Picture Tree International presents

METALHEAD
A FILM BY RAGNAR BRAGASON

WORLD SALES

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MAIN DETAILS

English Title   METALHEAD
Original Title   Málmhaus
Genre            Drama
Directed by      Ragnar Bragason
Screenplay       Ragnar Bragason
Country of       Iceland, Norway
Production
Production Year  2013
Producer         Árni Filippusson & Davíð Óskar Ólafsson
Produced by      Mystery Island
Co-producer      Hummelfilm
Director of      August Jakobsson
Photography      
Edited by        Valdís Óskarsdóttir
Music            Pétur Ben
With backing from Icelandic Film Centre, Nordisk Film & TV Fond &
MEDIA Programme of the European Union

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Format           DCP
Running Time     97’00”
Screen ratio     2.35
Frames / second  24
Sound Format     DOLBY DIGITAL
Original version ICELANDIC
Subtitled version ENGLISH
SHORT SYNOPSIS
On a rural cow farm in Iceland Hera’s brother is killed in an accident and she blames herself for his death. In her grief, Hera finds solace in the dark music of heavy metal and dreams of becoming a rock star.

LONG SYNOPSIS
It’s the year 1970 and as Black Sabbath record their first album and mark the birth of Heavy Metal, Hera Karlsdottir is born on the cowshed floor at her parents farm in rural Iceland.

The years of her youth are carefree until a tragedy strikes. Her older brother is killed in an accident and Hera blames herself for his death. In her grief she finds solace in the dark music of Heavy Metal and dreams of becoming a rock star.

As the years pass on the farm buried under a shroud of snow and a looming ominous mountain, Hera practices her guitar and dreams of forming a band. She is a rebellious, misunderstood delinquent in her early twenties who can’t help but get into trouble. She dreams of escaping out into the world but somehow always ends up at her own doorstep.

When her childhood friend returns intent on marrying her and a young priest moves to the farming community, the wheels of fate start turning. Hera has to grow up, find her own voice and realize she can’t run away her whole life.
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Metalhead is a personal film for me. I grew up in a small community in the remote part of Iceland and as a teenager sought refuge and inspiration in heavy metal music. With this film I want to celebrate the music and the impact and influence it has had on me and millions of other people around the world.

A story of a girl, heavy metal and cows, Metalhead is a dramatic film, both tender and grim with moments of rebellious comedy. It’s a story of a terrible loss and how we deal with our griefs, about community and a sense of family, dreams and nightmares. The subject matter is, I think, as a statement on the human condition, universal in scope.

The visual style of the film will be direct and to the point. Widescreen, organic texture with stark contrasts. Wide flowing shots, the framing accenting the isolation of each character. The color palette will be black and white, deep greens, blues and browns. The nature of Iceland playing a large part, the terrific forces of winter mirroring the inner struggles of the characters, but spring is always at hand.

In addition to the existing music the score will be atmospheric and guitar driven from my close collaborator Petur Ben who is a classically trained composer and currently one of the most revered rock singer/songwriters in Iceland.

With Metalhead I’m using the same process I’ve used in my last seven projects. Inspired by the working methods of Leigh, Godard and Casavettes, I gather the best available actors in Iceland to work with me. This involves extending characters through intensive work to achieve authenticity in the acting. Filmmaking is an ongoing journey and for me, collaborating closely with my actors has opened up new avenues of creative possibilities.

Metalhead is an emotional drama that hopefully will touch the audience, at once funny and profoundly sad. It’s a ride that is often emotionally challenging but ends on a hopeful note. I make films with passion felt by all who take part. First and foremost we all want to tell the stories that matter to us, and hopefully will affect our future audience.

Ragnar Bragason
DIRECTOR BIO

Ragnar Bragason was born in Sudavik, Iceland in 1971. His debut feature film Fiasco received ‘The Jury Award’ at The Cairo International Film Festival in 2000 and the ‘Icelandic Cultural Award’ the same year. Official Festival Selection: Toronto, Mannheim, Busan, Gothenburg, Raindance and more.

His second feature film, the internationally acclaimed Children, was awarded the Golden Swan for ‘Best Film’ at The Copenhagen International Film Festival 2007; received ‘Best Director’ at Transylvania International Film Festival in Romania 2007; ‘The Jury Award’ at The Courmayeur Noir International Film Festival in Italy 2006 and was nominated for a record number of ‘Edda Awards at the The Icelandic Film Awards’ the same year. Children was named as one of ‘The 10 Best European Films of 2006’ by European-films.net. Official Festival Selection: San Sebastian, Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary, Busan and more.

His third feature Parents won all of the major awards at The Icelandic Film Awards 2007. For Best Film, Director, Screenplay, Actor In a Leading Role, Actress In a Leading Role and Best Cinematography. The same happened with his fourth feature Mr. Bjarnfredarson in 2009.

Ragnar’s work has received 55 nominations at The Icelandic Film Awards in the last 10 years and has been awarded 24 times, so far.

Besides feature films, his TV series The Prison Shift, The Day Shift, The Night Shift, The Girls and Fostbrothers have won the award for ‘Best TV Drama/Comedy’ and are considered the most popular in the history of Icelandic television. His ‘Shift’ series has been screened on various TV stations around Europe including the BBC.

His Screenplay The Whisperer was nominated for the 2003 Sundance International Filmmakers Award as ‘Screenplay of the Year’.
In 2012 Ragnar wrote and directed his debut play LABURNUM staged at the Reykjavik City Theatre. LABURNUM received eight nominations for the The Icelandic Performing Arts Awards 2013 and won two, among them Director Of The Year.

Ragnar is one of the most prominent film activists in Iceland, fighting for the support, growth and recognition of the art of film and is currently the President Of The Association of Icelandic Film Directors and on the board of the Federation of Icelandic Artists.

**FILMOGRAPHY**

**FEATURE FILMS**
- 2013 Metalhead
- 2009 Mr. Bjarnfredarson
- 2007 Parents
- 2006 Children
- 2000 Fiasco

**TV SERIES DRAMA/COMEDY**
- 2011 World’s End - 9 X 40 Min
- 2009 The Prison Shift - 7 X 30 Min
- 2008 The Day Shift - 11 X 25 Min
- 2007 The Night Shift - 12 X 25 Min
- 2006 The Girls - 20 X 22 Min
- 2001 Fostbrothers - 8 X 25 Min

**THEATRE**
- 2012 Laburnum
ABOUT THE CAST

ÞORBJÖRG HELGA ÞORGILSDÓTTIR / HERA
Þorbjörg Helga Þorgilsdóttir graduated from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts: Drama in 2009. In 2009 she worked at the City Theatre. In 2010 she started studying Law at the Reykjavik University but has since then become one of Iceland’s hot new talents with her role in *The Deep* by Baltasar Kormákur and the lead in *Metalhead* by Ragnar Bragason.

FILM WORKS INCLUDE

2010 *Small Things* (short) by Davíð Óskar Ólafsson
2010 *Immortal Love* (short) by Ómar Hauksson
2010 *Fórnin* (short) by Jakob Halldórsson
2011 *The Deep* by Baltasar Kormákur

INGVAR E. SIGURÐSSON / KARL
Ingvar E. Sigurðsson graduated from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts: Drama in 1990. He is one of Iceland’s best known and respected actors. His work on stage and in films has captured the audiences and made him a household name in Iceland. He is one of the founders of Vesturport theatre group, that produces work which travels throughout the world.

FILM WORKS INCLUDE

1996 *Devils-island* by Fridrik Pór Fridriksson
2000 *Angels of the Universe* by Fridrik Pór Fridriksson
2002 *K19: The Widowmaker* by Kathryn Bigelow
2005 *Bewoulf and Grendel* by Sturla Gunnarsson
2006 *Jar City* by Baltasar Kormákur
2007 *Parents* by Ragnar Bragason
2008 *Country Wedding* by Valdis Oskarsdottir
2008 *Reykjavik Rotterdam* by Oskar Jónasson
2010 *King’s Road* by Valdis Oskarsdottir
2010 *Undercurrent* by Árni Ólafur
AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

HALLDÓRA GEIRHARDSDÓTTIR / DROPLAUG
Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir graduated from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts: Drama in 1995. She signed a contract a year later with the City Theatre of Reykjavik and has been a resident actress ever since. She has also been very active in the film industry playing roles in some of the Iceland’s cinema darlings.

FILM AND TV WORKS INCLUDE
1996 *Devils-island* by Fridrik Pór Fridriksson
2000 *Angels of the Universe* by Fridrik Pór Fridriksson
2001 *Seagulls laughter* by Ágúst Guðmundsson
2006 *Stormy Weather* by Gudny Halldorsdóttir
2009 *Polite people* by Ólafur De Fleur
2011 *World’s End* by Ragnar Bragason (TV SERIES)

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS
Nomination for Edda, (The Icelandic Film Awards) Best actor. *Seagulls laughter* – 2000
ABOUT THE EDITOR

Valdís Óskarsdóttir (born 1949 in Akureyri, Iceland) is an Icelandic film editor whose work includes The Celebration, Finding Forrester and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

She has received multiple awards for her work as an editor and received the BAFTA Awards for her work on Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind as well as several other awards.

SELECT FEATURE FILMS - EDITOR

2014  How to catch a monster  Dir: Ryan Gosling
2013  Málmhaus  Dir: Ragnar Bragason
2012  XL  Dir: Martein Pórisson
2012  Hemma  Dir:
2011  Heimsendir  Dir: Ragnar Bragason
2010  Stormland  Dir: Marteinn Pórsson
2010  Brim  Dir: Árni Ólafur
Icelandic Film Awards: Won for Best editing 2010
2010  Kóngavegur  Dir: Valdís Óskarsdóttir
2009  Submarino  Dir: Thomas Vinterberg
Danish Film Awards: Nominated for Best editing 2009
2008  Country Wedding  Dir: Valdis Oskarsdottir
Icelandic Film Awards: Nominated for Best editing 2008
2007  En mand kommer hjem  Dir: Thomas Vinterberg
2007  Mister Lonely  Dir: Harmonie Korine
2006  Vantage Point  Dir: Pete Travis
2006  Mongol  Dir: Sergei Bodrov
Oscar Nominated: Best foreign film 2007
2005  Martian Child  Dir: Menno Meyjes
2004  Yazy Tura  Dir: Ugur Yucel
Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival: Won Best editing at 2004
2003  Eternal Sunshine  Dir: Michel Gondry
BAFTA awards: Won Best editing 2005
Nominated for the Eddie awards 2005
Online Film Critics Society Awards: Won Best editing 2005
San Diego Film Critics Society Awards: Won Best editing 2005
2002  Skagerrak  Dir: Soeren Kragh-Jacobsen
2002  The Sea  Dir: Baltasar Kormakur
Icelandic Film Awards: Won Best editing 2002
2000  Finding Forrester  Dir: Gus Van Sant
Dir: Ásdís Thoroddsen.
ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

Established in 2006, Mystery is a production company owned by Arni Filippusson and David Oskar Olafsson, who both have several years of experience in the film and advertising industry in Iceland.

Mystery was formed to produce and co-produce feature films, short films, documentaries and TV-series. The company has already established itself as one of the strongest within the Icelandic film industry.

In the few years that it has been operating, Mystery has been nominated 22 times for their films at the Icelandic Film Awards.

Mystery Island has collaborated with some of Iceland’s most promising and interesting film makers: Ragnar Bragason - *Children and Parents*; Valdis Oskarsdottir - *Country Wedding*; Vesturport Theatre Group – *Children and Parents*; Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurdsson – *Either Way and Rattlesnakes*; Jóhann Ævar Grímsson – *Shift* trilogy, just to name a few.

Mystery’s third feature *Either Way* has been remade in the USA by none other than David Gordon Green starring Paul Rudd and Emilie Hirsch, titled *Prince Avalanche* which had it’s premiere at this year’s Sundance Film Festival and David Gordon Green won a Silver Bear at this year’s Berlinale. The film was released by Magnolia Pictures in the US on August 9th 2013.

METALHEAD is the fourth feature film produced at Mystery and will have it’s world premiere at this year’s Toronto International Film Festival.

Mystery has several projects in development at this stage.
DAVÍÐ ÓSKAR ÓLAFSSON, PRODUCER
Born on the 16th of December 1982 in Reykjavik Iceland. Davið grew up in Iceland and Copenhagen, Denmark. He is the son of the renowned editor Valdis Óskarsdóttir (Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Finding Forrester, Les Miserable). After visiting his mother on sets around the world, he knew there was no turning back... he had the film bug.

After he graduated from high school in Denmark he worked on two feature films before studying film at EFC (European Film Collage) in Ebeltoft Denmark, where he focused on film production.

After graduation, he spent one year in the short film department at Zik Zak Filmworks. During his residency, he produced two short and one feature film. It was then that he began working with fellow EFC graduate Árni Filippusson and a partnership was formed.

Davið has experience as an AD, UPM and other various roles on projects such as Noah by Darren Aronofsky, Hostel 2 by Eli Roth, Flags of Our Fathers by Clint Eastwood, Little Trip To Heaven by Baltasar Kormákur, Jar City by Baltasar Kormákur, Reykjavik Rotterdam by Óskar Guðmundsson as well as several international commercials and photo shoots shot in Iceland.

ÁRNI FILIPPUSSON, PRODUCER
Árni Filippusson was born on the 12th of January 1982. After growing up in Iceland and finishing high school he jumped in and began working on films in his home country. After some on the ground experiences he attended the European Film School in Denmark with partner, Davið. Upon graduating, he stayed in Denmark and worked on a few films before returning home.
He has worked on the following feature films: *Children* and *Parents* by Ragnar Bragason in collaboration with Vesturport, *Cold Trail* by Björn Brynjólfur Björnsson, *Little Trip to Heaven* by Baltasar Kormákur; *Flags of Our Fathers* by Clint Eastwood and *Voksne Mennesker* by Dagur Kári. In addition he has worked on a number of international and national commercials.

Over the last few years, Árni has made a name for himself as a cinematographer, having won the Icelandic Film Awards for his first feature film *Either Way* in 2012, which he also produced with Davið.
WORLD SALES AGENT

Picture Tree International GmbH was founded by Andreas Rothbauer and Alec Schulmann and is an internationally aligned and integrated world sales and production company with headquarters in Berlin.

The core business of Picture Tree International is the worldwide licensing of film rights and the co-production of international feature films in an integrated business model.

The company will handle an overall international sales line-up of up to eight films per year and will internally co-produce two projects.

Picture Tree International GmbH

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