

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEA-Nordic Film Festival Returns This September With a Crash Course on Danish Cinema

*Eleven films, selected by Danish Film Institute curator Thomas Christensen,
will be presented at Majestic Bay Theatres in Ballard*

Seattle, WA (August 20, 2024) – Coming this September 5-7th, the National Nordic Museum will present a crash course in Danish film to Ballard. The 2025 SEA-Nordic Film Festival will take place at Majestic Bay Theatres all weekend, with a special preview event and talk at the Museum on September 4th.

This year, the Festival will be comprised of eleven films chosen by the Curator of the Danish Film Institute, Thomas Christensen, “to reflect on the richness of Danish film history.”

*In curating this program, I have selected personal favorites—
balancing celebrated masterpieces with overlooked cinematic
gems from the archive. No matter which films you choose to
see, I hope that you will be entertained, filled with unexpected
experiences, and re-affirmed that life is worth living.*

— Thomas Christensen

Full curatorial notes can be viewed on page 6.

A trailer of the festival can be viewed [at this link](#).



The Films

Friday, September 5th



7pm: *Another Round* (2020)

Four friends, all high school teachers, embark on an experiment – will maintaining a constant level of alcohol in their bloodstream markedly improve their lives?

Directed by Thomas Vinterberg

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Saturday, September 6th



10:30am: *The Wedding of Palo* (1934)

Navarana, a young Inuit woman, is the best in her settlement at skinning seals and dressing skins. And now she's ready to choose a partner. Will Paolo or Samo win her heart (and her hand)?

Directed by Friedrich Dahlsheim

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1pm: Shorts Program

***Life In Denmark* (1972)**

Directed by Jørgen Leth

***Max By Chance* (2004)**

Directed by Max Kestner

[Learn More](#)





2:30pm *Flee* (2021)

Amin Nawabi shares his story of fleeing his home country of Afghanistan for Denmark in this independent adult animated documentary film.

Directed by Jonas Poher Rasmussen

[Learn More](#)



5pm: *Babette's Feast* (1987)

When French refugee and chef Babette arrives at the door of a pair of pious sisters, it's all oatmeals and austere dishes. But when Babette comes into money, she prepares a sumptuous feast for her neighbors that brings a quiet revolution.

Directed by Gabriel Axel

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7pm: *A Royal Affair* (2012)

In 18th-century Denmark, a young queen married to a mad king falls in love with the royal physician. Their love starts a revolution that changes a country forever.

Directed by Nikolaj Arcel

[Learn More](#)

Sunday, September 7th



11:30am: TBD

More information coming soon!



2pm: *The Word* (1955)

A farmer's family is torn apart by faith, sanctity, and love. Will a sudden tragedy further destroy them — or bring them together?

Directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer

[Learn More](#)



5pm: *The Man Who Thought Life* (1969)

The mysterious Mr. Steinmetz has the ability to create things and beings by will alone. What happens when someone crosses him?

Directed by Jens Ravn

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7pm: *Melancholia* (2011)

Some disasters can be expected on your wedding day, but a mysterious planet hurtling toward Earth? Two sisters find their already strained relationship challenged as the end of the world nears.

Directed by Lars von Trier

[Learn More](#)

Opening Celebration – Thursday, September 4th

As part of our Free First Thursday programming, Museum visitors can listen in on a conversation between Thomas Christensen, Curator of the Danish Film Institute, and Amanda Doxtater, a film historian and UW Associate Professor and Barbro Osher Endowed Chair of Swedish Studies, as well as enjoy a screening of trailers from the films shown at the Festival.

SEA-Nordic Film Festival Opening Celebration

Thursday, September 4th, 6 – 8pm, at the National Nordic Museum

Free to the public

[Learn More](#)

Support and Sponsorship:

SEA-Nordic Film Festival is made possible by support from Leading Sponsors **Scan Design Foundation** and **4Culture**, with additional support from **ArtsFund**, **ArtsWA**, **Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation**, and **City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture**.

About the National Nordic Museum

The National Nordic Museum is the only museum in the United States that showcases the impact and influence of Nordic values and innovation in contemporary society and tells the story of 12,000 years of Nordic history and culture, across all five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) as well as three autonomous regions (Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and Åland) and the cultural region of Sápmi.

Awarded a national designation by an Act of Congress in 2019, the Museum shares Nordic culture with people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, a collection of over 80,000 objects, unique educational and cultural experiences, and by serving as a community gathering place.

For more information, visit: www.nordicmuseum.org.

Press Assets

Images can be downloaded [at this link](#).

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Curatorial Notes

Leslie Anderson

Chief Curator, National Nordic Museum

Our guest curator program allows the Museum to present diverse perspectives on Nordic film, past and present. This year, Thomas Christensen brings his unparalleled expertise in Denmark’s cinematic landscape to Seattle, guiding us toward new favorites and offering fresh takes on beloved classics.

Thomas Christensen

Curator, Danish Film Institute

When asked to curate this year’s film festival, I used the keyword “location” as a guiding principle for my selection. As a film historian and steward of film heritage, I wanted to include not only recent films but also to reflect on the richness of Danish film history.

*Many of the selected films are set in a specific geographical location—most often Denmark—and use physical landscapes to reflect mental or emotional states. In **Palo’s Wedding (1934)**, for example, the Arctic landscape serves as one of the film’s central attractions. The film, written by explorer and ethnographer Knud Rasmussen, offers a compelling portrayal of the customs and lifeways of Greenlandic communities. Though shaped by its time, Rasmussen’s approach conveys deep respect for the people he sought to represent, giving the film universal and enduring resonance.*

*In **The Man Who Thought Life (1969)**, the concept of location shifts inward to a more psychological space. Its sleek, modernist aesthetic and Scandinavian design sensibility root the film in the 1960s, yet its surreal tone continues to captivate.*

*Some of the films, such as **Ordet**, **Babette’s Feast**, and **A Royal Affair**, use West Jutland or historical settings to explore enduring tensions between tradition and progress. Others, like **Another Round**, offer entertaining and charming insights into life in contemporary Denmark.*

In curating this program, I have selected personal favorites—balancing celebrated masterpieces with overlooked cinematic gems from the archive. No matter which films you choose to see, I hope that you will be entertained, filled with unexpected experiences, and re-affirmed that life is worth living.