensen twice before, in Erik Wedersøe's *Anna* and in *Dråpet*, which earned her a nomination for the prestigious Danish Robert Award.

Pernilla made her sensational directorial debut with the feature *Beyond*, which won awards in Venice and was nominated for 8 Guldbagge Awards, ultimately winning Best Director. She was also nominated for best actress in *Miss Kicki*.

Pernilla August - selected filmography

- 1982 FANNY AND ALEXANDER (dir. Ingmar Bergman)
- 1992 THE BEST INTENTIONS (dir. Bille August)
- 1999 STAR WARS EPISODE 1 – THE PHANTOM MENACE (dir. George Lucas)
- 1999 DÄR REGNBÅGEN SLUTAR (dir. Richard Hobert)
- 2002 STAR WARS EPISODE II – ATTACK OF THE CLONES (dir. George Lucas)
- 2003 OM JAG VÄNDER MIG OM (dir. Björn Runge)
- 2003 DETALJER (dir. Kristian Petri)
- 2004 DAG OCH NATT (dir. Simon Staho)
- 2005 DRÅPET (dir. Per Fly)
- 2005 MUN MOT MUN (dir. Björn Runge)
- 2006 SÖK (dir. Maria von Heland)
- 2009 KENNY BEGINS (dir. Carl Åstrand, Mats Lindberg)
- 2009 DET ENDA RATIONELLA (dir. Jörgen Bergmark)
- 2009 MISS KICKI (dir. Håkon Liu)
- 2010 BEYOND (dir. Pernilla August)
- 2012 CALL GIRL (dir. Mikael Marcimain)
- 2012 THE LAST SENTENCE (dir. Jan Troell)

BJÖRN GRANATH in the role of Axel Forssman

Björn Granath is a member of the permanent ensemble of the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm. He has also taken part in many "free" projects, including the celebrated Tältprojektet and the Teater Fågel Blå ensemble. Björn has appeared in a number of feature films, such as *Madicken på Junibacken*, *Pelle the Conqueror*, Jan Troell's *As White as in Snow*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, and Anton Corbijn's *The American*. He has also appeared in such TV productions as Bergman's *The Best Intentions* and Norén's *Löven i Vallombrosa*. He has also performed Thomas Bernhard's *Minetti* at Teater Brunnsgatan Fyra. Björn Granath received the Eugene O'Neill Scholarship Award in 2003.

ULLA SKOOG in the role of Puste Segerstedt

Ulla Skoog was accepted at the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts in 1979 and began working at Stockholms Stadsteater in 1981. She debuted as a stand-up comedian in 1988, but her big breakthrough was the comedy series *Lorry* in 1989. Since then, Ulla Skoog has performed in many comedic roles, including the feature films *Yrrol* and *En på miljonen*.

Since the end of the '90s, she has often appeared together with Tomas von Brömssen in their reviews *Rent under* and *Fritt fall*, both of which were big hits and toured the country. Ulla also works as a director for TV and the theatre, including Stockholm's Stadsteater. In the hit TV series *Saltön* (2005, 2007), she played the role of Johanna.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Director – JAN TROELL

Screenwriters – KLAUS RIFBJERG/JAN TROELL

freely adapted from Kenne Fant's biography *Torgny Segerstedt - en levnadsskildring*

Producer – FRANCY SUNTINGER

Director of Photography – JAN TROELL/ MISCHA GAVRJUSJOV

Production Designer – PETER BÄVMAN

Art Director – PERNILLA OLSSON

Costume Designer – KATJA WATKINS

Make-up Artists – MARIA STRID & JOHN A KINDAHL

Editors – JAN TROELL/ULRIKA RANG

Composer – GAUTE STORAAS

Sound Design – OLLE TANNERGÅRD

Casting – ANJA SCHMIDT & PÄR BRUNDIN

Produced by Filmlance International AB in co-production with Film i Väst, Filmpool Nord, Nordisk Film, Sveriges Television, Stena Sessan, Nordisk Film Postproduktion, Dagsljus Filmequipment, Maipo Film, and in collaboration with NRK, with support from the Swedish Film Institute, the Norwegian Film Institute, Nordisk Film & TV Fond, and Eurimages.

CAST

Torgny Segerstedt – JESPER CHRISTENSEN

Maja Forssman – PERNILLA AUGUST

Puste Segerstedt – ULLA SKOOG

Axel Forssman – BJÖRN GRANATH

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Runtime: 2:04

Format: 1.85

Sound: Dolby digital

About Music Box Films

Music Box Films is a leading distributor of international, American independent, and documentary content in North America.

Past releases include Guillaume Canet's hit thriller TELL NO ONE and the film adaptations of Stieg Larsson's trilogy of international mega-selling novels. The first in the series, THE GIRL

WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO with over \$10 million in US box office, was one of the most popular foreign-language releases of recent years.

Recent titles include Roger Michell's LE WEEK-END, written by Hanif Kureishi and starring Jim Broadbent; five-time Academy Award® nominee Jan Troell's THE LAST SENTENCE; and Pawel Pawlikowski's IDA, winner of the FIPRESCI Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival.

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.