

BETA CINEMA
presents an UNLIMITED STORIES production
in co-production with NORDISK FILM, SVT, FILM I VÄST, TV4, NORDSVENSK FILMUNDERHÅLLNING,
MAIPO FILM, META FILM, PER FLY APS and CAMBO PRODUCTIONS

HAMMARSKJÖLD

F I G H T F O R P E A C E

DIRECTED BY
PER FLY

WRITTEN BY
ULF RYBERG & PER FLY

STARRING
MIKAEL PERSBRANDT

AND
HAKEEM KAE-KAZIM // COLIN SALMON // THURE LINDHARDT
RICHARD BRAKE // FRANCIS CHOULER // CIAN BARRY // SARA SOULIÉ

supported by
SWEDISH FILM INSTITUTE, NORWEGIAN FILM INST. and NORDISK FILM & TV-FOND
and in association with RAI CINEMA, BETA FILM, DR AND DO PRODUCTIONS



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LOGLINE

Based on a true story. Dag Hammarskjöld has reached the peak of his power, serving as Secretary General of the United Nations during the height of the Cold War. However, his life is turned upside down when an old friend shows up in New York. At the same time, he tries to make peace in the Congo, an undertaking that proves to be mission impossible.

SYNOPSIS

In 1961, Dag Hammarskjöld has one year left as Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Cold War is at its peak, and its epicenter is the newly formed Democratic Republic of Congo. Hammarskjöld takes it upon himself to create a unified and peaceful nation out of the chaos left behind by Belgium. At the same time Hammarskjöld's life is turned upside down when an old friend unexpectedly shows up in New York. He realizes that he has missed out on an important part of life - and that it might be too late. This throws him into a battle between his sense of duty to the United Nations and a true friendship. In the Congo, UN peacekeepers are killed in open battle by mercenaries paid for by the mining industry, which is conspiring against Hammarskjöld's plans for national unity. In September 1961, he boards a plane in the Congo in a final desperate attempt to resolve the conflict, unknowingly embarking on the most dangerous journey of his life.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

BY PER FLY

*"Pray that your loneliness
may spur you into finding something to live for,
great enough to die for."*

This short poem that Dag Hammarskjöld wrote in 1952 captures the core of his character: his loneliness, his wish for a meaningful life - and death - as a fulfillment of the plan God made for him. I have been fascinated by this mysterious character for years.

Dag Hammarskjöld was the second Secretary-General of the newly founded United Nations. A highly skilled diplomat, Kennedy called him the greatest statesman ever. He was a fearless idealist who wanted a strong UN based on the recently established concept of human rights. His goal was to create an international society in which all countries would work together towards a better world for all. World peace in our time.

He lived in an enormous apartment in Upper Manhattan with his butler Rolf and his beloved pet monkey Mr. Greenback. An extensive collection of poems that he had written over the course of his lifetime was found after his death. Nobody had known about them. In his own words, these poems are the one and only key to the truth about his life. Dag Hammarskjöld was very secretive about everything regarding his personal life, which led to a lot of speculations about his sexuality. In a time when homosexuality was illegal, allegations of homosexuality could serve as weapons in the political wars. He suffered two smear campaigns during his time in office.

When he launched the UN's ambitious de-colonization program in late 1959, he initiated a fight with the most powerful forces in the world, and the last nine months of his life became a thrilling drama about greed, violence, and longing, played out in the frightening world of the Cold War, where the killing of politicians was just a part of normal affairs.

ABOUT THE FILM

Based on historical facts and including the results of the most recent investigations, this political thriller puts one of mankind's most respected diplomats into the limelight. Dag Hammarskjöld has shaped international politics, led the very first blue helmet mission, and is considered the man who ended colonization. John F. Kennedy once called Hammarskjöld "the greatest statesman of our century".

Director and screenwriter Per Fly (*Backstabbing For Beginners*, *The Bench*) alternates thriller, action and personal drama, also following a personal storyline that shows a private, faithful man, who in the late 50s and early 60s saw no possibility to follow his sexual orientation. A politician with a strong personality and uncompromising moral stance, who sacrificed his life for peace and the good of all. Indeed, he turned his longings and learnings into highly respected poetry. Until today, the posthumously published collection of poetry *Markings* is considered a moving spiritual classic: "Perhaps the greatest testament of personal devotion published in this century." (The New York Times).

THE CAST

MIKAEL PERSBRANDT

as *DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD*

Mikael Persbrandt is one of Europe's most popular actors. He began his acting career in the late 1980s, gaining recognition in Swedish theater before making a transition to film. One of his breakthrough roles came in the 1996 film *Jerusalem*, where his powerful portrayal garnered widespread acclaim. However, it was his role as Gunvald Larsson in the Swedish television series *Beck* that truly catapulted him to stardom, showcasing his ability to embody complex characters with depth and authenticity. He is internationally best known for his lead role as a doctor torn between his duties in a Sudanese refugee camp and his family in Denmark in the Academy Award winning feature, *In A Better World*, directed by Susanne Bier. His performance also earned him a Best Actor nomination at the European Film Awards in 2011. Mikael Persbrandt also starred in the award-winning feature films *Everlasting Moments*, *Day And Night* and *Everybody Loves Alice*. He also starred in *The Hobbit* and in *The Girl In The Spider's Web* and as the mother's love interest in Netflix's *Sex Education*. In Lars von Trier's 2022 Venice Film Festival entry *The Kingdom Exodus*, Mikael Persbrandt stars as the chief physician Helmer Jr.

FRANCIS CHOULER

as *BILL RANALLO*

Francis Chouler, born in South Africa, graduated in Theatre & Performance from the University of Cape Town in 2010. He made waves with his first leading role in Mohit Suri's Bollywood production *Crook* and took on roles in *Eye In The Sky* (2016), Netflix's *The Crown*. He is well known also for his performances in the BBC series *Troy: Fall of a City* (2018) and *Dam* (2021). As an executive member of the South African Guild of Actors, Chouler blends local roots with global acclaim.

CIAN BARRY

as *WIESCHHOFF*

Born in 1993 in Sligo, Ireland, Cian Barry pursued his passion for acting in London where he studied Drama. Recognized with prestigious accolades, including an Olivier Award, he has showcased his talent in notable TV-series such as *The Bill* (2009), *Doctor Foster* (2015), and *Midsomer Murders* (2021). He also took on roles in acclaimed theatrical productions like *The Spider's Web* (2007), *Holy Water* (2009), and *Nina Forever* (2015). His stage presence extended to the West End with performances in *Our Boys* (2012).

COLIN SALMON

as *RALPH BUNCHE*

Colin Salmon, born in London, is a versatile actor known for his impactful roles in iconic films like *Tomorrow Never Dies* (1997) and *Resident Evil* (2002). He's also made notable TV appearances in series like *Arrow* and *24: Live Another Day*. In 2023, he joined the BBC series *East Enders* as George Knight.

SARA SOULIÉ

as *HANNA*

Sara Soulié is a Finnish-Danish-French actress with a background as a contemporary dancer. She is multilingual and has acted in several different languages. Her first major lead was in the Finnish fantasy tv series *Nymphs* (2014) followed by the feature *Other Girls* (2015). Since then she has worked on several film and TV productions across Europe. She starred opposite Pilou Asbæk and Josh Lucas in the Finnish-Danish-Croatian feature film *The Guardian Angel* (2018) and made her French debut in the TV movie *Noces D'or* (2019). Her latest works include the lead in the highly acclaimed Finnish TV series *My Husband's Wife* (2022) for which she also learned Estonian for.

HAKHEEM KAE-KAZIM

as *MOÏSE TSHOMBE*

Hakeem Kae-Kazim, born in Lagos, Nigeria, is a renowned actor recognized for his diverse roles in film and television. His international breakthrough came with his performance as Georges Rutaganda in the Academy Award-nominee *Hotel Rwanda* (2004). His role in *Riding with Sugar* (2020) brought him an SAFTA Award. He produced and starred in *Man on Ground* (2011), for which he received two Africa Movie Academy Award nominations. He also appeared as Captain Jockard in *Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End* and in highly popular series like *24*, *Human Cargo* (2004), the Starz series *Black Sails* (2014-16) and the BBC series *Troy: Fall of a City* (2018).

THURE LINDHARDT

as *PETER LEVIN*

Thure Lindhardt is a highly popular Danish actor and director. He marked his entry into the spotlight at the age of 12 with a role in Bille August's *Pelle The Conqueror*. His breakthrough in Denmark followed with a compelling portrayal of a character with autism in *A Place Nearby*, alongside Ghita Nørby.

His diverse career includes notable appearances in *Into the Wild*, *Angels & Demons*, and *The Borgias*, where he played the ruthless assassin Rufio opposite Jeremy Irons. After having been selected among the EFP shooting stars in 2000, Thure Lindhardt earned world-wide recognition with his lead role in *Flame & Citron* (2008), a Danish drama by Ole Christian Madsen that screened at Telluride, Toronto, Sevilla, Göteborg and Les Arcs among many other festivals. Lindhardt's central performance in Ira Sachs' multi-award winning drama *Keep The Lights On* (Sundance/Berlinale 2012), brought him a Nomination as Best Breakthrough Actor at the Gotham Awards. In 2015, he took on the role of Danish detective Henrik Sabroe in the third season of the Danish-Swedish TV police series *The Bridge*, replacing Kim Bodnia as the lead. Lindhardt continued to captivate audiences in the show's fourth and final season.

Prominent roles in Sherry Hormann's *3096 Tage*, Anna Odell's *X&Y* and Tea Lindeburg's *As In Heaven* followed.

RICHARD BRAKE

as *HUNTER*

Richard Brake is a versatile Welsh actor celebrated for his compelling performances. He is best known for his roles as Joe Chill in *Batman Begins* (2005), as the contract killer Doom-Head in the horror movie *31* (2016), and alongside Nicolas Cage and Andrea Riseborough in *Mandy* (2018). Richard Brake also played the lead role as Bob Reid in *Perfect Skin* (2018) and delivered memorable appearances as the Night King in *Game Of Thrones*, in *Absentia* and *Peaky Blinders*.

THE CREW

DIRECTOR

PER FLY

Per Fly is a multi-award-winning and internationally renowned director and screenwriter. With a career marked by a focus on social and political issues, Fly has established himself as a director with a keen eye for storytelling and a commitment to exploring the human condition. Fly's feature film *The Bench* (2000), won him both a Bodil and a Robert Award for Best Director and Best Film. He is also the director behind the international acclaimed feature films *The Inheritance* (2003) and *Manslaughter* (2005): both films showcased Fly's ability to weave compelling narratives around characters facing moral and societal struggles. Fly also directed *Monica Z* (2013), the biopic of famous Jazz singer Monica Zetterlund, which won three Swedish Film Awards, including Best Director and the City of Gothenburg Award at the Göteborg Film Festival. Per Fly wrote and directed the feature film *Backstabbing For Beginners* (2018), starring Theo James and Ben Kingsley and produced by A24, and the acclaimed series *Performances* (2007), *Follow the Money* (2016) and BAFTA-winning political drama series *Borgen* (2022).

SCREENWRITER

ULF RYBERG

Ulf Ryberg is an acclaimed screenwriter and radio journalist, most famous for his work with the hit film and television series *Lasermannen* (2005), the BAFTA-nominated feature film *Headhunters* (2011) and the third film in the Swedish adaption of Stieg Larsson's *Millenium* trilogy, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* (2009) and the TV-series *The Lost* (2022).

PRODUCER

PATRICK RYBORN

Patrick Ryborn has over 25 years of experience as a producer. With 20 feature films to his credit, Ryborn is one of Sweden's most established film producers. Since the feature *Shit Happens* (2000), Patrick has produced many highly successful films, amongst others *Illusive Tracks* (2003), *Behind Blue Skies* (2010), *The Sune* trilogy / *Anderssons* trilogy (2012-2014), *Monky* (2017), *A Piece of My Heart* (2019) and the TV-series *The Lost* (2022).

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

JOHN CHRISTIAN ROSENLUND

John Christian Rosenlund has over 25 years' experience behind the camera, working as a cinematographer for over 25 films, most notably the Cannes Film Festival ACID Award-winning *The Bothersome Man* (2006), *The Wave* (2015), *The King's Choice* (2016), and *The Emigrants* (2021).

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

NIELS SEJER

Niels Sejer is one of Scandinavia's top production designers, known for the Oscar-nominated *A Royal Affair* (2012), the Bafta-winning *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* (2009), *Dead Man Down* (2013), *Flatliners* (2017), and collaborated with Per Fly on *Backstabbing For Beginners* (2018) and the TV-series *Borgen* (2021).

COSTUME DESIGNER

KAREN FABRITIUS GRAM

Karen has a solid education in both costume and production design. She has been in the industry since 1988, starting as an assistant on films such as *Kristin Lavransdatter* and *Hamsun*. In 1997, she started as costume designer and has worked with directors such as Bent Hammer (*Sanger From Kjøkkenet*), Jan Troell (*Maria Larson's Everlasting Moment*), Per Olav Sørensen (*Heave Water War*), Alexander Eik (*Atlantic Crossing*), Roar Uthaug (*The Wave* and *Troll*). Karen has been nominated for 7 Golden Screens Awards and won 3 for *Heave Water War* (2015) and *State Of Happiness 1 & 2* (2019, 2022).

CREDITS - TECHNICAL DETAILS

Political Thriller / 2023 / Sweden / 112 min

MAIN CAST

Dag Hammarskjöld	Mikael Persbrandt
Bill Ranallo	Francis Chouler
Heinrich Wieschhoff	Cian Barry
Ralph Bunche	Colin Salmon
Hanna	Sara Soulié
Moïse Tshombe	Hakeem Kae-Kazim
Peter Levin	Thure Lindhardt
Hunter	Richard Brake
Renard	Martin Venter
Baldini	Zak Rowlands
Lord Lansdowne	Adam Neill
Butler	Norman Anstey
Hellemans	Michael D. Xavier
John F. Kennedy	Caspar Phillipson
Sture Linner	Sven Ahlström
Lone Ranger	Bjorn Steinbach
Bloock	Christophe Guybet
Patrice Lumumba	Jordan Duvigneau

MAIN CREW

Directed by	Per Fly
Written by	Ulf Ryberg & Per Fly
Produced by	Patrick Ryborn
Director of Photography	John Christian Rosenlund FNF
Production Design	Niels Sejer
Costume Design	Karen Fabritius Gram & Pierre Vienings
Make-Up & Hair	Jenny Fred & Julia Rubinstein
Editor	Fredrik Morheden
Composer	Raymond Enoksen
Casting Director	Shakya Dowling
Sound Design	Hans Møller
Post Producer	Peter Bengtsoon
VFX Supervisors	Jacob Otterström & Torbjörn Olsson
South African Producer	Marlow de Mardt
VFX Supervisors	Jacob Otterström & Torbjörn Olsson
Co Producers	Synnøve Hørsdal & Mette Børch
Executive Producers	Rasmus Krogh, Charlotta Denward, Anna Croneman, Kristina Börjeson, Piodor Gustafsson, Emil Wiklund, Poa Strömberg, Maritha Norstedt, Per Bouveng, Maria Mörner, Per Fly and Mikael Persbrandt
Production Company	Unlimited Stories

Co-Production Companies	Nordisk Film, SVT, Film I Väst, TV4, Nordsvensk Filmunderhållning Maipo Film, Meta Film, Per Fly APS, Cambo Productions
Supported by	Swedish Film Institute / Hanna Lejonqvist, Norwegian Film Institute and Nordisk Film & TV Fond / CEO Liselott Forsman, Senior Advisor Torleif Hauge
In association with	Rai Cinema, Beta Film, DR and DO Productions with Brigid Olen & Andre Loggenberg
Prod. Services in South Africa	Indy Pendant Films and Lukhanyo Sikwebu
Swedish distribution	Nordisk Film
World Sales	Beta Cinema



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