



presents

OF HORSES AND MEN

A film by
Benedikt Erlingsson

80 min., Iceland. 2013

In Icelandic, Swedish, English, Russian, and Spanish with English subtitles

Press Materials:

<http://www.musicboxfilms.com/ofhorsesandmen-press>

Official Site:

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

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SYNOPSIS

An inventive take on the symbiotic relationship between man and animal, *Of Horses and Men* is a darkly comic collection of vignettes set in a provincial Icelandic village. Against a breathtaking seaside landscape, a cast of hot-blooded characters struggle to connect with nature and each other. Among them, a pair of wistful human lovers are thwarted by equine libidos, sparking their tentative courtship into action; a determined alcoholic gets his last ride at sea from a surprisingly seaworthy companion; and an adventurous tourist sets off for a leisurely ride on horseback that spirals into a quest for survival. The lines between species blur seamlessly throughout these memorable tales, reflecting love, death and the quirks of human and beast alike.

An ode to the majestic beauty of horses, lauded stage director Benedikt Erlingsson's film debut captures the passions and idiosyncrasies of a close-knit community and the primal desires hidden within all of us.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This is not a straightforward story.

I hope that the English title, *Of Horses and Men*, gives the viewer the right point of view. The word that is missing, "stories," is the key. And of course it must be said that here in the north, women are also men.

It is important to state that no horses were hurt in the making of this film. It says so at the end of the credits, and it is absolutely true. The entire cast and crew are horse owners and horse lovers. We might as well have been working with our children.

I must admit, however, that there were some human actors that were traumatized during the shooting of the film, but I happen to know that they were still alive when this was written.

-Benedikt

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Benedikt Erlingsson

Benedikt Erlingsson is one of the most successful Icelandic stage directors of the last decade and has received several awards for his work as a director, author and actor. As a stage actor he has played number of roles at the Icelandic National Theater and Reykjavik City Theatre. He was also the artistic director of "New Stage", the experimental department of The Reykjavik City Theater, from 2002 – 2004. He has also acted in numerous films and TV series, including Lars von Trier's *The Boss of it All*.

In Icelandic TV, Erlingsson is best known for his writing and acting in the comedy series "Blood Brothers," which won numerous Edda Awards, The Icelandic Film and TV Awards. His solo performance "Wormstongue – A Love Story" was remade into a TV film and also nominated for an Edda Award.

His first short film "Thanks" was well-received and travelled extensively on the festival circuit, garnering both the Jury Prize and Audience Award at the BE-Film Festival in New York in 2008. "The Nail," his second short film, also travelled extensively and received a Special Mention at the International Short Film Festival Clermont Ferrand in 2008.

His film *Of Horses and Men*, Iceland's submission to the 2014 Academy Awards, won the prestigious Kutxa-New Directors Award at the San Sebastian International Film Festival and the Best Director Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival.

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

Benedikt Erlingsson is one of the most talented theatre directors to come out of Iceland. He has been decorated with every award there is to win in the world of the theatre. His productions during the past decade have enjoyed exceptionally long runs, with almost every performance being sold out. Benedikt has written and directed two short films, *Thanks* and *The Nail*, which have undoubtedly put him on the film-making map. Both films have travelled around the festival circuit and won awards, including Special Mention at The International Short Film Festival Clermont Ferrand, one of the most important and prestigious short film festivals in the world. With these two short films, Benedikt has proven his ability to transfer his talents into a different medium: cinema. Benedikt's first feature film, *Of Horses and Men*, is about his passion in life, the horse, and the bond between man and horse. The script projects the force and intelligence in Benedikt's work and his idiosyncratic voice. The audience will enjoy a powerful experience where dynamism, lyricism and great humour are intertwined in a fascinating relationship. The main protagonists of the film are horses, with their vigor and beauty. The Icelandic horse adds to the commercial appeal of this art house film. The Icelandic horse is a special breed of extreme genetic purity. Its popularity abroad is ever increasing, as witnessed by the growth of special clubs dedicated to the breed, regular world championships and sizable populations in Europe and North America. Benedikt has chosen his collaborators intelligently: well-known actors and a cinematographer and production designer who both have vast experience. The producers strongly believe in this project, which will certainly strike a different note and lead to the discovery of a new voice.

- Friðrik Þór Friðriksson

PRODUCER'S BIO

Fridrik Thor Fridriksson

Fridrik Thor Fridriksson is an award-winning film director and one of Scandinavia's most distinguished directors and producers with a track record of over 30 feature films, as well as several shorts and documentaries. As a director, he gained international recognition and critical acclaim with his second feature *Children of Nature* (1991) which was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

CAST

Ingvar E. Sigurdsson
Charlotte Boving
Steinn Armann Magnusson
Helgi Bjoernsson
Kristbjorg Kjeld
Sigridur Maria Egilsdottir
Juan Camillo
Roman Estrada

CREW

Director	Benedikt Erlingsson
Writer	Benedikt Erlingsson
Editor	David Alexander Corno
Dir. of Photography	Bergsteinn Bjorgulfsson
Original Music	David Thor Jonsson
Producer	Fridrik Thor Fridriksson
Co-Producers	Christoph Toke, Egil Odegard

A CO-PRODUCTION

Hrossabrestur (IS), Mogador Film (DE), Filmhuset AS (NO).

About Music Box Films

Founded in 2007, Music Box Films is a leading distributor of international, American independent, and documentary content in North America along with the best in international TV series and mini-series.

Releases in 2014 included Roger Michell's LE WEEK-END, written by Hanif Kureishi and starring Jim Broadbent; the Emmy Award winning French-language series "The Returned"; Pawel Pawlikowski's IDA, 2015 Academy Award® winner for Best Foreign Film; and the Sundance Audience Award-winning documentary THE GREEN PRINCE.

Recent titles include Dominik Graf's BELOVED SISTERS, Germany's official submission to the Academy Awards®, and Shlomi and Ronit Elkabetz's GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM, Israel's official submission to the Academy Awards®.

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.