

# VALHALLA RISING

MADS MIKKELSEN



PRESENTED BY

## NICOLAS WINDING REFN



A NIMBUS FILM PRODUCTION PRODUCED BY ONE EYE PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH BLIND EYE PRODUCTIONS / LA BELLE ALLÉE PRODUCTIONS AND SCANBOX FILM SUPPORTED BY THE DANISH FILM INSTITUTE, MOLLY MALENE STENSGAARD / NORDISK FILM & TV FOND, HANNE PALMQUIST / GLASGOW FILM OFFICE / SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND SCREEN COMMISSION / THE MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN ASSOCIATION WITH WILD BUNCH / WILD SIDE FILMS / SCANBOX ENTERTAINMENT THE WALES CREATIVE IP FUND / DR / BBC FILMS / VERTIGO FILMS DISTRIBUTION

PRODUCERS JOHNNY ANDERSEN / BO EHRHARDT / HENRIK DANSTRUP CO-PRODUCER KAREN SMYTH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LENE BØRGLUM / JONI SIGHVATSSON / MADS PETER OLE OLSEN / THORIR SIGURJÓNSSON / CAROLE SHERIDAN / LINDA JAMES / CHRISTINE ALDERSON YVES CHEVALIER WRITTEN BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN & ROY JACOBSEN DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN

VALHALLA RISING STARRING MADS MIKKELSEN / GORDON BROWN / ANDREW FLANAGAN / GARY LEWIS / GARY MCCORMACK / ALEXANDER MORTON / STEWART PORTER / JAMES RAMSEY / JAMIE SIEVES / MAARTEN STEVENSON / EWAN STEWART / MATTHEW ZAJAC DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MORTEN SØBORG EDITING MAT NEWMAN CASTING DES HAMILTON MUSIC PETERPETER / PETER KYED PRODUCTION DESIGN LAUREL WEAR COSTUME DESIGN GILL HORN MAKE UP DESIGN NIAMH MORRISON SOUND DESIGN DOUGLAS MACDOUGALL STILLS DEAN ROGERS ART DESIGN BY JABALI

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film festival  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2009

 66  
VENEZIA 2009  
Out of Competition

NICOLAS WINDING REFN PRESENTS

A NIMBUS FILM PRODUCTION

# VALHALLA RISING

A FILM BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN

PRODUCED BY ONE EYE PRODUCTION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BLIND EYE PRODUCTIONS

DENMARK / UK • 90' • COLOUR • 2009

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PLEASE NOTE: High definition images can be downloaded from the 'press' section of <http://www.wildbunch.biz>

## SYNOPSIS

For years, One-Eye, a mute warrior of supernatural strength, has been held prisoner by the chieftain Barde. Aided by a boy, he kills his captor and together they escape, beginning a journey into the heart of darkness.

On their flight, One-Eye and the boy board a Viking vessel but the ship is soon engulfed by an endless fog that disintegrates only as they sight an unknown land.

As this new world reveals its secrets and the Vikings confront their terrible fate, One-Eye discovers his true self.

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## CAST

<i>One Eye</i>	Mads Mikkelsen
<i>The Boy</i>	Maarten Stevenson
<i>Hagen</i>	Gordon Brown
<i>Gudmond</i>	Andrew Flanagan
<i>Kare</i>	Gary Lewis
<i>Hauk</i>	Gary McCormack
<i>Barde</i>	Alexander Morton
<i>Gorm</i>	Jamie Sieves
<i>Eirik</i>	Ewan Stewart
<i>Malkolm</i>	Matthew Zajac

## CREW

DIRECTOR	Nicolas Winding Refn
SCREENPLAY	Nicolas Winding Refn Roy Jacobsen
PRODUCERS	Johnny Andersen Bo Ehrhardt Henrik Danstrup
CO-PRODUCER	Karen Smyth
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	Lene Børglum Joni Sighvatsson Mads Peter Ole Olsen Thorir Sigurjonsson Yves Chevalier Carole Sheridan Christine Alderson Des Hamilton
CASTING	Morten Søborg
DP	Mat Newman
EDITOR	Peter-Peter Peter Kyed
ORIGINAL MUSIC	Laurel Wear
PRODUCTION DESIGN	Gill Horn
COSTUME DESIGN	Niamh Morrison
MAKE-UP	Cameron Mercer
SOUND	Douglas MacDougall
STILLS	Dean Rogers



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

### INSPIRATIONS

As a child I was in love with three things: *Science Fiction*, *Spaghetti Westerns* and *Samurai Sword Plays*. Genres where the lead character is a hero of mythical proportions... a silent warrior who stands alone. *One Eye* is such a character.

When I was 5 years old, my mother read to me an old pulp comic book about a father and son who embark on a trip to the moon. In a cave, they discover a man-made coffin...

And this is as far as my memory goes. I remember nothing about the reason for the coffin being there or what happened next. I believe this to be the genesis of my obsession with the unknown - something which has been a driving force in much of my work.

### VIOLENCE

I see art as an act of violence. The only difference between the two is that in real life violence destroys, whereas art inspires.

### INTO THE UNKNOWN

I strongly believe that film is an art form and that art needs to be explored. Therefore I insist on shooting my films chronologically, enabling me to explore with the characters, fulfilling my passion to jump deep into the unknown.

- *Nicolas Winding Refn*

## DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Nicolas Winding Refn was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1970. He moved with his parents at the age of 10 to New York, returning to Copenhagen at 17. After graduating from high school, Refn attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, but found the environment unbearable and was quickly expelled. Back in Denmark he was accepted by the Danish Film School but dropped out one month prior to the start of term. Having caught a short film by Refn on an obscure cable TV, a Danish producer offered him 3.2 million Danish kroner to turn the short into a feature. Thus at the age of 24, Refn found himself writing and directing his remarkable, hyper violent and uncompromising feature film debut: *PUSHER*.

*PUSHER* became a cult phenomenon and won Refn instant international critical acclaim. This spurred him to push the boundaries of his filmmaking further: the result was the close-to-the-edge, highly stylized and intricately gritty *BLEEDER*, which premiered in selection at the 1999 Venice Film Festival.

*FEAR X*, Refn's third feature and his first in the English language, was eagerly awaited and had its world premiere at Sundance Film Festival in 2003. It thus came as a surprise that Refn would return to make films in the Danish language. In just one year, Refn wrote, directed and produced *PUSHER II: With Blood On My Hands* and *PUSHER III: I'm The Angel Of Death*, thereby completing the now renowned *PUSHER TRILOGY* which consolidated his international success.

In 2007 Refn was encouraged to direct an episode of BBC's mammoth series, *Miss Marple*. The episode title was *MARPLE: NEMESIS*, an adaptation of the final book in the series that led the Miss Marple character to deeper and darker extremes. While Refn was preparing for his upcoming feature *VALHALLA RISING*, he committed to another intriguing project, writing and directing *BRONSON*, an ultra-violent, surrealistic and escapist film about one of England's most notorious criminals, Charles Bronson. The film went on to have its world premiere at Sundance Film Festival 2009.

## DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY

*as Writer & Director*

2009 VALHALLA RISING  
BRONSON  
2007 MARPLE: NEMESIS - *Television*  
2005 PUSHER III: I'm The Angel Of Death  
2004 PUSHER II: With Blood On My Hands  
2003 FEAR X  
2001 DE UDVALGTE - *Writer*  
1999 BLEEDER  
1996 PUSHER

## MADS MIKKELSEN FILMOGRAPHY

*as Actor*

2010 CLASH OF THE TITANS - *Louis Leterrier*  
2009 COCO CHANEL & IGOR STRAVINSKY  
- *Jan Kounen*  
VALHALLA RISING - *Nicolas Winding Refn*  
DIE TÛR - *Anno Saul*  
2008 FLAME & CITRON - *Ole Christian Madsen*  
2006 CASINO ROYAL - *Martin Campbell*  
PRAG - *Ole Christian Madsen*  
EXIT - *Peter Lindmark*  
AFTER THE WEDDING - *Susanne Bier*  
2005 ADAM'S APPLES - *Anders Thomas Jensen*  
2004 PUSHER II: With Blood On My Hands  
- *Nicolas Winding Refn*  
KING ARTHUR - *Antoine Fuqua*  
2003 GREEN BUTCHERS -  
- *Anders Thomas Jensen*  
THE DIVING BOY - *Morten Giese*  
TORREMOLINOS 73 - *Pablo K*  
2002 WILBUR WANTS TO KILL HIMSELF  
- *Lone Scherfig*  
OPEN HEARTS - *Susanne Bier*  
I AM DINA - *Ole Bornedal*  
2001 SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT - *Hella Joof*  
THE WORLD OF MONA - *Jonas Elmer*  
2000 FLICKERING LIGHTS  
- *Anders Thomas Jensen*  
1999 BLEEDER - *Nicolas Winding Refn*  
1998 ANGEL OF THE NIGHT - *Shaky Gonzalez*  
WILDSIDE - *Simon Staho*  
1996 PUSHER - *Nicolas Winding Refn*