

A Sony Pictures Classics Release

# IN A BETTER WORLD

A film by Susanne Bier

Official Selection: 2010 Toronto International Film Festival  
Winner: Marc' Aurelio Grand Jury Award for Best Film & Marc' Aurelio  
Audience Award for Best Film – 2010 Rome International Film Festival  
Official Selection: 2011 Sundance Film Festival

**Golden Globe® Award Winner, Best Foreign Language Film**  
**Academy Award® Winner, Best Foreign Language Film (Denmark)**

[www.inabetterworldmovie.com](http://www.inabetterworldmovie.com)

TRT: 113 min | Release Date (NY/LA): 04/01/2011  
MPAA: Rated R | Language: Danish/Swedish/English

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## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

**IN A BETTER WORLD** sets out to explore the limitations we encounter in trying to control our society as well as our personal lives.

It asks whether our own “advanced” culture is the model for a better world, or whether the same disarray found in lawlessness is lurking beneath the surface of our civilization.

Are we immune to chaos, or obviously teetering on the verge of disorder?

-Susanne Bier

## **SYNOPSIS**

Anton is a doctor who commutes between his home in an idyllic town in Denmark, and his work at an African refugee camp. In these two very different worlds, he and his family are faced with conflicts that lead them to difficult choices between revenge and forgiveness.

Anton and his wife Marianne, who have two young sons, are separated and struggling with the possibility of divorce. Their older, ten-year-old son Elias is being bullied at school, until he is defended by Christian, a new boy who has just moved from London with his father, Claus. Christian's mother recently lost her battle with cancer, and Christian is greatly troubled by her death.

Elias and Christian quickly form a strong bond, but when Christian involves Elias in a dangerous act of revenge with potentially tragic consequences, their friendship is tested and lives are put in danger. Ultimately, it is their parents who are left to help them come to terms with the complexity of human emotions, pain and empathy.

## CAST

### **MIKAEL PERSBRANDT (Anton)**

Mikael Persbrandt is one of the most popular, charismatic and acclaimed Swedish actors currently working. In 2009, he was awarded with the most prestigious Swedish film award, the Guldbaggen, for his performance in the film *Everlasting Moments* (2008), directed by the acclaimed Swedish film maker Jan Troell. The much sought-after Persbrandt has delivered staggering performances in the films *Heaven's Heart* (2008), directed by the Danish film maker Simon Staho, *The Kautokeino Rebellion* (2008) directed by the Norwegian director Nils Gaup and in the Swedish TV-production "Oskyldigt dömd" (2008) and the German TV-production "Die Patin" (2008). Furthermore he has been nominated the Guldbaggen Award by the Swedish Film Institute for *Deathly Compulsion* (1999), *Everybody Loves Alice* (2002) and *Bang Bang Orangutang* (2005).

### **TRINE DYRHOLM (Marianne)**

Trine Dyrholm has had a long and impressive acting career. She debuted in the teenage drama *Spring Tide* (1990), for which she received a best-actress Bodil. Throughout her career she has taken parts in several films, short subjects, theatre plays and TV series. She made her mark in *The Celebration* (1998), *In China They Eat Dogs* (1999) and in *In Your Hands* (2004), for which she was awarded by the Danish Film Academy for her outstanding performance. Her leading role in Pernille Fischer Christensen's 2006 Silver Berlin Bear winning *A Soap* earned her yet another award for best actress of the year. Trine Dyrholm has lately received rave reviews for her roles in *Dancers* (2008), *Little Soldier* (2008) and *Troubled Water* (2008). In theatre she has performed numerous roles at the Royal Danish Theatre, among others.

### **ULRICH THOMSEN (Claus)**

Ulrich Thomsen has worked with some of Europe's most renowned directors and is one of the Danish actors most in demand internationally. He had his international debut in Thomas Vinterberg's 1998 Palme d'Or winning *The Celebration* for which he received his first European Actor nomination at the European Film Academy Awards. Thomsen starred in two features in competition at the Sundance Film Festival, *Allegro* (2005) and *Adam's Apples* (2005). He has consistently garnered

critical acclaim in numerous European films including, *The Biggest Heroes*, *The Inheritance* (2003) and *Brothers* (2004). For his part in *Brothers* he received his second nomination as Best European Actor and won the prestigious Best Actor award at the San Sebastian Film Festival. Thomsen's international feature films include the box office smash *Bond: The World Is Not Enough* (1999), Kathryn Bigelow's *The Weight of Water* (2000), Menno Meyjes' *Max* (2002), Chen Kaige's *Killing Me Softly* (2002), Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven* (2005) and the thriller *The International* (2009).

## CREW

### SUSANNE BIER (Director)

Susanne Bier is one of the most prominent Danish film directors working today. Bier's Oscar nominated *After the Wedding* (2006) and the US-produced *Things We Lost in the Fire* (2007), starring Halle Berry and Benicio Del Toro, were both hits at the domestic box office. Her feature film debut, the Swedish-Danish co-production *Freud Leaving Home* (1990) was the recipient of international plaudits, as was her Danish-Swedish-Portuguese *Family Matters* (1993). Her next Swedish film *Like It Never was Before* (1995) was the recipient of the Critic's Award at Montreal. Following her Danish feature *The One and Only* (1999), a critics' favorite, and bringing in nearly a million admissions in Denmark alone, her reputation as an established filmmaker excelled. Back in Sweden, Bier directed the tearjerker *Once in a Lifetime* (2000) and two box office hits followed: the Dogme film *Open Hearts* (2002), selected for San Sebastian, Sundance, and Toronto where it received Special Mention; and *Brothers* (2004), recipient of the Audience Award at Sundance and Best Acting awards at San Sebastian.

## FILMOGRAPHY

2010	IN A BETTER WORLD
2007	THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE
2006	AFTER THE WEDDING
2004	BROTHERS
2002	OPEN HEARTS
2000	ONCE IN A LIFETIME

1999 THE ONE AND ONLY  
 1997 CREDO  
 1995 LIKE IT NEVER WAS BEFORE  
 1994 FAMILY MATTERS  
 1992 A LETTER TO JONAS  
 1991 FREUD LEAVING HOME

**ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN (Screenwriter)**

Anders Thomas Jensen is an award-winning scriptwriter and director. He has written and directed four short fiction films, all of which received Academy Award® nominations. His third short film, *Election Night* (1998) and his latest shot film *The New Tenants* (2009) won the coveted statuette in 1998 and 2009. During the past decade Anders Thomas Jensen has provided film scripts for a long series of popular feature films, including his successful collaboration with Susanne Bier on *Open Hearts* (2002), *Brothers* (2004) and *After the Wedding* (2006). He has also been highly successful as a director with *Flickering Lights* (2000) and *Adam's Apples* (2005), among others.

**FILMOGRAPHY**

2010 IN A BETTER WORLD  
 2009 THE NEW TENANTS (*short*)  
 2009 AT WORLD'S END  
 ANTICHRIST (*Story Supervisor*)  
 THE FUNERAL (*short*)  
 2008 FEAR ME NOT  
 THE DUCHESS  
 BEGRAVELSEN (*short*)  
 2007 WHITE NIGHT  
 WITH YOUR PERMISSION  
 2006 AFTER THE WEDDING  
 CLASH OF EGOS  
 RED ROAD  
 2005 MURK

2005 ADAM'S APPLES  
 THE SUN KING  
 TOO FAT TOO FURIOUS  
 DEAR WENDY (*Script Consultant*)

2004 BROTHERS

2003 STEALING REMBRANDT  
 SKAGERRAK  
 THE GREEN BUTCHERS

2002 WILBUR WANTS TO KILL HIMSELF  
 OPEN HEARTS  
 OLD MEN IN NEW CARS: IN CHINA THEY EAT DOGS II

2001 GREY AXEL

2000 FLICKERING LIGHTS  
 BEYOND  
 THE KING IS ALIVE  
 ZACHARIAS CARL BORG (*short*)

1999 IN CHINA THEY EAT DOGS  
 MIFUNE'S LAST SONG  
 THE FUNERAL

1998 ALBERT  
 BABY DOOM  
 NOGLEBORN  
 ELECTION NIGHT (*short*)

1997 WOLFGANG (*short*)

1996 DE NYE LEJERE (*short*)  
 CAFE HECTOR (*short*)  
 DAVID'S BOOK  
 ERNST & LYSET (*short*)  
 RESTLESS HEART (*short*)

**SISSE GRAUM JØRGENSEN (Producer)**

Sisse Graum Jørgensen is currently one of Danish film's most productive producers. In addition to *In A Better World* she has produced films for widely acclaimed

directors as: Susanne Bier: *Brothers* (2004) and the Academy Award® nominated *After the Wedding* (2006), Thomas Vinterberg *Dear Wendy* (2005), Dogme brother Kristian Levring's *Fear Me Not* (2008), selected for Toronto, and Lone Scherfig's highly acclaimed *Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself* (2002) and *Just Like Home* (2007). In addition, Sisse Graum Jørgensen is the executive producer of Scottish Andrea Anorl's feature film *Red Road* (2006), winner of the Jury's Special Prize in Cannes 2006. Recently Graum Jørgensen has produced Pernille Fischer Christensen's award winning *A Family* (2010). European Film Promotion selected Sisse Graum Jørgensen for the acclaimed title: *Producer on the Move* in 2003 and in 2004 Sisse participated in Variety's tribute in Cannes: "10 Producers to Watch".

## CAST

Anton	MIKAEL PERSBRANDT
Marianne	TRINE DYRHOLM
Claus	ULRICH THOMSEN
Elias	MARKUS RYGAARD
Christian	WILLIAM JØHNK NIELSEN
Headmaster	BODIL JØRGENSEN
Signe	ELSEBETH STEENTOFT
Niels	MARTIN BUCH
Hanne	ANETTE STØVLEBÆK
Lars	KIM BODNIA

## CREW

Director	SUSANNE BIER
Story	SUSANNE BIER & ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN
Screenplay	ANDERS THOMAS JENSEN
Producer	SISSE GRAUM JØRGENSEN
Director of Photography	MORTEN SØBORG, DDF
Editor	PERNILLE BECH CHRISTENSEN
Production Design	PETER GRANT
Lighting Director	JACOB MARLOW
Costume Design	MANON RASMUSSEN
Make Up	CHARLOTTE LAUSTSEN
Composer	JOHAN SØDERQVIST
Sound Design	EDDIE SIMONSEN
Line Producer	KAREN BENTZON