

Berlinale
 73rd Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Generation



DANCING QUEEN

COMING SOON

AMARCORD



VICTORIA
KVARTALET

PS
DANS



SCANDINAVIAN
FILM DISTRIBUTION

YMER MEDIA

LevelK



Hamar
kommune



Norsk filmintitutt



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

SYNOPSIS

Mina (12) gets her world turned upside down when the famous dancer Edvin moves to her town.

She falls head over heels in love, and when he invites the local kids to an audition for a new dance crew, Mina sees her chance and signs up. Intoxicated by love she throws herself into the excitement. But there's one essential thing she has forgotten:

She can't dance!

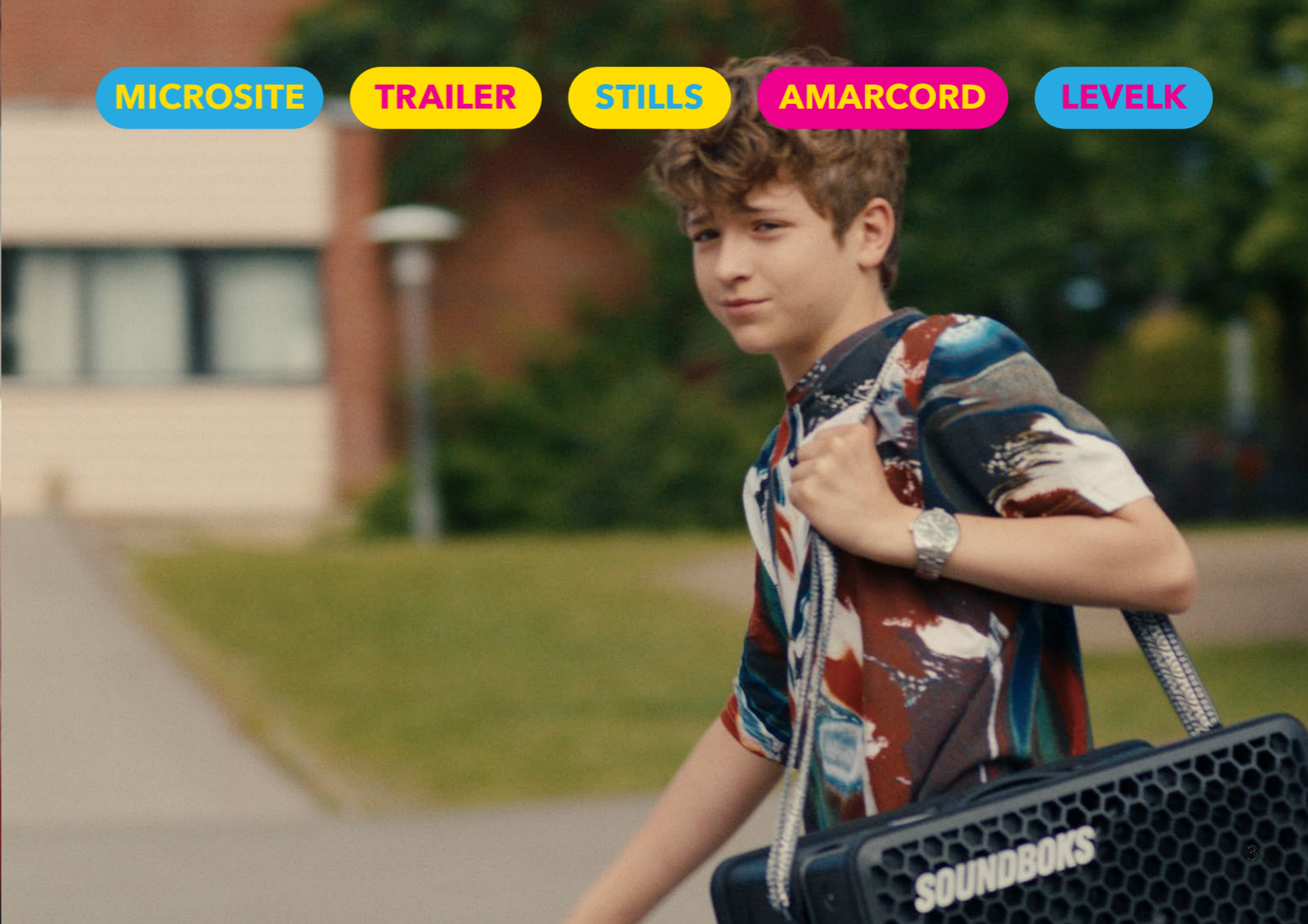
[MICROSITE](#)

[TRAILER](#)

[STILLS](#)

[AMARCORD](#)

[LEVELK](#)





TECHNICAL DATA

Original Title: Dancing Queen

Genre: Family, dance, coming of age

Production Year: 2023

Country of Origin: Norway

Shooting Location: Hamar, Norway

Post Production Location: Hamar, Norway

Language Spoken: Norwegian

Duration: 90 min

Shot on: Digital

Frame Rate (native): 24 fps

Screen Ratio: 1,85:1

Format: DCP

Sound format: 5,1

Domestic release date: March 10th 2023

Target Group: Children 8-12, parents, grandparents

CREW:

Director: Aurora Gossé

Scriptwriter: Silje Holtet

Producer: Thomas Robsahm

Executive Producers: Silje Holtet, Michael Fleischer, Kim Magnusson, Christian Bévort

Cinematographer: Åsmund Hasli

Production Designer: Ragnhild Juliane Sletta

Editor: Helge Billing

Sound Designer: Adrian Strumse

Composers: Mimmi Tamba, Henrik Haraldsen Sveen

CAST:

★ LIV ELVIRA KIPPERSUND LARSSON

★ STURLA PURAN HARBITZ

★ VILJAR KNUTSEN BJAADAL

★ YLVA RØSTEN-HAGA

★ ANNE MARIT JACOBSEN

★ ANDERS BAASMO

★ ANDREA BRÆIN HOVIG

★ CENGIZ AL

★ FRIDA ÅNNEVIK

★ MONA BERNTSEN

AURORA GOSSÉ

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am convinced that this can be a fun, touching and warm family film that will delight and inspire many.

The slightly overweight underdog Mina knows what she wants and fights to achieve her dream, no matter how much opposition she faces. She is an energetic and brave 12-year-old at the turning point between children and young people, in the middle of a time where emotions are extra strong and a lot is at stake. When the popular boy Edvin Lyse starts at her school, she falls head over heels in love and decides to become the world's best hip hop dancer to win his heart. But does she have what it takes? And is Edvin really her great love?

When I read the script for the first time, I fell for Mina as soon as she replaced her healthy lunch box with lunch box number 2. From the moment she danced uncontrollably in the living room and the grandmother entered, I was sold. These situations set up a main character that I think many people will root for from the start and who has an exciting journey ahead of them. The grandmother comes in like a breath of fresh air with her brutal honesty and youthful energy. As she herself says, she is not a moralist and she speaks straight from the heart, unfiltered and direct. Although her grandmother's honest comments hurt Mina, they eventually give her the strength and confidence she needs to fight on. Grandma becomes an important supporter with the message to have faith in yourself and never give up on your dreams.

Grandma stands in stark contrast to Mina's resourceful parents who want the best for their daughter, but who don't necessarily see Mina's needs. The most important thing is that the daughter gets top grades, so that she maintains her status as the brightest in the school. In many ways, the parents become an image of several of the negative tendencies in society; performance pressure, expectation pressure and body pressure. The mother has a strong desire to protect her daughter from all the evil in the world, but instead inflicts her own complexes and worries on her. The story takes the parents through a journey where they finally accept Mina fully and completely for who she is.

The dance itself in the film is an expression of freedom and being oneself. The film's climax will end with a grand, visual dance number. Mina does not end up as the world's best dancer, but wins our hearts through her distinctive style, her commitment, charm and willpower. I have always been interested in portraying the children's perspective and worked a lot with children and young people through my

own projects and the Karsten and Petra films. It is important to me to create a safe space where children dare to offer themselves, so that we get the nerve and authenticity that Mina needs in the film.

A smart strong-willed girl with a rich imagination and emotional life. This is a story that depicts the transition from child to youth. The naive versus the self-aware. Originality against the perfect. The playful, spontaneous versus the serious and dutiful. The vulnerable versus the confident. About doing what others expect of you versus following your own dreams. About having faith in yourself versus changing to be accepted. A story filled with contrasts, as life is. Dancing Queen takes children and young people seriously.



AURORA GOSSÉ

DIRECTOR'S BIO



Aurora Gossé, born in 1987 is educated as director at The Norwegian Film School. Her graduation film «We who see in the dark» won the Critics Award at The Short Film Festival in Grimstad in 2015 and was nominated for the Students Academy Awards the same year.

With the music video “Echo” she won This Years Talent at VidAwards in 2016 and got an honorable mention at The Short Film Festival in Grimstad. It was also short-listed for the Nordic Music Video Awards.

She has directed two family films and a tv-series of the popular “Casper & Emma” franchise. She has also directed the series “Tainted”, “Countrymen” and “Super Hero Academy” for NRK and TV2.



KEY CAST



LIV ELVIRA KIPPERSUND LARSSON

Dancing Queen is her first film. She has previously done roles at Hamar Theater.

ANDERS BAASMO



Anders Baasmo was born on January 29, 1976 in Hamar, Norway. Attended the Norwegian National Academy of Dramatic Art 1997-2000. Named as one of European films' Shooting Stars by European Film Promotion in 2010. Has done around fifty roles in films and tv-series. Best known for the Oscar nominated film Kon-Tiki (2012), Welcome to Norway (2016), The Kings Choice (2016) In Order of Disappearance (2014), Børning (2014) and Exit (2019).

ANNE MARIT JACOBSEN



Anne Marit Jacobsen is a legendary Norwegian actress born in 1946. Attended the Norwegian National Academy of Dramatic Art before being hired at The National Theatre in 1969. She has done more than fifty films and tv-series is an actress, known for Three Wishes for Cinderella (2021), Norske byggeklosser (2018), Herman (1990) and Vildanden by Henrik Ibsen (1970).

ANDREA BRÆIN HOVIG



Andrea Bræin Hovig is born in 1973 and attended the Norwegian National Academy of Dramatic Art 1995-98. Best known for Hope (2019) by Maria Sødahl which she was nominated for the European Film Awards. She has won the Norwegian Critics Award twice in two years. She also won an Amanda for Hope. Other films includes Beware of Children (2019) by Dag Johan Haugerud and An Affair (2018) by Henrik Martin Dahlsbakken.

CENGIZ AL



Cengiz Al is born in 1997 and best known for his roles in the tv-series Skam (2015-17), Three Wishes for Cinderella (2021) and Fenris (2022). He is also a famous dancer and won the Norwegian version of "Dancing with the Stars: All Stars" in 2022.

THOMAS ROBSAHM PRODUCER

Thomas Robsahm is a producer and director. He has produced more than 50 films for esteemed directors such as Joachim Trier, Margreth Olin, Maria Sødahl, Emil Trier, Lilja Ingolfsdottir and many more.

He has won seven Amanda awards, two as a director and five as a producer. He has also won Nordic Council Film Prize for "Louder Than Bombs" by Joachim Trier, which also was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or in Cannes, 2015.

"Hope" by Maria Sødahl was screened in Toronto and Berlin Film Festival and nominated for two European Film Awards. It was also shortlisted for the Oscars in 2021.

"The Worst Person in the World" by Joachim Trier was selected for the main



competition in Cannes, 2021 and Renate Reinsve won the award for best actress. It was also nominated for two Oscars, BAFTA and Cesar. It received twelve Amanda nominations, winning five including for best film and the Audience Award.

In 2021 Robsahm won the Aamot Award for outstanding contribution to the Norwegian film industry.

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

With Dancing Queen our ambition is to make a charming and warm dance film for children, which adults will also want to see. The audience should feel a tingle in their bodies when they experience dance, passion, love and coming of age. But Dancing Queen is mostly a story about relationships.

Mina, aged 12, has to manage a lot on her own as both her parents are in demanding jobs, but she has her best friend Markus with whom she shares most of her life. Eventually, Grandma also becomes an ally when Mina chooses the dance because she falls in love with the new, handsome boy Edwin. Mina has to go through disappointments and broken dreams before she discovers that Markus cares for her more than she imagined.

Screenwriter Silje Holtet uses a well-known formula and fills it with both humour and seriousness. Here is a main character with clear conflicts and goals and secondary characters that we love and are annoyed by. Gradually, there are also turning points we did not expect. With Aurora Gossé as director, we believe that we will create a heartwarming and engaging film for the whole family.

SILJE HOLTET SCRIPT WRITER



with writing and directing, and in 2009 decided to focus on screenwriting.

In 2015 came her radio play Queen of Heaven, a collaboration between NRK's Radio Theatre and Danmarks Radio. She has a number of feature films and TV series in development, and also works as a copywriter and script consultant.

Silje began her career as an intern at the Hedmark Theatre in 1991, and has since acted in a raft of films and stage plays. Her studies include a spell at The Acting Corps in Los Angeles. She has always combined her career as an actor

ÅSMUND HASLI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Åsmund Hasli is a cinematographer graduate from the Norwegian Film School. He has worked on numerous projects in documentary, music video and fiction. His short film "Taxfree" (dir. Henry K. Norvalls) was nominated for Best Short at Bermuda International Film Festival in 2015. Dancing Queen is his debut as a photographer on a feature film, and is one of his many collaborations with director Aurora Gossé.

HELGE BILLING FILM EDITOR

Helge Billing has worked as a freelance editor since 1998 and has, among other things, edited "The Self-Portrait" (2020), "Childhood" (2017) which was nominated for a Kanon Award for best editing in 2018 and "The Angel" (2009) who won The People's Amanda in 2010 (all dir. by Margreth Olin). He has worked on a number of feature films, short films, documentaries and television series.

COMPANY PROFILES

AMARCORD

Amarcord is a production company for film and tv-productions founded in 2018 by producer, director and screenwriter Thomas Robsahm has produced more than fifty films including *The Worst Person in the World*, *Thelma and Louder Than Bombs* by Joachim Trier, *Hope* by Maria Sødahl, *a-ha The Movie* by Thomas Robsahm all co-produced by Amarcord and *The Angel* by Margreth Olin. Amarcord co-produced *Hope*, *The Worst Person in the World*, *a-ha The Movie*, *Trust Me* and *Explosions in the Heart*.

The films have been in competition at festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Toronto, Sundance, Tribeca, New York, London and more. *Louder Than Bombs* won the Nordic Council Film Award in 2015 and *Hope* was nominated to two European Film Awards and was on the Oscar shortlist in 2021. Both *Louder Than Bombs* and *The Worst Person in the World* were selected for the main competition in Cannes (2015 and 2021) and Renate Reinsve won best actress. The film was also nominated for two Oscars. *a-ha The Movie* won the audience award at Tribeca.

LEVELK

LevelK is handling international film sales and aggregation. We are specialized in rights optimization that are reflected through our innovative approach to cross-platform/cross-country distribution combining theatrical and traditional means - alongside digital distribution and marketing. Our goal is to bring our films to the market with an individual strategy so the film finds its own path to its audience and hereby increase royalties. We are working with edgy, original films that we can market world-wide and that will resonate with international audiences.

Our profile includes high quality productions across all genres, working with established and emerging international talents in both English and foreign language. Films must have strong festival potential, international marketability and digital possibilities as we work across all areas.



MICROSITE

TRAILER

STILLS

AMARCORD

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LEVELK

CPH OFFICE

Gl. Kongevej 137 B, 3rd Fl.
DK - 1850 Frederiksberg C,
Denmark

TINE KLINT

Founder & CEO
tine.klint@levelk.dk

ELI RUIZ

Festival Coordinator
eli@levelk.dk

DEBRA LIANG

Head of Sales
debra@levelk.dk

NATASCHA DEGNOVA

Head of PR & Marketing
natascha@levelk.dk

AMARCORD AS

HAMAR OFFICE

Jessnesvegen 331, 2340 Furnes

OSLO OFFICE

Helgesengate 24A,
0553 Oslo, Norway

THOMAS ROBSAHM

Producer
post@amarcord.com



YMER MEDIA

LevelK

