

tiff. toronto  
international  
film festival®

# GENTLEMEN

A FEATURE FILM

BY MIKAEL MARCIMAIN

Adapted by Klas Östergren  
from his critically-acclaimed novel



B-Reel presents

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Adapted by Klas Östergren  
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Sweden - 141' - Color and B&W - 2:35 Cinemascope - 5.1

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## GENTLEMEN - THE FEATURE FILM SYNOPSIS

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Beaten up, bruised and afraid, young author Klas Östergren hides out in a Stockholm apartment, writing the story of its vanished inhabitants: the flamboyant, charismatic, enigmatic Morgan brothers.

It begins one year earlier. Klas is rooming with Henry Morgan, a boxer, piano player, composer, bartender, and old-fashioned gentleman with a Gatsby-like capacity for turning life into a feast. But behind his glittering façade, a darkness lurks - a secret, forbidden love.

Together the two friends lead the high life in Stockholm until the day Henry's younger brother Leo shows up. An infamous poet, political provocateur and drunk, Leo quickly drags them into a scandal involving illegal weapons and gangsters, and soon the three men find themselves trapped in a life-threatening plot.

GENTLEMEN simultaneously celebrates and mourns the post-WWII era: its liberation, wild jazz music and poetry, economic boom and rampant corruption.

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## DIRECTOR'S VISION

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As a director, I couldn't ask for more in a script: wonderfully meaty and multilayered characters, visually interesting settings, excitement, passion, love, violence and a lot of music. GENTLEMEN is simply an incredibly rewarding story to film, and I'm sure it will be hugely entertaining on the big screen.

What seduces me in this script is its richness - the funny, disturbing and cool events, human stories, characters and locations. GENTLEMEN tells a delightful tale from different perspectives. It takes us to smoky jazz clubs in Paris during the early, hope-filled sixties, to a threatening Cold War-era Berlin, to dope-drenched music festivals in the 70s, and shady, illegal weapons dealing during World War II. It is a story about the joy of telling stories, the art of lying and the difficulty of finding the truth.

Although the thriller elements of GENTLEMEN and GENTLEMEN & GANGSTERS are key to the saga of the Morgan brothers, it's the emotional relationship between the characters that also makes this story a film about love and friendship. We will be affected by the hopeless, unpredictable and often deceitful character of Henry, as well as his whimsical truth-seeking brother Leo. They are two self-destructive and disreputable gentlemen but it's their flaws that make them human. We can see ourselves in them. Henry's love affair with Maud must be depicted with great care and tenderness, as is the case with the story of friendship between Henry and Klas as well as Leo's rise and fall in the Hogarth affair.

I want the film and the series to feel like a smorgasbord of exciting characters, images, colours, sounds and music - an epic saga that is both thriller and love story but most of all a celebration of life itself.

- Mikael Marcimain

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## THE BOOKS

Adapted from the critically-acclaimed novel GENTLEMEN and GANGSTERS written by Klas Östergren.

Translated into more than 30 languages, the books have received amazing international press in Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and UK & Commonwealth..



## SELECTED PRESS QUOTES

*Östergren is the master of storytelling.*

**DIE WELT (GERMANY)**

*Exuberant, thriller and literary tour de force (....)  
The unravelling of the mystery is extremely compelling,  
and highly imaginative. This one can stay.*

**THE TIMES (UK)**

*...this exuberant alloy of family saga, espionage romp and historical panorama delivers border-hopping intrigue as well as a nostalgia fest for veterans of the Sixties and Seventies. (...) Steeped in the pop and counter-cultures of its time, Östergren's entertaining tour of Cold War Europe smacks almost as much of Austin Powers as John le Carré.*

**THE INDEPENDENT (UK)**

*Exuberance and order are not incompatible. In this novel, Östergren has borrowed his beset narrator from the thriller genre, his plot from the spy novel, his narrative technique from the biography, and has adapted them to his attempt to tell the truth about a generation, and of two brothers that left a mark... Klas Östergren uses the entire literary arsenal to honor his heroes. It took 29 years for the echo of this round of literary ammunition - marked by cool rage and brilliance - to reach France.*

**LE FIGARO (FRANCE)**

*The Morgan brothers are unforgettable... With a firm grip, Östergren has written a romance of those fabulous and elusive years, the Sixties and Seventies...  
The novel is a stroke of genius.*

**LA REPUBBLICA (ITALY)**

## GENTLEMEN & GANGSTERS: THE TV SERIES - AN OVERVIEW

Due to the extraordinary richness of the books, and the complexity of the story they told, it became clear during the development that we couldn't adapt both novels as one single film.

On the other hand, it seemed unfair to limit ourselves to adapting only one. The books are a perfect match: they mirror and complete each other. It's impossible to understand the complete story, and to appreciate the beautiful complexity of characters without reading both.

So we decided that the feature film - based entirely on the first book - would be called GENTLEMEN, while the TV series would be entitled GENTLEMEN & GANGSTERS and based on both novels.

Half of the footage and scenes in the TV series will be unique and will not appear

in the feature. It will be available as 4 x 90 minutes.

The idea of a feature film and television series exploring the same source material has been done before, notably in "Twin Peaks", or more recently " Fargo " - but never with every conceptual and practical detail of both project being planned at the same time, in the early stages of development.

It's been a terrific and incredible experience, for the crew and for the actors, who really enjoyed the depth that the expanded storylines, adventures and mysteries gave their characters - something that truly helped raise the bar for their performances.



## GENTLEMEN & GANGSTERS - THE TV SERIES SYNOPSIS

When the era of Gentlemen ends, the reign of Gangsters begins...

The story begins where GENTLEMEN finished... Since the mysterious disappearance of his friends Henry and Leo Morgan - talented, charming, charismatic players embroiled in bottomless intrigue and corruption - writer Klas has lived as a recluse in their deserted apartment. Now, with nothing left to lose, the time has come for him to reveal the truth: Maud's hidden secrets, her dangerous love triangle with Henry and powerful business mogul William Sterner...

As Klas is finishing his book, Maud turns up at the apartment to meet him in person for the first time. Claiming to have left her old life behind, she reads his draft and suggests a few small but fundamental changes. In a dizzying shift of perspective we realize that the story we have seen so far is not the whole truth. Henry's lies and his enthralling but terrible double life are drawn into the light, and not everyone is who we thought they were.

Maud seduces Klas, then leaves the following morning, telling him she is pregnant by Henry. A guilt-ridden Klas packs his things and abandons Hornsgatan - for good.

The tale of GANGSTERS takes us from the late seventies to the present day, into a new situation where Klas can finally understand what has really happened. The scale of the conspiracy in which the brothers were involved is revealed, as is Maud's final secret - she kept Henry's child.

Years later, Maud's son Gustav is grown up and looking for answers. Now suffering from a terminal illness, she struggles over what and how much she should tell Gustav, who turns to Klas for answers. Thus two stories of impossible people, impossible love and impossible truths are finally completed.

GENTLEMEN & GANGSTERS is a beautiful and tragic love story, a powerful exploration of the choices we face and the sacrifices we make.



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## THE SCANDINAVIAN INFLUENCE: NOVELS. FILMS. TELEVISION SERIES...

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Following record sales of Scandinavian detective novels (notably those by Henning Mankell, Stieg Larsson, Camilla Läckberg and Arnaldur Indriðason) and the box office success of their feature film adaptations, the Scandinavian TV series are now famous worldwide with high visibility in more than 130 countries..

The MILLENNIUM phenomenon has spread far beyond Sweden's borders, with in excess of 60 million copies sold since it was first published in 2005. Hollywood quickly grasped the potential of the new wave of Nordic thrillers and wasted little time in starting to produce American adaptations.

Hence INSOMNIA in 2002, directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Al Pacino and Robin Williams, which transposed Erik Skjoldbjærg's thriller from Norway to Alaska.

In 2011, following after the success of hypnotic thriller DRIVE by Danish helmer Nicolas Winding Refn, Swedish director Tomas Alfredson (whose LET THE RIGHT ONE IN won over 56 awards worldwide) adapted John Le Carré's classic, TINKER TAYLOR SOLDIER SPY, to international acclaim.

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The vitality of the Scandinavian series is also noticeable through its export and the great interest shown by foreign television channels, going way beyond the European continent. Broadcasting rights for BORGES or REAL HUMANS have been acquired all the way to South Korea. And trust generates a virtuous circle: the rights of the Norwegian series HALVBROEN were sold to 16 countries before any images were shown.

Besides winning prestigious industry prizes (Emmy and BAFTA awards), certain Scandinavian TV series have beaten audience records (overtaking MAD MEN in the UK). One sign of this passionate attachment is the appearance of more and more US remakes, such as THE KILLING and THE BRIDGE (with Diane Kruger in the lead).

Scandinavian TV series are experiencing unprecedented exposure - and the Nordic new wave hasn't finished sweeping through the world yet.

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## CAST

HENRY MORGAN	DAVID DENCİK
MAUD	RUTH VEGA FERNANDEZ
KLAS	DAVID FUKAMACHI REGNFORS
LEO MORGAN	SVERRIR GUDNASON
WILHELM STERNER	BOMAN OSCARSSON
GRETA MORGAN	PERNILLA AUGUST

## CREW

Directed by	Mikael Marcimain
Screenplay	Klas Östergren

*Adapted from his critically-acclaimed novel GENTLEMEN and GANGSTERS  
(translated into more than 30 languages)*

DP	Jallo Faber
Editor	Kristofer Nordin
Sound	Hugo Ekornes, Per Nyström
Production Designer	Linda Janson
Costume Designer	Cilla Rörby
Original Score	Mattias Bärjed
Line Producer	Sanne Glæsel
Production Company	B-Reel
Producers	Mattias Nohrborg Fredrik Heinig Johannes Åhlund

