

NIMBUS FILM PRESENTS

Antboy

SUPERHEROES COME IN ALL SIZES





PREFACE

The world's gone awry! Out of nowhere comes a superhero -- flying! Imagine if you were a superhero. Then you could actually do something -- something super. You could change things, fight injustice and make the world a better place. And of course being able to fly or throw freight trains around is kind of cool as well.

From Perseus to Robin Hood to Superman, superheroes have always existed in one form or another. Some are supernatural creatures who

come from alien worlds, but the vast majority are ordinary people who have had super powers thrust upon them. So kids and adults alike find it easy to identify with them and imagine what it's like to be in their sandals, hoods or underwear.

But it's easy to forget that you don't need to be big or strong to be a superhero. You don't need to be a world famous millionaire to make a significant difference. The burden of responsibility isn't smaller,

just because the superhero is. The time has come to show exactly what a true superhero is, when an ordinary boy in an ordinary town, is suddenly faced with the responsibilities of being a superhero. The time has come for...

ANTBOY

(Film Journalist Casper Christensen, July 2013)

A young boy with glasses and a young girl are looking at a superhero costume hanging on a rack. The costume is black with a red and white emblem on the chest and a matching mask hanging above it. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light source behind the costume.

SYNOPSIS

Pelle Nørhmann is no one special. Just an ordinary 12-year old. A bit too ordinary, if you ask him: Pelle is a loner and the most beautiful girl at school, Amanda, with whom he has been secretly in love since preschool, hardly knows he exists. Actually it's only the bullies at school who notice Pelle. One day, while they're chasing him through the sleepy suburbs, Pelle hides in his neighbor's scary garden. He escapes the bullies but is bitten by a large and strange-looking ant.

Pelle thinks nothing of the bite but that night he's haunted by mysterious dreams. When he wakes up the next morning he has gained all the powers of the ant: super strength, a heightened sense of smell, and the ability to climb walls. Oh yeah... and he pees acid.

The last thing Pelle wants is to attract attention, but it doesn't take long before the comic book nerd Wilhelm discovers his newfound

powers. Wilhelm is convinced that Pelle must use his powers to become a superhero and fight crime. Pelle isn't interested in becoming a crime fighter but he badly wants to impress Amanda. He agrees to Wilhelm's plan and before long the superhero Antboy is making life miserable for the criminals in town.

Unfortunately Pelle discovers that he isn't the only one in town with

superpowers. A scary opponent called The Flea shows up and when he kidnaps Amanda, Antboy and Wilhelm are faced with their biggest challenge yet. Can a pint-sized superhero really take on a true supervillain?

ANTBOY is based on the popular Danish book series by Kenneth Bøgh Andersen, published by Høst & Søn.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My intention with *ANTBOY* is to give the audience the same rush that I felt as a child watching superhero movies like Tim Burton's *Batman* and Richard Donner's *Superman the Movie*.

ANTBOY is a film about a 12-year old boy who, by coincidence, becomes a real superhero. And through the changes and the struggle with his new identity, he learns to accept who he is, as well as realizing the importance of friendship.

The film is filled with action, and has a strong moral: you don't need superpowers to remain who you are, as long as you have

friends who stand by you. It's a film that is true to its genre without surrendering to irony. However it still manages to maintain a tongue-in-cheek tone. I wanted to tell a classic story about good vs. evil using the language of modern film, without compromising either its style or substance.

(Director Ask Hasselbalch, July 2013)

OSCAR DIETZ AKA ANTBOY

Oscar Dietz is one of Denmark's new young acting talents. Though only 13 years of age, he has already proven himself in several roles. In *ANTBOY* Oscar plays the lead in a feature film.

Director Ask Hasselbalch has high praise for Oscar's performance: "Oscar is an enormous talent whose acting has greater depth than most actors his age." Oscar is known for his performances in theatre. He has wowed audiences in several leading roles, as Peter in *Peter's Christmas*, which ran at Folketeatret in 2011, and as the Phantom's son Gustave in *Love Never Die*, which ran at Det Ny Teater in 2012,

as well as in supporting roles in *Jul i Gammelby*, *Himmelweg*, and a musical part in *The King and I*.

Besides acting in film and theatre Oscar has lent his voice to several characters in film and television; among them Buller in the Danish dub of *Jake and the Pirates of Neverland* from SDI as well as parts in *Austin & Ally*, *Jessie*, *Barbie*, and *Sofia the First*. Oscar also has a strong voice, and he writes his own music. He is the lead singer in the band *Bjørnebanden*.



NICOLAS BRO AKA THE FLEA

Nicolas Bro is one of the most popular and respected Danish character actors. Since he graduated from The Danish National School of Performing Arts in 1998, he has played a number of acclaimed roles in films, TV, and in theatre.

Only one year after graduating, both audiences and the movie industry noticed Nicolas Bro's unique talent, when he starred in Anders Tomas Jensen's *Election Night*, which won an Oscar in 1999 for Best Short Film. That same year Nicolas won the Reumert Talent Award and Prince Henrik's Fund, and he became one of the most sought after actors in Denmark. His big break came in 2001, when he played the mentally handicapped Otto in the Emmy-Award winning Danish drama series *Unit 1*.

Bro's charisma has landed him both supporting and leading roles in Danish movies: in 2003 as the realtor House Hans in *The Green Butchers* and as the comic freak Jimmy in *Stealing Rembrandt*. In 2005 Nicolas Bro starred in three movies: As Morfar in *Dark Horse*, a role which earned him The Danish Critics Association's "Bodil" award for

Best Supporting Actor; as the drunken, stealing Gunnar in the drama comedy *Adam's Apples*; and as Anker in the thriller *Murk*.

Bro played the part of the actor Nicolas Bro in *Offscreen* (2006) and once again he won the "Bodil" award, this time for Best Male Actor. Over the next few years, Bro continued to impress: as the neo-nazi leader Tykke in *Brotherhood* (2009), which won both Best Film and Golden Butterfly at Rome Film Fest. Bro also starred in Mikkel Munch-Fals' *Smukke Mennesker* (2010), Nikolaj Arcel's *Truth About Men* (2010) and Christoffer Boe's *Beast* (2011). In Steven Spielberg's Oscar-nominated epic drama *War Horse*, Bro was outstanding in a supporting role as the German soldier Friedrich.

On TV, Nicolas Bro has had several starring roles, his most recent being the Minister of Justice Thomas Buch in the DRTV's drama series *The Killing II* (2009). In the highly-anticipated Danish feature film *Spies and Glistrup* (2013) Bro has the title role as the controversial Danish politician Glistrup. He will also appear in Lars von Trier's new movie *Nymphomaniac*.





AMALIE KRUSE JENSEN

AKA **IDA**

Amalie Kruse Jensen (b. 2000) is making her feature film debut playing the cool Ida in **ANTBOY**. Even though this is her first big screen role, Amalie is not unfamiliar with working in front of the camera. Since 2010 she has worked both as a model and an actor in commercials for big brands such as Volvo and LEGO. Besides acting she is also an accomplished dancer.



CECILIE ALSTRUP TARP

AKA **AMANDA**

The role as popular girl Amanda is the first shot at acting for Cecilie (b. 1999), and she now hopes to pursue it as a career. Besides playing Amanda, Cecilie is skilled at taekwondo and you wouldn't want to mess with her punch.



SAMUEL TING GRAF AKA WILHELM

Samuel Ting Graf (b. 2000) is making his feature film debut in playing Antboy's best friend, the comic geek Wilhelm. Even though this is his feature debut, Samuel has experience in commercials, short films and especially theatre, where he has played Danish classics on some of the country's biggest stages and also toured with the show *Cirkus Summarum*, produced for the national broadcasting company, DR.



ASK HASSELBALCH BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1979 in Denmark, Ask Hasselbalch graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts with a master's in fine arts in 2010, the same year as he graduated in directing from the Danish film school, Super16. **ANTBOY** marks Ask Hasselbalch's feature debut and is getting world premiere at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival.

In 2013, Hasselbalch was chosen for the Nordic Film Lab program where 16 of the most promising filmmakers from Scandinavia including directors, scriptwriters and producers are selected by the national film institutes.

Hasselbalch has a large catalogue of well-received short films, including *You're the Best*, *The Other Side* and his graduation film, *The Crossing*, which has been screened at several international festivals and shown on Danish national television. Hasselbalch has also directed numerous music videos.



INTERVIEW

WITH DIRECTOR ASK HASSELBALCH

Q: What is your personal experience with superhero movies?

A: The first superhero movie I saw and also one of the best, was Richard Donner's *Superman* from 1978. I remember sitting completely absorbed, watching it on video at my grandmother's. In addition, I remember seeing Tim Burton's *Batman* in a cinema in Copenhagen with my sister. It was the WILDEST experience. Seriously! It was the wildest thing EVER!

Q: What is your goal as director of ANTBOY?

A: Basically, it's been to transfer the rush I got with superheroes and adventure movies when I was a child, to the audience. Secondly, it was to tell the story at eye level with the kids it was intended for. I have tried to maintain the seriousness of the adventure and to avoid adding an ironic distance to the story, yet still combine it with humor. I hope I have succeeded.

Q: What's so special about ANTBOY that makes it stand out from

other Danish children's and family films?

A: Initially, we tried to create a film that settles somewhere between a classic Danish family film and a challenging art film. Yes, it's a film intended for children, but we have approached it as though it were a serious movie for grownups. Among other things, we've thought very visually and carefully constructed the cinematography, but also made sure to constantly keep us at eye level with the audience, both literally and figuratively. I hope the movie will work as a great alternative to today's other Danish children's movies.

Q: Do you have a favorite scene from ANTBOY?

A: Obviously the scene where the boys test Antboy's abilities is fun, but I think my favorite scene or sequence is where their friendship is broken. I just think it works, because we managed to convey that feeling of loneliness just as I imagined it. And I am extremely pleased when Ida says goodbye to Antboy on the balcony. After that shot I went home and thought, "Hmm ... This is gonna be really good."

Q: ANTBOY is your debut as a filmmaker, so how has it been finally being allowed to make your own film?

A: Ha, ha ... challenging. I mean, it's no secret that we had our budget constraints, but these constraints have forced us to get to the core of the story and the film. When you can't do everything, you are forced to find the most effective ways to create the film, and at the same time identify the most important parts of the story and what it really means and is about.

Q: And what did you find?

A: A lot of things fell into place when we brought Antboy's friend and assistant William properly into play. Suddenly it was clear that *ANTBOY* is a story of friendship, just like my previous short films. And that's an important message. Antboy's tough, sure, and he can do cool and crazy things, but he wouldn't be anything without his friends. It's probably the essence of the story.

Q: And now that you've survived your first movie, what are you most surprised to have learned in and of the process?

A: Well, this is going to sound trite, but I've learned that I've got to trust my gut feeling. As a first-time director on a relatively big movie like *ANTBOY*, you become guarded. Everyone keeps an eye on whether you're doing the right things or if the production is slipping out of your control and that was actually quite nice. It's sort of a security net, but it also means that there are many opinions in play and in this context, your own intuition suddenly becomes very important, but also easy to put aside, so you need to keep your cool. So the most important thing I have learned is no doubt to have more faith in myself. In other words, I'll be even more annoyingly stubborn on my next movie. Ha!

(Film Journalist Casper Christensen, July 2013)



ANDERS ØLHOLM

SCREENWRITER

Anders Ølholm (b. 1983) graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2009 as a screenwriter. *ANTBOY* - the first Danish superhero film - is Anders Ølholm's feature debut script. The film will have its world premiere at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival, and closes the Buster Copenhagen International Film Festival for Children and Youth.

Ølholm has scripted several short films, including AskHasselbalch's critically acclaimed graduation film *The Crossing*, a film that has been screened at various international festivals. Ølholm has various feature films in development, among them an English thriller *The Devil's Right Hand*, a project to which Paul Schrader is also attached as a writer.


KENNETH BØGH ANDERSEN

AUTHOR

Kenneth Bøgh Andersen (b 1976) is one of the most popular authors of children and youth literature in Denmark. Originally trained as a school teacher, Kenneth Bøgh Andersen made his debut as a novelist in 2000 with the fantasy trilogy *The Battle of Caissa*.

He has since published more than 25 books, mostly within the genres of fantasy and horror, including *The Great Devil War* and the six books featuring the popular superhero Antboy. His latest fantasy novel is *The Death of Santa Claus* (2013).

Andersen is a three time Orla winner, and has received several other awards for his work. He has also twice figured on the Danish Ministry of Culture Honorary Award List, in 2000 and 2004. Andersen's books have been published in more than ten countries, including all of Scandinavia, Germany, France, Spain, Russia, Turkey and Chile. Besides the Antboy books, many of his works have been optioned for drama and film adaptation, including *The Devil's Apprentice*.



EVA JAKOBSEN

PRODUCER

Eva Jakobsen holds a BA in Film and Media from the University of Copenhagen. She worked at Zentropa from 2004-2007 and has been at Nimbus Film since 2008. Jakobsen has participated in numerous award-winning feature films, documentaries and short fiction as producer, production manager and assistant producer.



LEA LØBGER

PRODUCER

Lea Løbger is a graduate in production from The National Film School of Denmark in 2007. Before this she studied at Super16 and The European Film College.

She has since produced the feature film *Timetrip: The Curse of the Viking Witch* (2009) and a number of documentary and short films. Løbger worked as producer for Cosmo Film and SF Film Production before joining Nimbus Film in 2012.



BIRGITTE HALD

PRODUCER

A graduate in production from The National Film School of Denmark, Birgitte Hald is managing director, co-founder of and producer at Nimbus Film. She has produced Thomas Vinterberg's films since his award-winning short *The Boy who Walked Backwards* (1993). These include the feature film *The Biggest Heroes* (1996), the first Dogme film, *The Celebration* (1998) and the English-language *It's All About Love* (2003) as well as executive producing *Submarino* (2010).

Hald also served as producer for Søren Kragh-Jacobsen (*Mifune*), Natasha Arthy (*Miracle and Old, New, Borrowed and Blue*) and Carsten Rudolf (*The Beast Within*). She has executive produced many of Nimbus' other films such as *What Goes Around* (Anders Matthesen), *Flame & Citron* (Ole Chr. Madsen) and *King's Game* (Nikolaj Arcel).



NIMBUS FILM

Nimbus Film is one of the largest independent film production companies in Denmark and has produced more than 50 feature films and a host of award-winning shorts.

Nimbus Film was a major player in the Danish DOGME95 movement with such films as *The Celebration* by Thomas Vinterberg (winner of the Jury Prize in Cannes in 1998) and *Mifune* by Søren Kragh-Jacobsen

(winner of the Silver Bear Award in Berlin in 1999). Among its box office and critical successes over the past decade are *The King's Game* directed by Nikolaj Arcel and *Flame & Citron* by Ole Christian Madsen. Nimbus' productions have been nominated for Oscars, Golden Globes and, earlier this year, a BAFTA for their very first TV drama series, *The Bridge*, created by Hans Rosenfeldt and Charlotte Sieling.



FACTS

CAST

OSCAR DIETZ	Pelle/Antboy
NICOLAS BRO	Albert Gæmelkrå/The Flea
SAMUEL TING GRAF	Wilhelm
AMALIE KRUSE JENSEN	Ida
CECILIE ALSTRUP TARP	Amanda

CREW

DIRECTOR	Ask Hasselbalch
SCREENPLAY	Anders Ølholm
STORYLINE	Torbjorn Rafn / Nikolaj Arcel
BASED ON THE ANTBOY	
BOOKS BY	Kenneth Bøgh Andersen
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Birgitte Hald / Bo Ehrhardt
PRODUCER	Eva Jakobsen / Lea Løbger / Birgitte Hald
CINEMATOGRAPHER	Niels Reedtz Johansen DFF
EDITORS	My Thordal / Peter Brandt
SOUND DESIGN	Thomas Huus / Bo Asdal
COMPOSER	Peter Peter
PRODUCTION DESIGN	Nikolaj Danielsen / M. Wan Sputnik
COSTUME DESIGN	Louize Nissen
MAKEUP AND HAIR DESIGN	Björg Serup
GAFFER	Michael Wils
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Karen Baumbach

FACTS

ORIGINAL TITLE	Antboy
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	Denmark
PRODUCTION YEAR	2013
RUNNING TIME FILM	77 min
IMAGE FORMAT	1:1.85
SOUND FORMAT	Dolby 5.1
PRODUCED BY	Nimbus Film ApS
SUPPORTED BY	THE DANISH FILM INSTITUTE, FILM CONSULTANT RASMUS HORSKJÆR / FILMFYN, BO DAMGAARD / THE EU MEDIA PROGRAMME
IN ASSOCIATION WITH	TV2 DANMARK / C MORE
IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH	GHOST A/S / FilmGEAR ApS / KAMERAUDLEJNINGEN ApS
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