**PRODUCTION NOTES**

VALHALLA

**DIRECTOR’S BIOGRAPHY:**

The director, Fenar Ahmad, was born 1981 in Czechoslovakia. Ahmad came to Denmark in 1986 as an Iraqi refugee. In 2004 he began making documentaries, and in 2007 he joined the film collective Super16. His documentary NICE TO MEET YOU (2007) was an award winner at the Danish film festival Salaam.dk. Fenar Ahmad’s short film MESOPOTAMIA (2008) won the First Prize Official Short Competition at the Gulf Film Festival. Then his third short film MEGAHEAVY (2010) was selected for Berlinale Generation and won a Danish Academy Award “Robert” for Best Short (2010). His feature film debut FLOW (2014) premiered at the film festival CPH PIX 2014, was screened at London Film Festival 2014 and topped the box office of Danish releases the weekend it premiered. Fenar Ahmad is one of the most talked about Danish film talents and his second film DARKLAND (2017) was critically acclaimed and seen by more than 180.000 Danes. DARKLAND was shortlisted to the Danish Oscar-candidate, has had an active international life at film festivals, and had big international sales. Recently the film was nominated for 14 “Roberts” and 5 “Bodil” critics’ awards. In November 2017 Fenar received the Nordic Film Prize.

Fenar’s third feature film, VALHALLA, premieres in Denmark during the fall of 2019.

**DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT:**

When I was five years old I came to Denmark with my mother. We only spoke Arabic and our knowledge of Danish history was limited at best. I didn’t have anyone who could teach me about World War II or about the Vikings and their beliefs. Peter Madsen’s *Valhalla* therefore meant a lot to me. The stories about the Gods, Quark, Tjalfi, and Röskva introduced me to Norse mythology and made a greater impression on me than a trip to the National Museum of Denmark ever did.

With my version of *Valhalla,* I have tried to make a film that appeals to children and adults alike. An inclusive story that can unite and touch a lot of people. During their adventures Röskva and Tjalfi come to realize that the people we need the most are not the ones we worship and idolize but the people we keep close to heart. This is the message I wish to convey with the film.

**PRODUCER’S BIOGRAPHY:**

Jacob Jarek is a graduate from the National Film School of Denmark and set up the company Profile Pictures in 2011 together with his partners. Simultaneously as starting up Profile Pictures, Jacob was a co-producer on Nicolas Winding Refn’s “Only God Forgives” (2013 – Cannes main competition) and line produced Jonas Arnby’s feature “When Animals Dream” (2014) which premiered in the Cannes Critic’s Week. Through Profile Pictures he has co-produced Grímur Hákonarson’s “The Rams” (2015) which won the Cannes Un Certain Regard and was sold worldwide, produced Ali Abbasi’s feature film “Shelley” (2016) which world premiered at Berlinale Panorama in 2016, as well as numerous other features (see below). Jacob ’s recent producer credit includes the third season the acclaimed TV show “Follow the Money”, and in late 2019 the epic fantasy-adventure film “Valhalla” by Fenar Ahmad is set to be released. Jacob is at the moment financing new film and Tv-series by among other directors like Ali Abbasi (“Border”) and Christian Tafdrup (“Parents”). Jacob is an alumnus of the 2013 Inside Pictures programme.

**CAST LIST:**

* **Röskva:** Cecilia Loffredo
* **Tjalfi:** Saxo Moltke-Leth
* **Thor:** Roland Møller
* **Loki:** Dulfi Al-Jabouri
* **Quark:** Reza Forghani
* **Odin:** Asbjørn Krogh Nissen
* **Týr:** Jacob Lohmann
* **Frigg:** Stine Fischer Christensen
* **Elle:** Sanne Salomonsen
* **Balder:** Andreas Jessen
* **Freya:** Salome R. Gunnarsdóttir
* **Sif:** Laura Jonsdottir
* **Skrymir:** Ali Sivandi
* **Utgard Loki:** Uffe Lorenzen
* **Giant Queen:** Emma Rosenzweig Leth
* **Mor:** Patricia Schumann
* **Far:** Bjørn Fjæstad
* **Mimir:** Torben Jensen
* **Old Thor:** Willy Møller

**MAIN CAST BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Roland Møller (Thor)**

Roland Møller is a Danish actor, songwriter and speaker. He has established himself in the Danish film industry with roles such as a tough inmate in Tobias Lindholm and Michael Noer’s film *R* (2010), as the charming and clever pimp in Michael Noer’s film *Northwest* (2013) as well as the role of police officer *Claus* in Fenar Ahmad’s *Darkland* (2017).

During his carrier Roland Møller has received two Danish Critics Awards – one for best actor in a supporting role in the film *Northwest* (2013) and one for best actor in a leading role in Martin Zandvliet’s *Land of Mine* (2015). Roland Møller has furthermore acted in multiple foreign films such as *Papillon* (2017) by Michael Noer, David Leitch’s spy thriller *Atomic Blonde* (2017) and *Skyscraper* (2018) where he acted alongside Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson.

**Stine Fischer Christensen (Frigg)**

Stine Fischer Christensen is an alumni from the Danish National School of Performing Arts but even before graduating she received a Danish Critics Award and a Danish Academy Award for her role in Susanne Bier’s film *After the Wedding* (2006). The role led to Stine Fischer Christensen being selected as one of Europe’s “Shooting Stars” at the Berlin Film Festival in 2008. Later on, she was nominated to a Danish Critics Award for best actress in a supporting role in the film *Echo* (2007). Furthermore, she has performed in Peter Flinth and Ghita Nørby’s *The Wild Swans* (2009), in Mikkel Munch-Fals’ *Nothing’s All Bad* (2010), the German film *Die Unsichtbare* (2011), in Fenar Ahmad’s *Darkland* (2017) and Milad Alami’s *The Charmer* (2018).

**Dulfi Al-Jabouri (Loki)**

Dulfi Al-Jabouri is a self-taught actor who got his breakthrough in the role of *Rashid* in Michael Noer and Tobias Lindholm’s film *R* (2010). He has since made himself noticed in the television show *The Bridge* (2011), in Michael Noer’s *Northwest* (2013) as one of the local criminals, as a Danish Critics Award-nominated soldier in Tobias Lindholm’s Oscar-nominated film *A War* (2015) and in Fenar Ahmad’s *Darkland* (2017). Recently Dulfi starred in the third season of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation’s drama series *Follow the Money* (2019).

**Reza Forghani (Quark)**

Reza Forghani is best known under his artist name Reza where he, as a music producer, has produced a long list of albums and EP’s for artist such as Sivas, Kesi and MellemFingaMuzik including the genre defining EP d.a.u.d.a. The role of Quark, the fanged giant child, is Reza first time starring in a film.

**Jacob Lohmann (Týr)**

Jacob Lohmann appeared for the first time on the big screen in Natasha Arthy’s *Old, New, Borrowed and Blue* (2003) but got his big breakthrough in 2015 in the television show *Norskov* (2015-17); a role he a year later received a Danish Academy Award for as best actor in a supporting role. Recently Jacob Lohmann has starred as *Mads* in Paprika Steen’s comedy *That Time of Year* (2018), in the third season of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation’s drama series *Follow the Money* (2019) and in the leading role as *Markus Føns* in Frederikke Aspöck’s *Out of Tune* (2019). Jacob Lohmann has also had various roles in a long list of Danish films and television shows such as TV2’s crime show *Anna Pihl* (2008), The Danish Broadcasting Corporation’s *The Killing III* (2012), Niels Arden Oplev’s *Speed Walking* (2014), Charlotte Sachs Bostrup’s *The Cartel* (2014), Kasper Barfoed’s *Summer of ’92* (2015), Hans Petter Moland’s *A Conspiracy of Faith* (2016) and in Fenar Ahmad’s *Darkland* (2017).