
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

*LOVE IS ALL
YOU NEED*

Directed by Susanne Bier

Written by Susanne Bier and Anders Thomas Jensen

Official Selection

Venice Film Festival 2012

Out of competition

Toronto International Film Festival 2012

110 min

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SYNOPSIS

Philip (Brosnan), an Englishman living in Denmark, is a lonely, middle-aged widower and estranged single father. Ida (Dyrholm) is a Danish hairdresser, recuperating from a long bout of illness, who's just been left by her husband for a younger woman, Tilde. The fates of these two bruised souls are about to intertwine, as they embark for a trip to Italy to attend the wedding of Patrick and Astrid, Philip's son and Ida's daughter.

It is a film about the simple yet profound pains and joys of moving on - and forward - with your life.

CREDITS

CAST

Philip	PIERCE BROSNAN
Ida	TRINE DYRHOLM
Astrid	MOLLY BLIXT EGELIND
Patrick	SEBASTIAN JESSEN
Benedikte	PAPRIKA STEEN
Leif	KIM BODNIA
Tilde	CHRISTIANE SCHAUMBURG- MÜLLER
Kenneth	MICKY SKEEL HANSEN

FILMMAKERS

Directed by Susanne Bier
Story by Susanne Bier & Anders Thomas Jensen
Screenplay by Anders Thomas Jensen
Producers Sisse Graum Jørgensen & Vibeke Windeløv
Director of Photography Morten Søborg, DFF
Editors Pernille Bech Christensen & Morten Egholm
Sound Design Eddie Simonsen & Anne Jensen
Composer Johan Söderqvist
Production Designer Peter Grant
Costume Design Signe Sejlund
Make-up Design Daniel Parker

Produced by:

Zentropa Entertainments29

In co-production with:

Lumiere & Co., Slotmachine, Zentropa International France,
Film I Väst, Zentropa Entertainments Berlin, Zentropa international Sweden, DR,
Sveriges Television, Arte France Cinéma, Network Movie, ZDF, Arte and Longride.

With support from The Danish Film Institute 60/40, The Swedish Film Institute, Eurimages,
Nordic Film & Television Fund, Canal+, Cine+, MEDIA, RAI Cinema, Italian Ministry of
Culture – DG for Cinema.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to make a film about vulnerable people; about the things in life we'd rather suppress but, if depicted with humor, might lift our spirits. In *Ida* and *Philip* we found main characters whose vulnerability carried both the weight of the subject matter and the lightness of a humorous touch. We transported them to the most romantic place imaginable, alongside a host of comedic characters. We used humor and romance as means, not of softening their hardship, but of demarcating it more clearly, to allow the contrasting universes to emphasize each other. That way we could portray each of our characters, in all their fortune and misfortune, with the precision and tenderness they deserve.

– *Susanne Bier*

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

After a string of intense dramas, Susanne Bier turns to comedy in *Love Is All You Need*, set in sunny Sorrento, Italy, and with the romantic pairing up of Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm. Mike Goodridge talks to the director about the nerve-wracking joy of winning an Oscar, her collaboration with writer Anders Thomas Jensen and how to balance uncomfortable subject matter with all the charms of a rom-com.

BY MIKE GOODRIDGE

“I think I am very romantic,” laughs Susanne Bier. “I think there has always been a contradiction between what people expected from me as a director and who I was. And I guess with this film there is less of a difference between who I am and what the movie is like.” The film is “*Love Is All You Need*”, a delicious romantic comedy set over a wedding weekend in Sorrento where a host of characters fall in and out of love. Bathed in sunshine, lemon groves and beautiful sunsets, it's Bier's first romantic comedy since 1999 when she broke Danish box office records with “*The One and Only*”. Since then, she has become internationally acclaimed for a string of powerfully intense dramas revolving around moral dilemmas kicking off with her Dogme film “*Open Hearts*”, followed by “*Brothers*”, “*After the Wedding*”, for which she was Oscar nominated, the US-set “*Things We Lost in the Fire*” and “*In a Better World*” for which she won the Oscar in 2011. And, as you would expect from a filmmaker with those extraordinary films under her belt, this is no bland romantic comedy with two-dimensional characters. She and her

frequent writing collaborator Anders Thomas Jensen build all their work around authentic characters and in this case they have come up with Ida, a sunny, positive woman getting over cancer and a philandering husband, and Philip, a slick British businessman working in Copenhagen who has never been able to recover from his wife's death many years before. Most of the film takes place at Philip's property in Sorrento where his son is marrying her daughter.

"The exciting thing about a romantic comedy is not who's going to find each other but the journey of how they will get together," Bier explains. "We have done a number of dramas where we dealt with the notion of "what if." And with this film we had this woman in a very unhappy and lonely situation and we wanted to bring her back to a joyful state." "But," she cautions, "you can't be heavy handed in a romantic comedy. You have to be emotionally engaging. So you have a character for whom you feel sorry but this person has to have a lot of charm and unpredictability." For the part of Ida, Bier cast veteran Trine Dyrholm who played one of the key dramatic parts in "In a Better World". "I think it was fun for her because she has been playing characters on the dark side for a while," says Bier, "and at the beginning I think she was afraid of playing it so light. Ida is someone who maintains high spirits even when things are really awful. I would say she is slightly inspired by my mother who also had cancer but always managed to see the positive side of things. We wanted the character to have traces of that: it's intrinsic to who she is that she would at all times choose the positive way."

For Dyrholm, it was a challenging balancing act to maintain that sunny nature without being irritating either to those around her or the audience. "You must never sense that this woman is stupid," says Bier, "because she is not." Meanwhile as Philip, Bier cast the legendary Pierce Brosnan, who gives one of his most vulnerable performances to date. Bier always wanted the character to be a foreigner living in Denmark to further heighten his isolation. "For this character to be lonely, almost alienated in Copenhagen, it had to be someone who was clearly a foreigner." "He is a great actor," says Bier about Brosnan. "He completely understood what the film was about. I think there was a part of him that wanted to do something a little more fragile."

FLESH AND BLOOD

Including cancer in the story is a risk for any light endeavor, but Bier made a determined effort not to let it overwhelm the film's central charm. "I am not sure I would want to see a film about cancer and I wouldn't want to make a drama about cancer," she explains. "But we wanted to treat it in a way that was potentially painful but not disturbing. The intriguing thing was to deal with an uncomfortable subject matter in a charming way. It's just part of the story."

If the film sounds too heavy, it isn't. Bier and Jensen readily embraced romantic comedy conventions in the script. Ida and Philip start out with a frosty relationship when she backs into his car at Copenhagen Airport, but the frost melts over the course of the weekend. Meanwhile various supporting characters fulfill certain types: Paprika Steen plays Brosnan's stuck-up,

vitriolic sister-in-law who is determined to snare him for herself, Kim Bodnia is Dyrholm's obtuse husband who carelessly brings along his mistress to the wedding, and Christiane Shaumburg-Müller is the gauche sex bomb mistress who puts her foot in her mouth at every turn. "Good taste is the worst hindrance to moviemaking so you have to be courageous and take on clichés and conventions," says Bier. "If you are terrified about them, you could lose the engagement of the audience. It's about engaging with them. We all live according to clichés. The important thing is to make sure the characters are real flesh-and blood human beings and to really care for them. You can't avoid conventions; you have to make it real." She says that she likes the comedies of Richard Curtis ("Four Weddings and a Funeral", "Notting Hill") for this very reason: despite the fairytale English settings, the characters are authentic. "I think he's a genius," she says. "He reinvented the romantic comedy by being pretty real."

Bier is no pushover, famously working intensively with her actors in her efforts to get the best from every scene. And that was no different on "Love Is All You Need". "It was just as demanding as with a drama," she says. "Make no mistake, it's as difficult making a light movie as it is making a more heavy drama. We did have a lot of fun making it, but the laughter didn't necessarily go hand in hand with the material." Shooting in glorious Sorrento of course was a bonus for everyone involved in the film. Cinematographer Morten Søborg and producer Vibeke Windeløv found the house where the wedding takes place when they went scouting for locations early on in the process. It was perfect for the film – unfurnished, empty and beside a lemon grove. Bier and Jensen had often retreated to the Amalfi coast to write some of their earlier films, so for them it was a natural spot to set a film. "We had a key Danish crew but also a big Italian crew," she recalls. "And Italian catering. It was pretty uncomplicated actually because the movie is also about people visiting Italy, so it wasn't as if we were pretending we were Italians." Explaining that she is resolutely not a "careerist", Bier returns to why she felt the need to get romantic with this latest film. "You aren't really allowed to be overtly romantic today. Even in the good romantic comedies there's always an element of cynicism. I wanted to make one which is not cynical but which I would still like to see. That meant it had to have some real content. There had to be some edges to it. But most importantly," says Bier, "I didn't want it to be cynical."

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Accomplished writer and director Susanne Bier's recent film 'In A Better World' (*Hævnen* – 2010) won the Academy Award® and the Golden Globe Award® for Best Foreign Language Film in 2011, as well as the Italian Golden Globe® for Best European Film and Best Director at the European Film Awards.

In 2007, Bier directed the award winning 'Things We Lost in the Fire', her first English language film, starring Halle Berry and Benicio Del Toro. Prior to this, as a writer/director she helmed the multi-award winning 'After the Wedding' (*Efter Brylluppet* – 2006), which was also an Academy Award® nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, and 'Brothers' (*Brødre* – 2004), which won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and the Boston Independent Film Festival.

In 2002, Bier directed 'Open Hearts' (*Elsker Dig For Evigt* - 2002), which she shot according to the Dogme '95 filmmaking aesthetic. The film won numerous awards including the Audience Award at the Robert Festival (Danish Academy Award) and the International Film Critics' Award at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Bier also co-wrote and directed 'The One and Only' (*Den Eneste Ene* – 1999), which won Best Film at the Robert Awards and was the biggest domestic film in Denmark for twenty years, a fifth of the country's population having seen it at the cinema.

Bier recently completed production on 'Serena' starring Bradley Cooper & Jennifer Lawrence.

ABOUT THE CAST

Two-time Golden Globe Award nominee **Pierce Brosnan (Philip)** was born in County Meath, Ireland and trained at Drama Centre London. Brosnan relocated to Los Angeles in 1982 and immediately landed the role of private investigator Remington Steele on the popular ABC television series of the same name.

He is perhaps best known worldwide as James Bond, a franchise he reinvigorated in the box-office blockbusters 'GoldenEye' (1995), 'Tomorrow Never Dies' (1997), 'The World Is Not Enough' (1999) and 'Die Another Day' (2002).

His many other distinguished performances include turns in Roman Polanski's critically acclaimed film 'The Ghost Writer' (2010); the smash hit film adaptation of the Broadway hit 'Mamma Mia!' (2008) opposite Meryl Streep; 'The Matador' (2005), for which he received a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture; the box office hit 'The Thomas Crown Affair' (1999); Tim Burton's 'Mars Attacks' (1996) and 'Mrs. Doubtfire' (1993) with Robin Williams.

In 1996, Brosnan launched the production company Irish DreamTime, alongside producing partner Beau St. Clair. Irish DreamTime's productions include 'The Thomas Crown Affair', 'Evelyn' (2002), 'Laws of Attraction' (2004), 'The Matador' and 'The Greatest' (2010). Upcoming projects for Irish DreamTime include the second installment of 'The Thomas Crown Affair' and 'The November Man'.

Some of Brosnan's accolades include the 2007 Goldene Kamera Award for his environmental work, a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chicago Film Festival, an Honorary Doctorate from University College Cork and an Order of the British Empire bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen.

Brosnan is currently filming 'Love Punch' in France, starring opposite Emma Thompson, and will begin production on 'A Long Way Down', with Toni Collette, this fall in London.

Danish actress **Trine Dyrholm (Ida)** began a string of award-winning performances at the age of 18, appearing in the film 'Spring Tide' (*Springflod* – 1994), for which she received the prestigious Danish Critic Association Award, the Bodil – an award she has gone to win five times, the only actor ever to have done so.

Dyrholm attended The Danish National School of Theatre 1991-1995. Among her many stage credits was Sarah Kane's solo performance "4:48 Psychosis" for which she received the Danish

theatrical award Reumert in 2002, and which led to a 2012 revival at legendary Berlin Volksbühne.

Dyrholm received her first international attention for her part in Thomas Vinterberg's 'The Celebration' (*Festen*) in 1998 and has been a regular at The Berlinale with films like 'A Soap' (*En Soap* – 2005), 'Little Soldier' (*Lille Soldat* – 2008) and, earlier this year, 'A Royal Affair' (*En Kongelig Affære* – 2012).

Dyrholm played the female lead in Susanne Bier's Academy Award-winning 'In a Better World'. For that performance, Dyrholm won both a Bodil and a Robert for Best Leading Actress.

Molly Blixt Egelind's (Astrid) silver screen debut came in 2002, in Jesper W. Niensens hit film 'Okay'. Since then, Molly has appeared in several feature films, such as 'Triple Dare' (*Supervoksen* - 2006), 'Fighter' (2007) and 'Rebound' (*Frit Fald* – 2011).

Blixt Egelind is currently attending The National School of Theatre in Odense.

A child actor who has made a successful transition into adult roles, **Sebastian Jessen (Patrick)** debuted in 1998, co-starring in the children's film 'Albert'. Since then he has appeared in Danish hits such as 'Love at First Hiccough' (*Kærlighed Ved Første Hik* – 1998), 'Miracle' (*Mirakel* – 2000), 'Flickering Lights', 'Triple Dare', 'Rich Kids' (2007) and 'Nothing's All Bad' (*Smukke Mennesker* – 2010). He has also had a successful career as a voice actor in many animated films, including the Danish hit feature 'Help! I'm a Fish' (*Hjælp, Jeg Er en Fisk!* – 2000).

On TV, Jessen has appeared in the series 'Borgen' (2010-present) and 'Those Who Kill' (*Den Som Dræber* - 2010-11).

Paprika Steen (Benedikte) started her career as a teenager performing in various contemporary stage productions and has been associated with the Royal Danish Theatre since 1997. In 1998, Steen became an active participant in the Dogme 95 film movement as the only performer to appear in the first three movies: Lars Von Trier's 'The Idiots' (*Idioterne* – 1998), Thomas Vinterberg's 'The Celebration', and Søren Kragh-Jacobsen's 'Mifune's Last Song'. Often referred to as the "Dogme Queen," she also appeared in Susanne Bier's 'Open Hearts', for which she won a Bodil Award and a Robert Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Steen won her first Bodil Award for Best Supporting Actress in 2000, for Bier's 'The One and Only'. In 2002, she won the Bodil Award, the Robert Award, and American Film Institute's Grand Jury Prize for her leading role in Jesper W. Nielsen's 'Okay'. In addition she was praised

for her performance in 'Applause' (Applaus – 2009) for which she was awarded a Bodil Award and a Robert Award as well as Best Actress in Karlovy Vary.

Steen also appeared in as Martha in a 2008 revival of Martha in Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

Kim Bodnia's, (Leif) breakthrough came in Ole Bornedal's 1994 film 'Nightwatch' (*Nattevagten*), for which he was awarded a Bodil for Best Supporting Actor. This was followed by collaboration with renowned director Nicholas Winding Refn, starring in the latter's films 'Pusher' (1996) and 'Bleeder' (1999). Bodnia also starred in the action comedy 'In China They Eat Dogs' (*I Kina Spiser De Hunde* – 1999) and its sequel 'Old Men in New Cars' (*Gamle Mænd i Nye Biler* – 2002), both written by Anders Thomas Jensen.

Recently, Bodnia starred in the Danish-Swedish TV-series 'The Bridge' (*Broen* – 2011- present).

Bodnia also appeared in Susanne Bier's Academy Award-winning 'In a Better World'. Following 'Love is All You Need', 2013 will mark his third collaboration with Bier, in her upcoming film 'Serena'. In that same year he will also star in Annette K. Olesen's film 'The Shooter' (*Skytten* - 2013).

Originally a professional dancer, **Christiane Schaumburg-Müller's (Tilde)** first role was in the TV drama series '2900 Happiness'. She later found recognition for her comedic talents in the Danish live sketch show 'Live from Bremen', as well as hosting the popular talk show 'Weekend Weekend' and 'Vild med Dans', the Danish version of 'Strictly Come Dancing'.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

As a writer/director **Anders Thomas Jensen (Screenplay)** won an Academy Award® for his 1998 short film 'Election Night' (*Valgafesten*). He also received Oscar nominations in the live-action short category for his films 'Ernst & The Light' (*Ernst og Lyset* - 1996) and 'Wolfgang' (1997).

From the end of the 1990s and to this day he has written the screenplays for many Danish box office successes, including three Dogme films: 'The King is Alive' (2000) (co-written with Kristian Levring), 'Mifune's Last Song' (*Mifunes Sidste Sang* - 1998) (co-written with Søren Kragh-Jacobsen) and 'Open Hearts' (co-written with Susanne Bier). Jensen was also responsible for 'Stealing Rembrandt' (*Rembrandt* - 2003), 'The Duchess' (2008), as well as his frequent work with Bier, including 'Brothers', 'After the Wedding' and Academy Award® winner 'In a Better World'.

In 2000, Jensen directed his first feature film, the action-comedy 'Flickering Lights' (*Blinkende Lygter* - 2000), and later 'The Green Butchers' (*De Grønne Slagtere* - 2003) and 'Adam's Apples' (*Adams Æbler* - 2005). 'Adam's Apples' was the Danish entry for that year's Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2005 Jensen received the prestigious Nordisk Film Award.

In addition to 'Love Is All You Need', **Sisse Graum Jørgensen (Producer)** produced Susanne Bier's Academy Award® and Golden Globe® winning 'In a Better World'; Academy Award® nominated 'After the Wedding' and 'Brothers'.

Graum Jørgensen has also produced films for such directors as Thomas Vinterberg: Cannes Film Festival winner for Best Actor 'The Hunt' (*Jagten* - 2012) and 'Dear Wendy' (2005); Lone Scherfig: 'Just Like Home' (*Hjemve* - 2007) and 'Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself' (2002); Pernille Fischer Christensen's Fipresci recipient at the 2012 Berlinale, 'A Family' (*En Familie* - 2010); Kristian Levring's entry for the Toronto International Film Festival and San Sebastian Film Festival, 'Fear Me Not' (*Den Du Frygter* - 2008), and Niels Arden Oplev's Crystal Bear winner, 'We Shall Overcome' (*Drømmen* - 2006).

Graum Jørgensen is also the co-producer of Andrea Arnold's Cannes Jury Special Prize winner, 'Red Road' (2006), and David Mackenzie's Sundance entry, 'Perfect Sense' (2011). Most recently, Sisse Graum Jørgensen produced Nikolaj Arcel's double Berlin Silver Bear winner, 'A Royal Affair'.

European Film Promotion selected Sisse Graum Jørgensen for the title “Producer on the Move” in 2003 and Screen International featured her in their 2004 “Talent Watch”. In 2011, Graum Jørgensen became a member of the Producers’ Branch of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Vibeke Windeløv (Producer) produced all of Lars von Trier’s films from 1994 to 2006, including ‘Breaking the Waves’, winner of the 1996 Cannes Grand Jury prize; ‘Dancer in the Dark’, winner of the 2000 Cannes Palme d’Or, ‘Dogville’ (2003), ‘Manderlay’ (2005), ‘The Boss of It All’ (*Direktøren for Det Hele* - 2006) and the television series ‘The Kingdom’ (*Riget* – 1994-97).

Other celebrated directors with whom she has worked include Lukas Moodysson, Bille August, Gabriel Axel, and Jørgen Leth.

In 2011, Windeløv started her own production company, Windeløv Lassen, together with producer Stinna Lassen.

Windeløv served on the board of the European Film Academy from 1998 to 2004, on the jury of the Venice Film Festival 2001, the Montreal Film Festival 2006 and Sundance Film Festival 2009.

She is an appointed member of the School Council at the Danish Academy of Fine Arts and sits on the appointment panel of the Danish Film School. Windeløv was also appointed a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France.

‘Love Is All You Need’ marks Windeløv’s fourth collaboration with Susanne Bier, following ‘Family Matters’ (*Det Bli’r i Familien* – 1994), ‘Credo’ (*Sekten* – 1997) and ‘Open Hearts’.