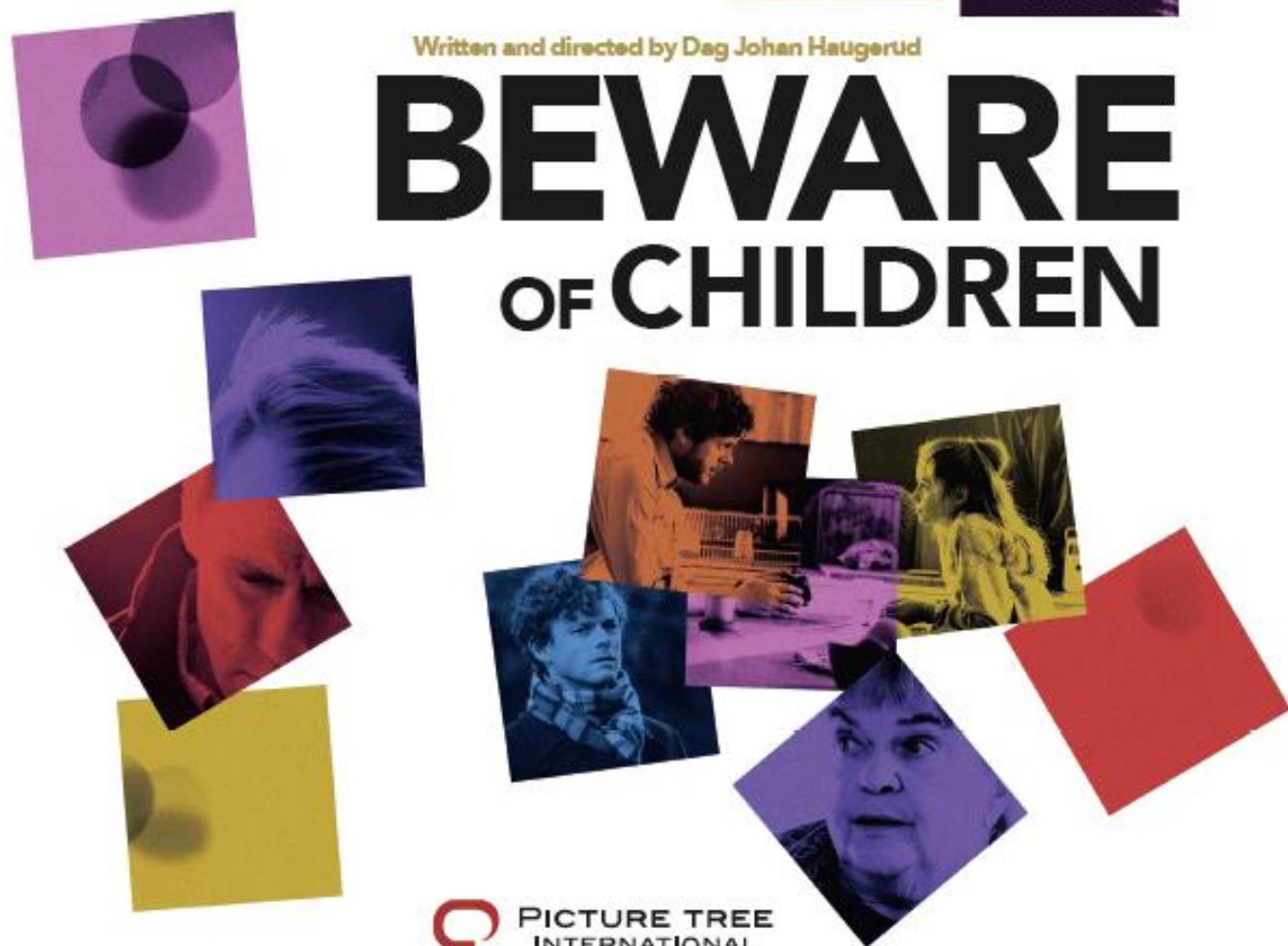


PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS



Written and directed by Dag Johan Haugerud

# BEWARE OF CHILDREN



WORLD PREMIERE



**SCREENING TIMES AND DATES:**

PRESS – Thursday August 29th - 20:00 hs - Sala PASINETTI

OFFICIAL - Tuesday September 3rd – 16:30 hs - Sala PERLA

ADDITIONAL - Friday September 6th – 19:15 hs - Sala PASINETTI

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# BEWARE OF CHILDREN

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Production Year:	2019
Production country:	Norway
Co production country:	Sweden
Release date (national):	2019-09-13
Running time:	157 min
Production company:	Motlys A/S
Co production company:	Plattform Produktion Film i Väst
Producer:	Yngve Sæther
Co producer:	Erik Hemmendorff Tomas Eskilsson
Domestic Distributor:	Arthaus Norway





## **BEWARE OF CHILDREN**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Beware of Children traces the dramatic aftermath of a tragic event in a middle class suburb of Oslo. During a break in school 13 year-old Lykke, the daughter of a prominent Labour Party member, seriously injures her classmate Jamie, the son of a high profile right-wing politician. When Jamie later dies in hospital, contradicting versions of what actually happened risks making a difficult and traumatic situation worse. Was it only innocent play behind? Liv, the school's principal and the secret lover of Jamie's father, must find the strength to confront a community in distress, and her own highly conflicted emotions.



## **DAG JOHAN HAUGERUD**

### **WRITER & DIRECTOR**

Dag Johan Haugerud (born 1964). He is educated as a librarian, with additional courses, to the equivalent of a Bachelors Degree, in Film Sciences from Stockholm University, as well as studies in dramaturgy from the University of Oslo and creative writing studies from Telemark University College.

He has worked as a journalist, and as dramatist for various dance- and theatre-companies. He has also published four novels *Noe med natur - Something about nature* (1999), *Den som er veldig sterk, må også være veldig snill - The one who is very strong, must also be very kind* (2002), *Hva jeg betyr - What I means* (2011) and *Enkle atonale stykker for barn - Simple atonal pieces for children* (2016), for which he won the NRK P2-listeners Novel Prize.

He made his debut as a film director with the short *16 Living Clichés* in 1998, and has since directed numerous short films, many of which award-winners - as for example *Lust* (2000), which won the Grand Prix at the Norwegian Short Film Festival in Grimstad. *I Belong* (2012), Haugerud's feature film debut, was awarded the Norwegian Critics' Prize and four Norwegian Amanda awards. His next film, *I'm the One You Want* (2014), a 53 minute film consisting of a single monologue also received a theatrical release.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Dag Johan Haugerud

What happens to a local community when a child kills another child?

What is it like to be a child in Scandinavia today, and what does it involve to have children? What do we expect from our kids, and what kind of position do we want children to have in our society?

Today we consider childhood both as something intrinsic and precious, and as a transitional phase on the way to adulthood. We are concerned about giving our kids a safe and meaningful adolescence where we allow them to be children, while we at the same time want to facilitate their childhood to make them equipped for adulthood. Quite often these interests are conflicting. The wishes and ideals that control our considerations and decisions, is both a question of human perspectives and politics; with answers that quite often divide the population.

Beside family, school is the one institution that implement and executes the wishes and ideals we have for our children's upbringing. The education system is crucial for what kind of society we want to have, which makes it an arena under constant pressure from both parents, ideologists and politicians. The school's employees navigate conflicting interests from the outside world on a daily basis, at the same time as they are obliged to take into consideration each pupil's individual needs.



This makes the school very interesting as a topic. From the grown-up's point of view, it's interesting both as a working place and institution. From the children's perspectives, school is formative in most ways; it influences the way we regard ourselves and the way we communicate with each other.

This (how we regard one another, how we talk to one another, and how we misunderstand one another) are themes I have dealt with in all of my books and films. To get an understanding of how this works, I find it meaningful to use trivial situations and common language as a starting point for dramatic conflict, and thus try to show and explore structures in society by choices of words and everyday behavior. Without moralizing or stereotyping, I'm also interested in looking at how a sense of class and political beliefs influence both language, manners and the way we conduct ourselves among other people.

In any relationship between people, whether it be friends, colleagues, partners or family members, there are imbalances in status, based on class, education, income and health. Age, weight, looks, gender, religion and nationality are also parameters in this status diagram. But differences can also be based on purely subjective, emotion-based experiences, which can be highly variable and can be guided of the way we feel on a particular day or how a particular person by his or her conduct influence the way we feel about ourselves and/or others. Possibly, this make our personalities more fluid than we might think it is, which in turn opens up for wider perspectives and a more open form for personal and political communication.

The aim of *Beware of Children* is to cast a light on all this. The drama (and probably the answer to all our struggles) lies in the way we communicate. And this will in turn inform the way our children grow up, live their lives and in the end continues the project that is the building of the society.

Oslo, May 15th 2019

Dag Johan Haugerud, writer and director

*When crisis strikes  
we reveal our true colors.*

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## MOTLYS PRODUCTION COMPANY

Motlys was founded in 1983 and is today one of Scandinavia's leading production companies. With a proven track record of producing engaging films for the domestic and international market, Motlys has become renowned for its keen eye for rising talent and compelling content. Motlys is run by CEO Espen Osmundsen with founder Sigve Endresen as chairman of the board and producer.

Motlys has produced numerous award-winning productions, including most recently Joachim Trier's *Thelma*, premiered at Toronto International Film Festival. *Louder Than Bombs* which was selected for Official Competition in Cannes (2015), won the Nordic Council Film Prize (2016), as well as *Oslo, August 31<sup>st</sup>* which premiered under Un Certain Regard, Cannes, TIFF (2011) and Sundance (2012), and was nominated for a Cesar Award for Best Foreign Film in France. Eskil Vogt's debut *Blind* won the World Cinema Screenwriting Award at Sundance and went on to achieve Europe Cinema Label award. *Company Orheim* won Best Nordic Feature at the Gothenburg International Film Festival in 2011. *North* won Best New Narrative Filmmaker at Tribeca Film Festival and the International Critics' FIPRESCI prize in Berlin, 2009.

Motlys has also co-produced a number of notable films, including *Everlasting Moments* (2008) and *Force Majeure* (2014) both nominated for Golden Globe and shortlisted for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Motlys latest production, the tv-series *Home Ground* premiered at Berlinale Series.





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*"Everyone will have their own version.*

*There'll be accusations, distribution of blame, -  
- and calls for assurances that can't be given..."*

## PLATTFORM PRODUKTION CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY

Based in Gothenburg and Stockholm. One of the most innovative and cutting-edge production companies in Sweden. A collective platform that produces and co-produces features, documentaries, short films, books and art exhibitions. Producer Erik Hemmendorff and director Ruben Östlund founded the company in 2002. Erik is one of the ACE producers (Ateliers du Cinéma Européen) and serves as CEO since 2010.

Plattform Produktion has won over a hundred international prizes worldwide including the Palme d'Or for *The Square* (2017). *Force Majeure* (2014), premiered at Un Certain Regard in Cannes 2014, received the Jury Prize and went on to win six Swedish Guldbagge Awards, including Best Film. It was also nominated for a Golden Globe and a BAFTA and shortlisted for an Oscar. Other notable films include *Play* (2011), *Involuntary* (2008), *The Guitar Mongoloid* (2004), *53 Scenes from a Childhood* (2011), *The Extraordinary Ordinary Life of Jose Gonzalez* (2010) and *Greetings from the Woods* (2009).



## KEYCAST

### Henriette Steenstrup (Liv)

Norwegian actress best known for her roles in *Junk Mail* (1997), *I Belong* (2012) and *Welcome to Norway* (2016). She is educated at The Academy of Theatre in Oslo. Steenstrup won the The Norwegian Comedy award in 2014 and has been working at the National theater for the last few years.

### Jan Gunnar (Anders)

Best known for his roles in *The Thing* (2011), *Mammon* (2014) and *En helt vanlig dag på jobben* (2010). Jan graduated from The Academy of Theatre in 2000. Since then he has been working at the National theater.

### Thorbjørn Harr (Per Erik Lundemo)

Internationally recognized for his role in *Vikings* (2013), *Bel Canto* (2018) and *22 July* (2018). He studied at The Academy of Theatre in 2000. Winner of the Norwegian Critics price in 2010.

### Brynjar Åbel Bandlien (Jan)

Actor and dancer. He was educated at The Academy of Dance in Oslo and Balletschule der Hamurgische Staatsoper v/John Neumeier in Germany.





### **Andrea Bræin Hovig (Eva)**

Andrea is a singer and writer, well known for her roles in *I Belong* (2012), *Det er meg du vil ha - I'm the One You Want* (2016), *Alt det vakre - All the Beauty* (2016) and *An Affair* (2018). She graduated from The Academy of Theatre in 1998 and has been working at the National theater since 2002. She has received two Amanda nominations and won the Kanon prize for *I Belong*. Andrea has the lead role in *Hope* by Maria Sødahl, soon to have its international premiere in Toronto 2019.

### **Hans Olav Brenner (Sigurd)**

Actor, tv host and arts journalist. Host of *Bokprogrammet* a literature program on national television. Also know for his role in *Oslo, August 31st.*, for which he won the kanon prize for best Supporting Actor in 2011.

### **Anne Marit Jacobsen (Torunn)**

One of Norway's most popular actresses, most known for her work in theatre, but also for her roles in *The Wild Duck* (1979), *Weekend* (1998), *I Belong* (2012) and *Norske byggeklosser* (2018). She received an Amanda award for her role in *Norske Byggeklosser* and won the Honorary Award in 2016.

### **Ella Øverbye (Lykke)**

Born in 2004, and *Beware of children* is her first theatrical role

## CAST

Liv	Henriette Steenstrup
Anders	Jan Gunnar Røise
Per Erik Lundemo	Thorbjørn Harr
Jan	Brynjar Åbel Bandlien
Torunn	Anne Marit Jacobsen
Lykke	Ella Øverbye
Eva	Andrea Bræin Hovig
Sigurd	Hans Olav Brenner
Kari	Tone Danielsen
Helene	Trine Wiggen
Signe	Selome Emnetu
Hans Lucas	Adam Pålsson
Gunnar	Audun Meling
Sigrid	Eli Skolmen Ryg
Stine	Anne Ryg
Simon	Espen Reboli Bjerke
Aksel	Tayo Cittadella Jacobsen
Anne Lise	Siri Jøntvedt
Marta	Andrine Sæther
Interviewer at the Children's House	Siri Forberg
Marielle	Ragnhild Heien Myntevik
Trond	Khalid Mahamoud
Helge	Ivar Furre Aam
Susanne	Cecilie Lindeman Steen
Ellen	Kristin Rode
Waiter	Daniel Nahom
Cashier	Iver Innset
Viktor	Aidan Ytterstad
Jamie	Karl-Gustav A. Thommesen

## CREW

Written and directed by	Dag Johan Haugerud
Producer	Yngve Sæther
Co-producers	Tomas Eskilsson Erik Hemmendorff
Line producer	Cecilie Sjølett
Director of photography	Øystein Mamen
Production designer	Tuva Hølmekbakk
Costumes	Ida Toft
Editor	Jens Christian Fodstad
Composers	Arnaud Fleurent-Didier Peder Kjellsby
Sound designer	Gisle Tveito
Casting directors	Celine Engebrigtsen Jannicke Stendal Hansen
Sound recording	Eirik Halsen
1st AD	Paul Tunge
Production manager	Nina Schrader-Braathen
Location manager	Nicolay Jacobsen
Script and assistant director	Hanne Myren
Focus puller	Daniele Marchitelli
Gaffer	Henning Høifødt
Scenographer	Susanne Vågsæter
Props master	Ranik Halle
Make-up	Maren Anna Olstad
Production manager Sweden	Hillevi Råberg
Post production supervisor	Espen Osmundsen
Colorist	Christian Berg-Nielsen
Stills photography	Lars Olav Dybvig
Trailer and poster	Intermission Film



HENRIETTE STEENSTRUP JAN GUNNAR RØISE THORBjørn HARR BRYNJAR ÁBEL BANDLIEN ANDREA BRAJEN HØVIG HANS OLAV BRENNER ELLA ØVERBYE TRINE WIGGEM SELØWE EMMETU  
ANNE MARI JACOBSEN TONE DANIELSEN ADAM PÁLSSON CASTING JANNICKE STENDAL HANSEN AND CELINE ENGERBUSTEN 1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PAUL TUNGE COSTUME DESIGNER IDA TOFT  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER TUNA HELMEBAKK DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BYSTEIN MAMMEN FINE EDITOR JENS CHRISTIAN FOSTAD COMPOSER ARNAUD FLEURENT-ONDIER AND PEDER KJELLSBY  
SOUND DESIGNER GISLE TVEITO LINE PRODUCER CECILE SÆVIETT CO PRODUCERS TOMAS ESKILSSON AND ERIK HEMMEWORFF PRODUCER YNGVE SÆTHER DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER DAG JOHAN HAUGERUD