

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Dogwoof Pictures newsletter.

In this issue you'll find out everything about the new Dogwoof Pictures release: **KING'S GAME** that will be on cinemas nationwide on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.

## ISSUE 7 - SUMMARY

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- King's Game: truth or spin?
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## DOGWOOF PICTURES PRESENTS - KING'S GAME

Dogwoof Pictures will release on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September the political thriller **King's Game**, a film by NIKOLAJ ARCEL based on a novel by NIELS KRAUSE-KJOER.

*Three weeks before general elections, the leader of one of the country's largest parties, the Center party, is involved in a severe car accident. The political scene is thrown into disarray.*

*At the same time, young, ambitious journalist, Ulrik Torp (Anders W. Berthelsen), is given the opportunity of a life time and made Dagbladet's correspondent in Parliament.*

*Before long, Ulrik gets caught up in a ruthless struggle for power headed by the party's two successors to the leadership, chairman Erik Dreier (Søren Pilmark) and spokesman Lone Kjeldsen (Nastja Arcel). Ulrik barely gets to dip his toes in the water, before all hell breaks loose. Speculation in the press and calculated lies fuel the controversy at great personal cost to many of the people involved.*

*Ulrik slowly uncovers a cynical plot that involves the country's incumbent Prime Minister. He becomes obsessed with learning the truth. But no one will listen to him, be it politicians or colleagues in the press corps, and as election day draws near, Ulrik has to face the power elite on his own.*

## - THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW - JOURNALISTS HAVE TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

*"Journalists mustn't fight for justice. That's just an out-dated social-democratic idiom."*

The above was said by the editor in chief of one of Denmark's largest and most respected publications during one of our research interviews for King's Game.

Co-writer Rasmus Heisterberg and I were stunned to silence. We were under the impression we were talking to a genuine hero. In the media, journalists are always portrayed as heroes, so after the interview, we were both anxious and excited. We felt we had been given access to a story that hadn't been told before.

I have always found the political scene fascinating, and in particular its duality; oftentimes clumsy and uncharismatic people with nervous smiles - the quiet kids in school that suddenly, for better or worse, have gained power over the rest of us. It's a world I had studied and felt I had an understanding of through newspapers and books. Like most of my fellow countrymen, I felt pretty safe: We are cosy little Denmark, where people almost always want to do well.

But during our two month long research period, the proverbial iceberg appeared before our eyes, immersed in a sea of illusions.

We spoke to every journalist, spin doctor, politician and government official we could lay our hands on, and by offering complete anonymity, we were offered the most chilling stories about the things that take place behind closed doors, when the lights are out, as the city sleeps. Stories about abuses of power and about politicians' insatiable thirst for more. Stories about journalists who allow themselves to be led by the nose by their sources; about newspapermen that make underhand deals with leading politicians; about complex networks, suspicious coincidences, camouflaged ideological policy-making, all scenarios that have terrifying consequences for ordinary citizens' civil rights.

Most importantly, however, we gained insight into the ways in which elitism and ambitions paralyze our media and make them unable to gauge or critique the powers that be. And whether you're in front of or behind the notepad, it's all about having the right friends.

Ours is not a flattering portrayal of the political scene. Neither, for that matter, is the novel by Niels Krause-Kjær (former press attache in Parliament), on which we based our story. Having said that, I have done my utmost to make the story true and realistic, both in the screenplay and in its final form. This is a political thriller. The story is pure fiction. But the context is very real indeed.

In the final analysis, King's Game is about power and what it does to people; about the human cost of wielding power; about the difficulty of maintaining some form of idealism in a cynical world in which everyone wants to make it to the top. And about how desperately we need the few idealists we still have left.

Because, of course journalists have to fight for justice. Who else is there to do it?

**Nikolaj Arcel**

**- THE PRESS VIEW - "THE BEST FILM ABOUT POLITICS SINCE ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN"**

Echoes of American political dramas from *Advise and Consent* to *The Contender*, reverberate around this satisfying, if sporadically gripping adaptation of Niels Krause-Kjaers's insider novel. Shot and performed in the shadiest *film noir* manner, Nikolaj Arcel's directorial debut will doubtless intrigue those who despair of the spin and cronyism that currently grips global politics.

**Empire**

*All The President's Men* Danish-style, *King's Game* is a riveting tale of politics and journalism.

Though fictional the film feels authentic, thanks largely to a source novel written by former-spin doctor Niels Krause-Kjaer. As a thriller it's the diametric opposite of Hollywood; there are no explosions or car-chases, just Machiavellian machinations in darkened rooms. Pessimistic, gritty and totally gripping.

**Hotdog**

Shot in beautiful crisp tones of blue silver, the corridors of power have never looked cooler or more aloof. In a time when politics has been spun into cynical zero-sum games of power-brokers and fourth estate, this Award winning Thriller both exhilarates and dismays in equal measure. The best film about politics since "All The President's Men"

**Radio 5 Live**



**- KING'S GAME: TRUTH OR SPIN?**

The controversial and critical story explained in *King's Game* is already creating lots of interest in the politics and journalism worlds. Dogwoof Pictures has organized different special screening to discuss the film and moreover, its content. *King's Game* will be seen on special pre-screenings because we would like to invite people to have their say on the debate and questions this film purposes.

Dogwoof Pictures will offer the following pre-screenings to introduce King's Game to the UK:

- Houses of Parliament Screening. This screening is organized for all the researchers working in the Parliament. Because of their job, they have lots to say.
- New Statesman Screening. The New Statesman, a politics magazine, has teamed up with Dogwoof Pictures to organize a screener for its readers.
- Journalists and politicians have been also invited to a screening of King's Game. Following the screening, there'll be a panel of discussion moderated by Peter Preston, under the title: SPIN GAMES: IS THE MEDIA A PAWN OR A PLAYER?

**- DON'T MOVE DVD RELEASE**

Don't Move, the award winning drama starring Penelope Cruz and Sergio Castellitto will be released on DVD on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of September. The film will be available at all good DVD retailers. For further information please visit the film website [www.dontmove.co.uk](http://www.dontmove.co.uk).

Thank you for your attention,

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