



TRIBECA PRESS KIT

FROM CHILD PRODIGY TO CHESS GENIUS



MAGNUS

WORLD PREMIERE



MAGNUS

Directed by Benjamin Ree
Norway

Feature Documentary | World Premiere | 2016 | 76 min

At age 13, a shy Norwegian boy made a decision: One day he would become the World Chess Champion.

*The documentary **MAGNUS** is the personal journey of Magnus Carlsen — now 25 years old — who is known as “the Mozart of Chess”. Shot over a decade, the filmmakers take you inside the mind of a modern genius, from boyhood to the culmination of his quest for the game’s highest honor. From an awkward childhood to international renown, the movie tells a coming of age story that is bound to engage non-chess players as well as the millions of people who play chess all over the world.*

SCREENING SCHEDULE

04/14, 9:15 PM at RGL-06

04/16, 12:00 PM at RGL-05
(Press/Industry Screening 1)

04/17, 8:00 PM at RGL-03

04/19, 3:15 PM at RGL-06

04/23, 4:30 PM at RGL-09



SYNOPSIS

As a young boy Magnus Carlsen was very different from his peers. He usually sat by himself, lost in thought, and his parents, Henrik and Sigrun, were concerned about his relative development. When a strong interest in numbers made them realize that he could become a good chess player, they introduced him to the game at the tender age of 5. He soon started climbing the ranks of the chess world.

At 13 he became the youngest grandmaster in the world, and began to wonder just how far he could go. Magnus' father was told that the road to success in chess is paved with hard discipline and structure, but he refused to force Magnus into rigid modes of learning. Instead the family let him keep his playfulness, and nurtured his curiosity and fascination for the game. This approach, in time, strengthens Magnus' best overall trait as a chess player: His brilliant intuition.

Joining Magnus in his youth, we witness how chess complicates his life in other arenas, and at home he experiences increasing social challenges. He attends a new school where he is bullied by kids who don't appreciate or understand what his mind can do. Lonely and a bit alienated, Magnus relies on his family to support him as he charts an unusual path to greatness.

At the age of 13 Magnus gets a chance to match wits against the Russian chess legend Garry Kasparov, the world's best player, and World Champion for 15 years. Magnus attracts global attention by holding the champion to a draw. Not long after this fateful game Magnus declares his own personal ambition to challenge for the chess crown. But like all great challenges in life, it's easier said than done.



We rejoin Magnus 10 years later as he takes part in the qualifying tournament for the World Chess Championship title bout. After losing a crucial game late in the tournament, Magnus is shaken up by the realization that his intuition is not fully working. Under extreme pressure to live up to his own — and the world's — expectations, he isolates himself, fighting his inner demons, and avoids talking to others about his problems. And yet with a little luck he narrowly wins the competition to earn a place in the World Championship match — a chance to finally fulfill his childhood dream.

A few months later, Magnus is getting ready for the title fight. His opponent, the five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand from India, uses the best computer engines in the world to help him prepare for chess games. Magnus by contrast tries to avoid computers as much as possible and think for himself.

Tens of millions of people are following the World Championship match, set in Chennai, India — Anand's hometown.

During the first few games of the 12-game match, the champion has full control, and 22-year-old Magnus has trouble coping with the huge pressure. Anand is over 20 years his senior and a veteran of multiple World Championships since he first challenged Kasparov for the title before Magnus had even learned how the pieces move!

After the fourth game Magnus meets his family on a rest day. They play cards and sing along with familiar Norwegian songs. The next day, newly relaxed, Magnus shows the chess world what he can do above all: Produce creative chess like no one has seen before. Magnus wins the championship (becoming just the 16th undisputed champion in history) as well as the highest ranked player of all time.

MAGNUS is the story of a precocious boy who conquers the world. A unique insight in a master's mind as he charts a path to greatness.



CREDITS

ORIGINAL TITLE MAGNUS

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY | NORWEGIAN | 76 MIN | COLOR | 1:16

DOMESTIC RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

DIRECTOR BENJAMIN REE

SCREENWRITERS LINN-JEANETHE KYED, BENJAMIN REE

PRODUCER SIGURD MIKAL KAROLIUSSEN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ØYVIND ASBJØRNSEN, AAGE AABERGE

PRODUCTION COMPANY MOSKUS FILM

CO-PRODUCERS VGTV, MAIN ISLAND PRODUCTION, NORDISK FILM

CINEMATOGRAPHERS MAGNUS FLÅTO, BENJAMIN REE, ØYVIND ASBJØRNSEN

EDITORS PERRY ERIKSEN, MARTIN STOLTZ

COMPOSER UNO HELMERSSON

SOUND DESIGNER FREDRIC VOGEL

WITH MAGNUS CARLSEN, GARRY KASPAROV, VISWANATHAN ANAND

FINANCIAL SUPPORT NORWEGIAN FILM INSTITUTE, NORDISK FILM & TV FOND, FRITT ORD

BUDGET EURO 1 M

INTERNATIONAL SALES TRUST NORDISK



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Benjamin Ree is a Norwegian documentary filmmaker. He studied journalism at the University College in Oslo and moved on to work as a journalist for Reuters and freelancing for BBC. A few years later he started making award winning short documentaries, which premiered at the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam and the Chicago International Children's Film Festival. Today he works as a documentary director at VGTV.

MAGNUS is a portrait of the world's best chess player Magnus Carlsen, and is Ree's first feature length documentary.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

«Chess is regarded as the touchstone of intellect, the ultimate battle of the minds. During the last 15 years Magnus Carlsen has become the highest ranked player of all time. I found it immensely fascinating that no one I talked to understood how Magnus Carlsen had become so good – not even himself! He has studied the game in a completely different way than all the greatest chess players in history. He has been driven by playfulness and curiosity, rather than discipline and structure. I wanted to understand how Magnus' brain works and find out who he really is on a deeper human level!» - Benjamin Ree, director.

ABOUT THE SCREENWRITER



Linn-Jeanethe Kyed is a Norwegian screenwriter. She graduated from The Norwegian Film School in 2010. Her graduating project, the short film *Tuba Atlantic* (Hallvar Witsø, 2010), won a gold medal award at the 38th Annual Student Academy Awards 2011, *Tuba Atlantic* was also nominated for «Best Short Film, Live Action» at the Academy Awards 2012. In 2014, Kyed had her feature debut through the action-comedy *Børning* (Hallvard Bræin, 2014). The movie obtained great national attention, becoming the most visited cinema movie in 2014 and winning four Norwegian National Film Awards (Amanda).

ABOUT THE PRODUCER



Sigurd Mikal Karoliussen graduated from The Norwegian Film School in 2000 with a producing degree. He has worked both as a lineproducer and release coordinator of such films as *Elling* (Petter Næss, 2001), which got an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film, *Buddy* (Morten Tyldum, 2003) and *Uno* (Aksel Hennie, 2004) among others. From 2007 until 2010 he was commissioning editor at Nordic Film & TV Fund for feature films and TV-series. In 2012 he produced his first feature film *The Journey to the Christmas Star* (Nils Gaup, 2012). The film has been sold to over 117 countries and achieved a cinema audience of almost one million people to date. Today Sigurd Mikal is a producer at Nordisk Film Production: *MAGNUS* is a co-production between Moskus Film, VGTV, Main Island Production and Nordisk Film.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER



Since graduating from the Norwegian National Film School in 2008, Magnus Flåto has been shooting a variety of projects in different genres and formats including a segment in the international horror anthology *The ABCs of Death* (Kaare Andrews & Angela Bettis, 2012) and the 2013 viral hit *The Fox* with Ylvis. **MAGNUS** is his first feature length documentary.

ABOUT THE EDITORS



The award-winning duo Perry Eriksen and Martin Stoltz have edited several internationally acclaimed film productions including the Oscar-nomintated *Kon-Tiki* (Rønning & Sandberg, 2013), *Dead Snow* (Tommy Wirkola, 2009) and *Troll Hunter* (André Øvredal, 2010), as well as the award-winning TV drama series *The Heavy Water War* (Per Olav Sørensen, 2015).

MAGNUS is their first documentary. Their experience in feature films, TV drama series and documentaries has helped the duo in creating exceptional films. Their latest work includes *What Happened to Monday?* (Tommy Wirkola, 2016) and *The Lion Woman* (Vibeke Idsøe, 2016), both in post-production.



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Uno Helmersson graduated from the Academy of Music in Stockholm in 2008 and has worked as a composer in the film and television industry since. Among many other scores, Helmersson has won multiple awards for his documentary *Armadillo* (Janus Metz Pedersen, 2010) and wrote the score for the highly acclaimed television series *The Bridge* (2011 -).

ABOUT THE SOUND DESIGNER



Fredric Vogel is a Norwegian-American sound designer and re-recording mixer at Storyline Studios. He holds two Bachelor of Arts from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (BA Hons) and the Norwegian National Film School. In recent years, he has worked on many of the largest films and television shows in Norway, including *The Wave* (Roar Uthaug, 2015) and *Occupied* (TV series, 2015). In 2015 he won the Norwegian National Film Award (Amanda) for best sound design on *Børning*.



ABOUT MOSKUS FILM

Moskus Film is a Norwegian film and television company in Oslo, Norway, with focus on with a focus on movies and series for a large audience. Their feature film *The Journey to the Christmas Star* premiered in 2010 and was sold to 117 countries and reached over a million people in cinemas around the world. In 2014 they started production on *MAGNUS* together with VGTV and Benjamin Ree, the feature documentary about world champion and chess genius, Magnus Carlsen.



ABOUT NORDISK FILM

Nordisk Film is a leading producer and distributor of film in Scandinavia and runs the largest cinema-chain in Denmark and Norway. Nordisk Film was established in 1906 and is today the world's oldest film-production company in continuous operation. In 1992 the company merged with Egmont – one of Scandinavia's leading media companies with 6300 employees and activities in 30 countries.



ABOUT VGTV

VGTV is one of the largest web-tv channels in Norway reaching 2 millions unique visitors every week, and has more than 26 millions started streams every month, covering news, entertainment and sports. VGTV also has a linear tv-channel with over 80% reach in the Norwegian market. VGTV is a subsidiary of VG, Norway's number one online site and newspaper combined, and part of the Schibsted Media Group. VGTV aims to be the primary destination for documentaries in Norway.



ABOUT MAIN ISLAND PRODUCTION

Main Island Production is a Norwegian film production company, established in 2003. Main Island have produced a vast numbers of documentaries, TV-series and fiction films. In 2005 they produced *The Prince of Chess* (Øyvind Asbjørnsen), a 50 minute TV documentary about Magnus Carlsen who has been distributed all over the world.

CONTACTS

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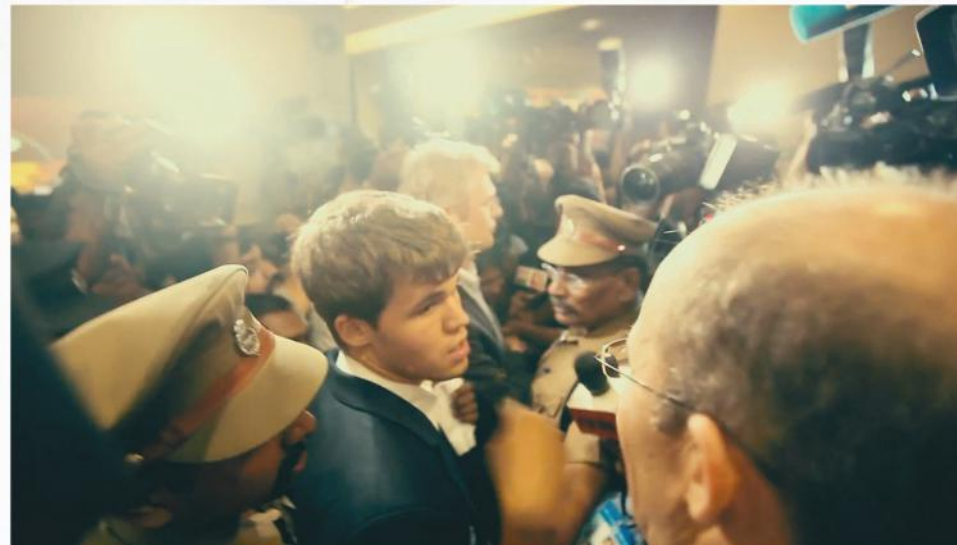
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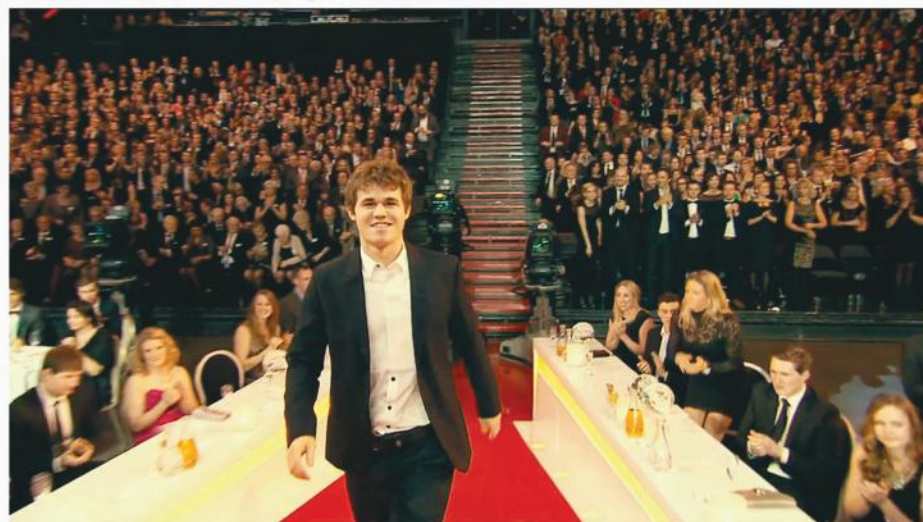
ATTENDING TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

HENRIK CARLSEN
ELLEN CARLSEN
INGRID CARLSEN
SIGNE CARLSEN

BENJAMIN REE, director
LINN-JEANETHE KYED, screenwriter
SIGURD MIKAL KAROLIUSSEN, producer
MAGNUS FLÅTO, cinematographer
ØYVIND ASBJØRNSSEN, executive producer
VGTV, co-producer

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MOSKUS FILM PRESENTS



TRIBECA
FILM
FESTIVAL
2016
SPECIAL SELECTION

FROM CHILD PRODIGY TO CHESS GENIUS

MAGNUS

IN THEATRES FALL 2016



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