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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
Co production company: Film i Väst
Producer: Yngve Sæther
Co producer: Erik Hemmendorff
Tomas Eskilsson
Domestic Distributor: Arthaus Norway
BEWARE OF CHILDREN
SYNOPSIS

When crisis strikes we reveal our true colors.

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 (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
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 31st 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.

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.

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 Røise (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)

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* (2016), *Det er meg du vil ha - I’m the One You Want* (2016) and *Alt det vakre - All the Beauty* (2016). 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*.

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)
Norwegian actress best known for her work in theater, but also for her roles in *The Wild Duck* (1979), *Weekend* (1998) 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   Brynjjar 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
  Tomas Eskilsson
Co-producers
  Erik Hemmendorff
Line producer
  Cecilie Sjølett
Director of photography
  Øystein Mamen
Production designer
  Tuva Hølmebakk
Costumes
  Ida Toft
Editor
  Jens Christian Fodstad
Composers
  Arnaud Fleurent-Didier
  Peder Kjellsby
Sound designer
  Gisle Tveito
Casting directors
  Celine Engebriggsen
  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
  Henning Høifødt
Gaffer
  Susanne Vågsæter
Scenographer
  Ranik Halle
Props master
  Maren Anna Olstad
Make-up
  Hillevi Råberg
Production manager Sweden
  Espen Osmundsen
Post production supervisor
  Christian Berg-Nielsen
Colorist
  Lars Olav Dybvig
Stills photography
  Intermission Film
Trailer and poster
BEWARE OF CHILDREN