

ALTERNATIVET PRODUKSJON
PRESENTS

A FILM BY
GURO BRUUSGAARD

HIMM

FRANK
WERNER LAUG

EMIL
JOHNSEN

JOHANNES
JONER

... HAN ... GURU ... COLLECTION ... NORSK FILMINSTITUTT EURIMAGES KRYPTON FILM FOND FOR LYD OG BILDE ... JOHANNES JONER FRANK WERNER LAUG EMIL JOHNSEN
GEORGIA MAY ANTONIO ... BERGE JON DALE ... EIF EDLUND GUNHILD ENGER YLVA GALON LAILA GOODY PERGØRVELL KALEB HAILLE MARIKEN HALLE SIGRID
HUUN MARIN HANSEN ... KRISTOF FERSEN CAROLINE LILLAS AMINA MOHAMMUD TONE MOSTRAUM JENNY MUENI LIV BERNHOFT OSA OLE JOHAN SKJELBRED
MARTE MAGNUS ... GURU BRUUSGAARD ... FLJONA JONUZI ... MARTE VOLD ... ASTRID SKUMSRUD JOHANSEN ... GUNN TOVE GRØNSBERG ... ERIK HEDIN
... STORY LINE ... MAGNUS MØRK ... GURU BRUUSGAARD MAGNUS MØRK MARIKEN HALLE KATJA EYDE JACOBSEN ... GURU BRUUSGAARD



Official Selection | Main competition

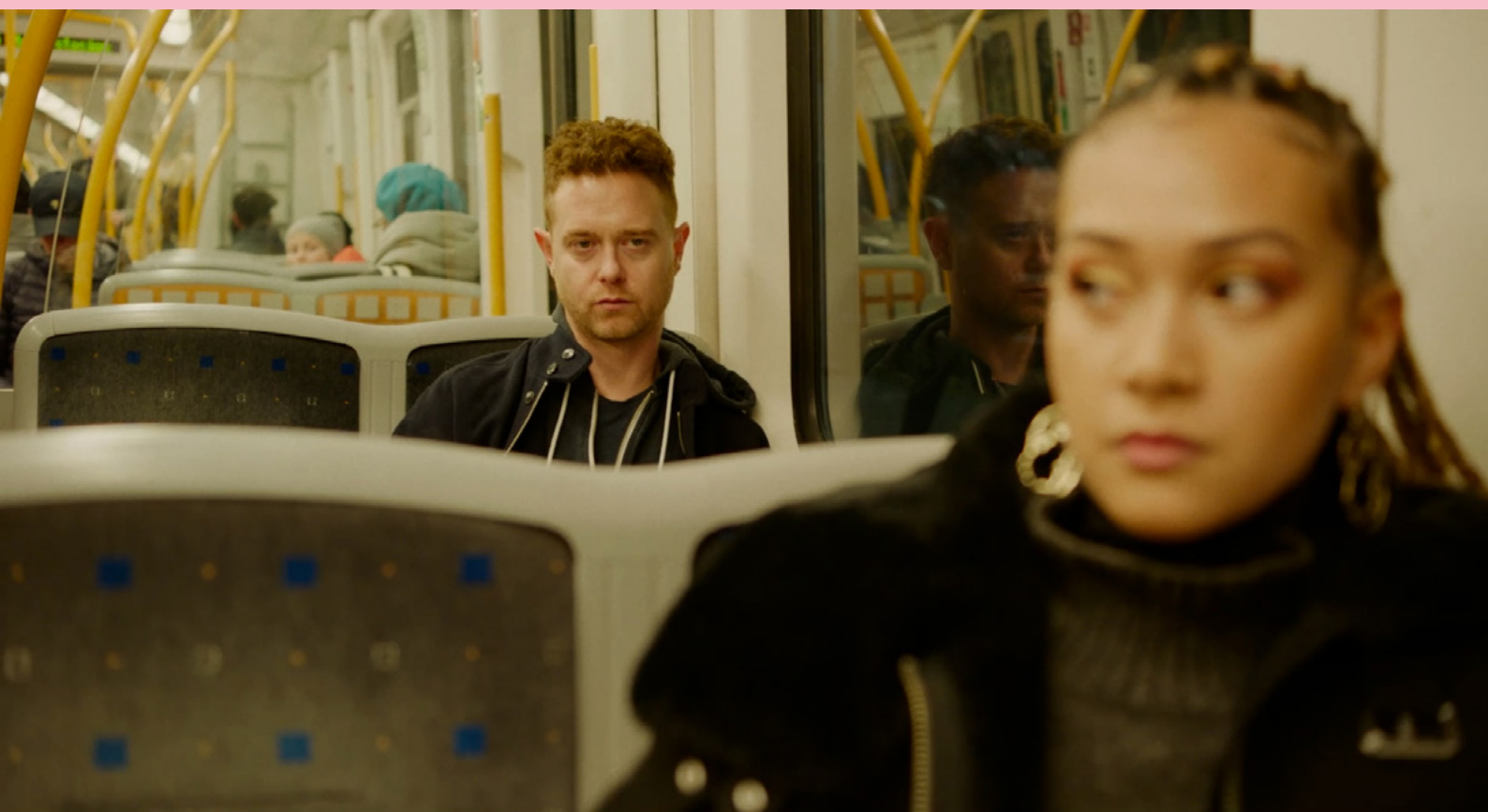


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HIM follows a day in the life of three male characters in Oslo as they deal with the emotional fallout of situations which leave them deeply embarrassed and distressed. Harald, a young schoolboy, faces the frustration of being misunderstood by his classmates and reprimanded by his teacher; unemployed Eirik is left alone and distressed when he is denied more help from the unemployment agency; while screenwriter Petter is blindsided when his passion project loses funding in favor of a female screenwriter's project.

Feeling attacked, alienated, and unbearably alone, the mental battle has just begun. How much of the pressure can these guys handle - or will they crack? HIM combines nuanced tragedy with grounded comedic wit in its sobering exploration of humiliation, exclusion, and the male role in contemporary society.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT BY GURO BRUUSGAARD

“I once read that women, when asked what they fear the most from men, answer to be raped or killed. Men’s answer on the other hand, when asked what they fear from women, is to be laughed at. I did a lot of research for this project, but I could not forget this saying. To me, it pinpoints the deep-rooted fear of losing face. It connects with this film because it examines the humiliated human being through the male gender role. Although men still have the greatest economic and actual power, I sometimes see the boy and the man as more vulnerable in today’s society. So this film is about the vulnerable boy or man who does not fit in to contemporary society in 2021. But it’s also about the wretched male character behind the 22nd of July massacre in Oslo, the aggrieved boys behind US school shootings, or the wave of male solo terrorists all over the West. Common for them all is this sudden and extremely violent aggression towards society, women, and minorities. Recent research shows that men are no longer dominant in the school system, rather they are the ones falling out. At the same time, we see dark far-right populist movements typically being embraced by men with a deeply offended and angry mindset. What is that all about? In this film, I want to combine elements of these phenomena in an interesting, witty, and provocative way that I hope will encourage us to discuss. I have written HIM together with Swedish writer Fijona Jonuzi, and our starting point is our personal experiences as humiliated beings.”

THE PRODUCTION

HIM is an indie film in the sense that it is made on the initiative of the filmmaker with relatively little funds, manpower, and shooting days. Guro Bruusgaard started writing the screenplay several years ago together with co-author and sparring partner [Fijona Jonuzi](#). After founding her own production company together with fellow filmmakers Mariken Halle, Magnus Mork and Katja Eyde Jacobsen - Alternativet Produksjon AS - Bruusgaard started the production of HIM. The film has since received development and [production support from the Norwegian Film Institute](#) and won the [Eurimages Project Lab award](#) in 2019 that contributed to the post-production. The film was shot on location in Oslo, Norway. The cast is dominated by a large ensemble of established actors from the National Theatre and other major scenes including the diversity-focused theatre school Nordic Black Xpress in Oslo. Key functions are held by the director of photography [Marte Vold](#), editor [Astrid Skumsrud Johansen](#), sound designer [Gunn-Tove Grønsberg](#) and composer [Erik Hedin](#).





DIRECTOR AND PRODUCTION COMPANY

Guro Bruusgaard (b.1977) comes from Nøtterøy in southern Norway and is educated at [Nordland Art- and Film School](#) in Lofoten and at the Gothenburg Film School (now part of [HDK-Valand](#)), known for its auteur approach to filmmaking with alumnus like Gabriela Pichler, Isabella Eklöf and Ruben Östlund. Back in Norway, Bruusgaard made the award-winning short [Circus](#). She has since worked as director, producer, screenwriter, and editor. Notably, she has worked on several projects with Swedish filmmaker Fijona Jonuzi who also co-wrote HIM. In 2017 Bruusgaard was one of the founders of the production company Alternativet Produksjon.

Alternativet Produksjon is a production collective founded by filmmakers Mariken Halle, Guro Bruusgaard, Magnus Mork and Katja Eyde Jacobsen. As stated on the company's [homepage](#): "We work on the floor on each other's projects and build up new work structures from the specific needs of each project we work on. We also want to contribute to a generous, open art/film field where more people get to make what they long to make." It's a different way of working because it is completely filmmaker-driven. The filmmaker initiates the projects and decides when to make them, regardless of funding or other factors that usually overpowers and postpones so many film projects in the industry. Of course, this requires mostly low-budget productions and an internal economy where the filmmakers exchange work force for free until there is financing in place, if any. This includes taking turns on different roles in each other's productions, like producer, actor, editor and whatnot. In return, this gives us full artistic freedom and bigger productivity as filmmakers. From applying and waiting for years, often in vain, through the traditional production companies, the filmmakers of



Alternativet have produced two shorts and two features in less than four years and are in production with another two projects. Although it can be economically hard (most of us have part-time jobs like teaching besides running Alternativet) it sustains what we call our artistic practices. Hopefully this is a strategy that gives room to more risk-taking and artistically stronger works in the field of contemporary cinema. Since it's foundation in 2017 Alternativet has released the shorts [The Forest](#) by Magnus Mork, [What Is a Woman?](#) by Marin Håskjold and the feature [We Are Here Now](#) by Mariken Halle alongside Guro Bruusgaard's HIM. They are also in production with Mariken Halle's Corona-feature [The Outdoor School](#) and Katja Eyde Jacobsen's [The Second Sex](#).

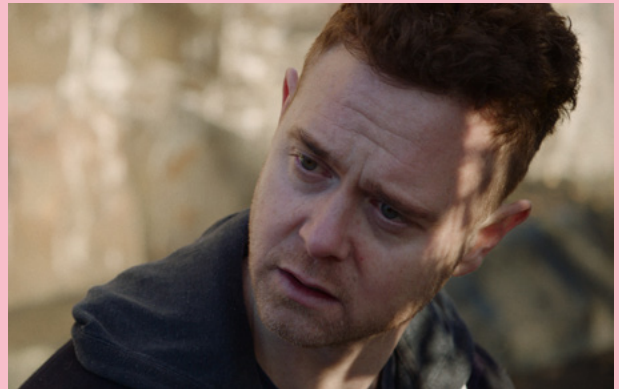


PRINCIPAL CAST AND SUPPORTING ROLES

Johannes Joner (b.1958) is a well-known actor from both theatre and screen in Norway. He has been part of the permanent ensemble at [Oslo Nye Teater](#) for over thirty years and has an [extensive cv](#) from Film and TV series. In addition to his work as an actor, he has also written and directed for theatre and film, including [Respekt](#), a feature film from 2008 about the increasing number of dropouts in school.



Emil Johnsen (b.1978) studied acting in New York and Gothenburg and has established himself as one of the most sought-after actors of his generation with awardwinning performances at the two largest theaters in Norway, [Nationaltheatret](#) and [Det Norske Teateret](#). He has starred in more than 30 films and TV series both in Norway and Sweden and is represented by [Panorama Agency](#).



Frank Werner Laug (b.2006) comes from Slemmestad, a village on the west bank of the Oslofjord south of Oslo. He originally auditioned for a different film for which he did not get the part. However, the caster couldn't forget him and tipped director Bruusgaard that he could be a suitable candidate for her film. After a couple of auditions, it quickly became clear that Frank was a perfect Harald.



Laila Goody (b.1971) is a well-known actress at the National Theatre in Oslo, where her performance in Chekov's *The Seagull* last year gained her the Hedda award. She has played in several Norwegian TV series and has starred in films like Dag Johan Haugerud's [I Belong](#) and the action movie [The Wave](#).



Marte Magnusdotter Solem (b.1978) is an actress and a writer. She is part of the ensemble of the Nationaltheatret in Oslo. In cinema she did notable performances in Ole Giæver's indie features [Out of Nature](#) and [The Mountain](#).



Ylva Gallon (b. 1974) is a Swedish-Norwegian actress based at Backa theatre in Gothenburg. She starred in Johannes Nyholm's acclaimed surrealist horror [Koko-di Koko-da](#) that competed at Sundance in 2019.



Leif Edlund (f. 1972) is a Swedish actor well-known from many stages on the Swedish west coast. From film, he is known for his main part in the above-mentioned [Koko-di Koko-da](#) and other auteur films like Ruben Östlund's [Involuntary](#), not to mention his recurring acts in Alternativet-filmmaker Mariken Halle's features like [We Are Here Now](#).



KEY INFORMATION

Title:	HIM (Original title: HAN)	Sales:	TBA
Language:	Norwegian and Swedish	Director:	Guro Bruusgaard
Genre:	Drama	Writers:	Guro Bruusgaard and Fijona Jonuzi
Length:	83 mins	DOP:	Marte Vold
Format:	DCP	Editor:	Astrid Skumsrud Johansen
Budget:	NOK 6,1 mill	Sound designer:	Gunn-Tove Grønsberg
Funding:	Norwegian Film Institute, Eurimages and The Arts Council Norway	Composer:	Erik Hedin
Theatrical release:	2021 (Norway)	Producers:	Guro Bruusgaard, Magnus Mork, Mariken Halle and Katja Eyde Jacobsen

CAST

Petter:	Johannes Joner	Girl at metro 1:	Georgia May Anta
Harald:	Frank Werner Laug	Girl at metro 2:	Jenny Mueni
Eirik:	Emil Johnsen	Eirik's mother:	Sigrid Huun
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Harald's mother:	Laila Goody	Street artist:	Kaleb Haile
Teacher:	Marte M. Solem	Producer:	Vegar Hoel
Janne:	Ylva Gallon	Colleague:	Tone Mostraum
Tone:	Gisken Armand	NAV Consultant:	Thyri Bergljot Dale
Erling:	Per Gørvell	Journalist:	Gunhild Enger
Gudrun:	Liv Bernhoft Osa	Police officer:	Amina Mohamud
NAV Motivator:	Leif Edlund	NAV participant:	Anne Kristoffersen
Harald's father:	Ole Johan Skjelbred	Bar girl:	Caroline Lillås
Harald's stepmother:	Mariken Halle	Photographer:	Janne Lindgren

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***“Unwaveringly accomplished cinematic realism...
assisted by some marvelous performances.”***

- P. Stuart Robinson, Montages Magazine

EXTERNAL RESOURCES IN ENGLISH

[Review](#) by P.Stuart Robinson in montages.no from Tromsø International Film Festival

[Interview](#) with Guro Bruusgaard in Cineuropa after the Eurimages Project Lab Award

[Film page](#) at the Norwegian Film Institute's website

To be continued...



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