



DORTE
HØJSTED

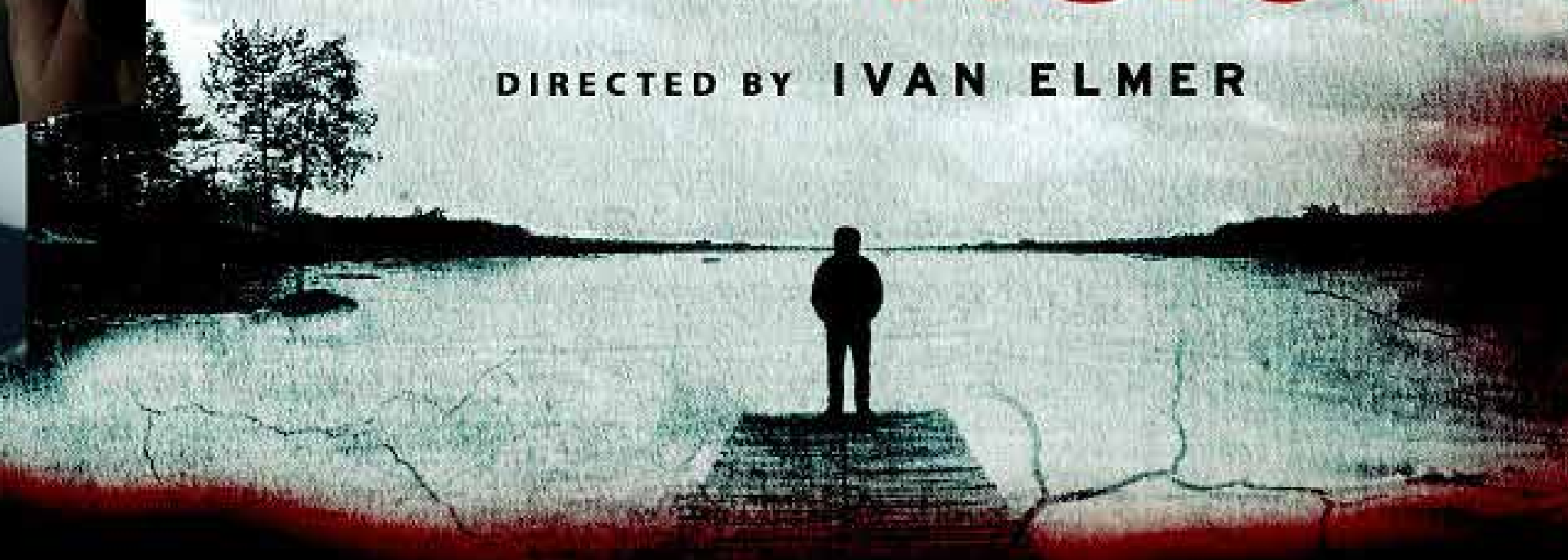
IDA CÆCILIE
RASMUSSEN

NIKLAS
HERSKIND

NICOLAI
JØRGENSEN

BLURRED VISION

DIRECTED BY IVAN ELMER



PRESS KIT

PITCH

ANDRÉ (32) and his newfound girlfriend ELISA (35) move to the countryside to create a new life together as they are expecting their first child. But instead of bringing them closer, the pregnancy splits them apart as disturbing secrets about Elisa surface, and André needs to take action.

SYNOPSIS SHORT

André (32) and his newfound girlfriend Elisa(35) are pregnant with their first child. Full of hope for the new life to come, they move to the countryside to get closer to Elisa's mother, Martha(63).Andre wants to provide for his family, so he starts an ambitious microbrewery project. The future seems bright for the expecting family. But instead of bringing them closer together, the pregnancy comes down on the relationship like an avalanche as Elisa develops a psychosis due to the pregnancy. She starts to show sides of her that Andre has not seen before and disturbing secrets from the past are revealed.Andre finds himself entangled in a web of lies spun by Elisa and her overprotecting mother, making him doubt his own sanity and ultimately fight for his own and his unborn baby's life.

LOGLINE

Secrets keep the marriage alive.



SYNOPSIS LONG

André (32) is betting everything on his new girlfriend, the pediatrician, Elisa (35). He abruptly leaves Copenhagen to create a new life with the now pregnant Elisa in her hometown Hjortsaa. André has grown up without parents, so now that he is on the threshold of having to be responsible for a child's upbringing, he is trying to imagine what a real father is supposed to be like, e.g. independent, reliable, authoritative, and resourceful. Adjectives no one has used to describe André so far. He wants to provide Elisa with a shoulder to lean on when everything becomes too much. The provider who makes sure that his family's future is ensured. André invests his money from his sold apartment in an ambitious microbrewery project. He is, however, not that experienced, so he recruits the town outsider, Hans, who claims that he has tried this before. Together they convert an old ruin to a, on the surface, well-functioning brewery. What André does not know is that there is a reason as to why the rest of the town have turned their backs on Hans. André forgets to ask Elisa whether she thinks any of it is a good idea, and in his eagerness to become the father of the year, he loses himself in the brewing process and begins to drink excessively.

Soon after their arrival, Elisa is reunited with old friends, enemies, and also her mother, Martha (63), whom she has not seen in a decade. Martha has a philosophy that secrets are a good thing that make relationships last longer. Elisa has taken that philosophy to heart so she does not tell André about the deep scars she has on her soul, or the real reason why she needed to return to her hometown.

André and the overprotective Martha quickly butt heads regarding who is the best at taking care of Elisa. It all becomes too much for André when Martha insists on moving in as soon as the baby is born. They both forget to take Elisa's feelings into consideration, while they are fighting one another.

Secrets, misjudged assumptions, Martha, and a mutually lacking ability to trust another person completely, results in the couple quickly distancing themselves from one another. The further along she comes in her pregnancy, the more irritable and psychotic Elisa becomes. Soon, André needs to save his unborn child from a person whom he cannot trust. But, if the person who pours poisonous mushrooms in the brewery barrels has a say in all of this, André will not live long enough to experience his newborn child take its first breath.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Ivan was born October 17, 1983, in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is the youngest of 7 siblings and his father has been the main influence to his movie obsession. His older brother Jonas is also a filmmaker and all 4 Elmer brothers have been brought up with films from the very beginning. After film, the other major reference point in the family was football.

After travelling round South America, mainly Brazil, for half a year, Ivan attended the European Film College in Ebeltoft. Next educational stop was Fatamorgana, where Ivan learned the craft of photography. And last but not least, he went to the Chicago based school Improv Olympic, where his storytelling skills were sharpened. Improvisation is something Ivan uses a lot when developing stories and working with his actors. After that period Ivan started in the movie industry, by assisting his brother Jonas on various projects. In the beginning as a runner and in the end as an assistant director and scriptwriter. Since 2010 Ivan has strictly been working as an A-Director.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

2019 Blurred Vision (Writer-director)

2016 The Last One (Short film, Writer-director)

2015 Johannes Vilhelm (Short film, Writer-director)

2011 You Lead, I Follow (Short film, Writer-director)



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Everything in my life, privately and professionally, has led to me directing my first feature. All the adventures abroad, strange acquaintances and crazy experiences that I have raced towards through my youth, are an essential part of me as a storyteller today.

In *Blurred Vision* the main theme is TRUST; do you dare to trust anyone besides yourself?

It's a scary thing to let go and blindly trust your partner. My experience is that secrets and distrust can develop in a dangerous and unpredictable way. This was the focus, when the premise of the story was developed back in 2016.

For me personally, it was important to examine those pitfalls that are connected to secrets, lies, and fear in a relationship. How a couple in love can end up in hatred, as far away from the loving and caring approach as possible. The paradox of being an individual human being, who has to participate in a symbiotic relationship, which is complicated by the third participant - the child, was also an angle. The physical and psychological changes that a pregnancy causes – both for the woman and man – is another important topic in the film. Visually and audibly I wanted to portray the anxiety and confusion that are connected to the change of the woman's body and mind during the pregnancy. But also examine what it can bring of troublesome processes for the woman, especially if she is suppressing traumatic wounds. The clinical expression for what Elisa has experienced and is hiding, is pregnancy psychosis – a topic of taboo that we discussed with chief psychologist, Sven Aage Madsen, of "Riget" in our research.

- Director Ivan Elmer

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

In 2016 Director Ivan Elmer presented an idea to me. One crazy amazing idea about a unique film. It's rare that a great story, which has the right elements to make an effective psychological thriller, catches my attention right away. But this one surely did.

At that moment, I just had a baby, so the story provoked me. It was so important to tell a story with a subject that is often kept a secret, a taboo.

Blurred Vision contains the physical and psychological changes that pregnancy entails – both for the woman and the man – it is a crucial theme in the movie.

The most important production value in this film is that we have a real live pregnancy.

Blurred Vision aims to portray this in an as authentic, true to reality, uncompromising way possible so that many audience members will recognize the elements and themes from their own lives, bodies, and minds. Blurred Vision is going to make the audience forget about time until they are ripped out of the dream and faced with reality. We intend to do this with persistent and intense use of POV to crawl under the skin of the viewer and thrill, rattle and move him or her.

We want to make the audience experience fragments of their own lives and relationships. It's portrayed in such a brutally honest and uncompromising manner that they will not be able to ignore it.

This type of unexpected development in the genre is one of the things that will set Blurred Vision apart and make it memorable.

Niklas Herskind and Ida Cæcilie Rasmussen play the two powerful characters, André and Elisa. Both are shinning Danish acting talents who make an impact in each their own way. Niklas is self-taught, rough around the edges and has a danger to him, which is interesting – besides that; he is resourceful in his improvisation. A technique Ivan Elmer has used previously and used in the shooting of Blurred Vision to achieve as authentic and real an expression as possible.

My ambition is for the movie to be launched in major European and International film festivals. Subsequently, we will work on International movie distribution. Alternatively, we will contact streaming distributions (VOD, SVOD) after the film festivals.

As a producer, the process of creating Blurred Vision has been one of the most challenging but amazing experiences of my life. But worth everything. Ivan Elmer have been an amazing ambitious director to work with, he works harder than anyone I know, and never gives up. His talent does shine through in this film.

Blurred Vision is a must-see film.

- Producer Gabriela Uweis

A dark, blue-tinted photograph of a person in a hospital gown standing by a medical machine with a control panel. The person is looking down at the machine. The machine has several red digital displays and buttons. The background is dark and indistinct.

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY

Gabriela Uweis was born in 1985, in Copenhagen Denmark

Since 2009 Gabriela has been working as a Line Producer and Producer on twelve short films and one feature Blurred Vision. Besides fiction, Gabriela has been working in the commercial industry for eight years.

In 2015 Gabriela was the Line Producer on "Helium," Directed by Anders Walter, which won an Oscar in The Academy Awards 2014 for Best Live Action Short film.

Gabriela is educated with a Business Degree in Marketing and Business and has attended various media distribution courses, legal and financial issues in the film industry, and script development.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

- 2020 Body Armor (Short film/pilot, Producer)
- 2019 Blurred Vision (Feature film, Producer)
- 2019 Tomorrow (Short film, Producer)
- 2017 The Radion Singer (Short film, Producer)
- 2015 Hide Your Eyes (Short film, Producer)
- 2014 Debut (Short film, Producer)
- 2014 Helium (Short film, Line Producer)

ABOUT THE MOVIE

One of the special things about Blurred Vision is the alternative process and untraditional elements that we have included: We chose to exploit Ida Cæcilie Rasmussen's physical and mental development while she was pregnant in real life in the pre-production. She and Niklas Herskind worked intensely with their characters and based the scenes on Ida's own experiences and insight. We shot several scenes when Ida was 8 months' pregnant because the character Elisa needed that element of physicality, even though we did not have a finished script yet. We did this first and foremost because it was authentic to the story, but also because we acknowledged that we would not have the funds in post-production to recreate her body using visual effects.

We ended up filming for 4 time periods over the course of 2 years in different Danish landscapes: Thy, Southern part of Jutland, Northern part of Zealand and Copenhagen.

The film cost approximately 50.000 euros and is made without funding from institutes or larger production companies. Our funding was based on private investors and cut backs on equipment and locations. But most importantly, a hardworking and motivated crew which made it possible to accomplish the vision through economical, physical and mental sacrifices. Furthermore, they had the strength to continue, never give up and be willing to improvise when an alternative solution was needed. With a crew like that, you can do almost anything, even a feature film that ends up costing 1/10th of a normal Danish low budget film.



Q&A

What was the biggest challenge in making the film?

To shoot it within two years with a micro budget and still keep the key crew motivated and believing that this will happen. It takes a certain amount of denial on my part, because even though it seemed impossible and pointless at times, I could never send that signal without crashing the project into dust.

What is the most important theme in the film?

Trust. To hand over the keys to everything that is you is terrifying and a vulnerable thing to do. But to sweep your secrets under the rug, can be a dangerous thing. Especially if you're in a sea of denial as most of the characters are.

The movie swifts between naturalistic and abstract pictures. Why is that?

Blurred Vision is told from André's POV and it's his interpretation of reality that we're experiencing. The abstract pictures are used to portray his inner struggles which are connected to becoming a parent and trusting his wife. Elisa's pregnancy, the bodily fluids, and the delirious state of mind he is in are all methods to get under his skin and into his head.

In what genre would you categorize the movie?

Love thriller. It's first of all a story of young lovers but I've always been most fascinated by the dark and dangerous side of love. Therefore I've focused on those elements in this story and universe, hence the suspense and growing danger underneath.





ANDRÉ

Niklas Herskind is a 32 year old actor born and raised in Copenhagen. Previously he worked behind the camera but changed his ways and got in front of it after attending Ebeltoft Film College. He's been working towards an acting career ever since and he's done it in his own way, without attending the classical acting schools in Denmark. This provides him with a different and unpolished acting style. He's been in several shorts, tv-series and features.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

- 2019 Bedrag (TV Series): Hingo
- 2018 Neon Heart: Niklas
- 2018 The Last One (Short): Plesner
- 2017 Darklands: Niklas
- 2015 Skammerens Datter: Esmer



ELISA

Ida Cæcilie Rasmussen born 1984 is an actress graduated from the Danish School of Performing arts in Odense in 2012. Afterwards she's been attached to the Royal Theater from 2012-2016 and also been performing in numerous shows at other established Copenhagen theaters. On the side she's been doing movies with directors from the Danish independent film scene, among others Hlynur Pálmasson and Anna María Helgadóttir.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

- 2018 Herrens Veje (TV Series): Karen
- 2016 In The Dark Room (Short): B
- 2015 Mennesker Bliver Spist: Maria
- 2015 Klaes The Roommate (TV Series): Ida
- 2014 Kødkataloget (TV Series): Maja



MARTHA

Dorte Højsted graduated from The School of Theater in Copenhagen in 1986. She's played a great variety of parts within theater and movies. The last 20 years she's specialized herself in interactive theater but has now returned to the movie industry and has recently featured in various tv-shows and films. Dorte lives in Nørrebro close to her two grown-up children and loves the city and its diversity.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

- 2018 Den Som Dræber (TV Series): Bente Velin
- 2017 Jeg Er William: Lise
- 2018 Herrens Veje (TV Series): Susanne
- 2017 Broen (TV Series): Receptionist
- 2013 Kvinden i buret: Lasses plejemor



FESTIVALS

2020 Silent River Film Festival Awards- Winner

2020 Under The Stars International Film Festival – Nominee

2020 Hollywood Boulevard Film Festival - Screening

2020 Fort Worth Indie Film Showcase - Winner

2019 CPH PIX Film Festival – Weekend (Danish Premiere) – Screening

2019 Brazil International Film Festival (Brazil premiere) – Winner

2019 Great Lakes International Film Festival - Winner

2019 CKF International Film Festival 2019 – Nominee

2019 New West Film Fest - Nominee

TECH. SPECS

Length: 81 min.

Aspect ratio: 1.85:1

Format: 2 K, DCP

Sound: 5.1

Year of production: 2019

Genre: Romantic Thriller

Language: Danish

Land of production: Denmark

Production companies: Ivan Elmer Film,
New Tales & El Cine Production

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