



DIVE

rituals in water

AKKERI FILMS presents DIVE: RITUALS IN WATER
a film by ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR · HANNA BJÖRK VALSDÓTTIR · ANNA RÚN TRYGGVADÓTTIR
producer HANNA BJÖRK VALSDÓTTIR co-producer SIGURÐUR GÍSLI PÁLMASSON
cinematography BERGSTEINN BJÖRGÚLFSSON editors ANDRI STEINN GUÐJÓNSSON · ÞÓRUNN HAFSTAD
sound design BJÖRN VIKTORSSON music EFTERKLANG
with support from THE ICELANDIC FILM CENTER



SYNOPSIS

For 28 years, in a run down pool below a mountain by the ocean, Snorri Magnússon, a pioneer of infant swimming, welcomes babies all day long, six days a week.

The pool becomes a world of it's own, where the sensory world of newborns is explored through sound, play and underwater experiences.





SNORRI MAGNÚSSON is a sports teacher and physical therapist who started teaching infant swimming when his twin daughters were born 28 years ago. He had tried to get Icelandic babies in the pool before, after he read an article on baby swimming in a magazine. At the time parents were skeptical. So he had to wait until he had his own children. Once he began, his classes were quickly embraced and he became Iceland's pioneer of infant swimming. With no one in Iceland to look up to he had to create his own program built on his own techniques and ideology as a teacher. Today, Snorri has inspired thousands of young families. His class is built up through routines developed over the years and repeated over and over again until the routines turn into rituals. He uses songs to connect to specific exercises. And he's a performer who enjoys the attention of his audience: The babies. A true visionary, Snorri prefers to stay in the pool where babies dive, stand in his palm, sing and are happy. The pool becoming a world of its own where new parents bond with their newborns in challenging situations.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

We have all been participants in Snorri's infant swimming class and we were immediately fascinated by the concept and the pioneer Snorri himself. Snorri's belief in his work is unflinching. He is very intuitive with the babies and shares a special bond with them.

His unique charm and personality make him a colorful character and Snorri's pool is exceptionally picturesque, the surroundings are primitive but the rounded pool is perfect for the babies. This documentary is also about the fundamentally important years that no one remembers, from birth until the age of two.

DIVE: rituals in water is about a man with a strong vision and passion for his work. We follow the journey of the babies from their first class to their last and watch their achievements as they go through the rituals of Snorri's class.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Director:



ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR is a visual artist based in Berlin and Reykjavik. Her site-specific installations take many forms, including auditory or optical illusions, labyrinthian tunnels and motion-activated architectural elements. In 2017 she was awarded the Optimism Prize, patroned by the President of Iceland as well as the Gudmunda Kristinsdóttir Prize founded by artist Erró. Recent exhibitions include, *Simulacra* (2016) i8 Gallery; *Disruption* (2016) Asmundarsafn Reykjavik; *Suspension of Disbelief* (2015), KW-Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin, *Higher Atlas* (2012), Marrakech Biennale; *Trace* (2010), i8 Gallery Iceland; *Parallax* (2009), Reykjavik Art Museum Iceland; *Art Against Architecture* (2008), National Gallery of Iceland; *Frieze Projects* (2007), Frieze Art Fair London.

www.elinhansdottir.net

Director:



ANNA RÚN TRYGGVADÓTTIR is an Icelandic Visual Artist, based in Berlin. Within her installation practice she creates framework for autonomous systems to unfold within a "material performance." A sort of staging of potential of the materials involved, Tryggvadóttir has an MFA from Concordia University Montreal Canada and a BFA from the Icelandic Art University. Recent Exhibitions of her work include the Solo show "Garden" at the Reykjavík Art Museum, "Precious Precarious" at the Geology Museum of Mexico UNAM, Collaboration with the Cycle Music & Art Festival both in Berlin and Reykjavík. Tryggvadóttir is an Artist in Residence at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien 2019-2020.

www.annaruntryggvadottir.net



Director & producer:



HANNA BJÖRK VALSDÓTTIR is a documentary producer & director with MA in Media, Culture and Communications from NYU and BA in English literature from The University of Iceland. As producer, Hanna Björk is a two-time recipient of The Icelandic Film Awards for Best documentary, in 2010 for *Dreamland* and in 2014 for *The Laxá Farmers*. *Dreamland* premiered in competition at IDFA and holds the documentary record for attendance in Icelandic cinemas. In 2015 she started her own production company Akkeri Films, with the aim of producing and co-producing creative documentaries for international release. *DIVE: rituals in water* and *The Last Autumn* by Yrsa Roca Fannberg will be released in 2019, with *Little Africa* by Hanna Björk in production and several other projects in development.



AKKERI FILMS is a newly established production company in Reykjavík founded by Hanna Björk Valsdóttir, documentary producer previously working at Ground Control Productions and two-time Edda: Icelandic Film Award recipient for best documentary (Dreamland, 2009 & The Laxá Farmers 2013). Co-founder is established sound designer Björn Viktorsson. The aim of Akkeri Films is to make high quality creative documentaries for international release. *DIVE: rituals in water* (2019) by Elín Hansdóttir, Anna Rún Tryggvadóttir and Hanna Björk is Akkeri Film's first feature length production and *The Last Autumn* (2019) by Yrsa Roca Fannberg premiering in competition at Karlovy Vary. Also in production is *Little White Africa* by Hanna Björk and other works.

AKKERI  FILMS



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QUOTES / PRESS



"Sometimes a documentary comes along with the potential to overturn beliefs, communicate life-changing knowledge, instill fresh values, inspire confidence, or restore hope.

Dive: rituals in water does a little of each."

"A work of profound beauty and deep importance and created with subtlety and sensitivity, *Dive: rituals in water* reveals through stunning visuals and clever sound capture the filmmaker's own sensitivity and depth of understanding."

"*Dive: rituals in water* does more than document. Its close cinematography of the experience of infant swimming students and their parents reveal the deep humanity, sensitivity and empathy emanating from Magnusson."

– *BMAmag.com, Australia*

"This isn't the most information-dense of movies, given its 72 minutes running time, but every one of those minutes is a joy."

– *The Georgia Straight, Canada*

"... these films remind us that in times of political and economic uncertainty, caring for one another can be the ultimate radical act."



"More than just a swim class, Snorri offers a sense of connection and community for new families navigating the beginnings of parenthood. This meditative contemplation of the first stages of human life produces a profound analysis of pregnancy, birth, and physical touch, and examines our most basic human needs. The soothing vibrational soundscape and lush underwater cinematography bring us back to the womb. Full of tenderness, nurturing, and lots of cute babies, *DIVE: Rituals in Water* is a must see."

– *DOXA*



"You've unearthed a wonderful subject in Snorri and brought his whimsical and important teachings beyond the intimate swimming pool and into our homes."

– Harry Vaughn, *Sundance Film Festival* programmer



"Dive is presented as a visual immersion, in which viewers gradually approach and then enter the water as if they, too, were taking part in this unusual class. If it isn't obvious to most people that jumping into water with an infant is a good idea, the delighted expression on each baby's face will come as a revelation."

– *The Salem News*





PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL DETAILS

Original title:
KAF

English title:
DIVE: rituals in water

Directors:
ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR
HANNA BJÖRK VALSDÓTTIR
ANNA RÚN TRYGGVADÓTTIR

Producer: HANNA BJÖRK VALSDÓTTIR
Co-producer: SIGURÐUR GÍSLI PÁLMASSON
Co-production company GROUND CONTROL PRODUCTION
Cinematography BERGSTEINN BJÖRGÚLFSSON
Editors: ANDRI STEINN GUÐJÓNSSON & ÞÓRUNN HAFSTAÐ
Sound design: BJÖRN VIKTORSSON
Music: EFTERKLANG
Color grading & post production: LUIS ASCANIO, TRICKSHOT
Running length: 72 MIN & 56 MIN
Language: ICELANDIC & ENGLISH, ENGLISH SUBTITLES
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Screening format: DCP
Audio: 5.1 DOLBY DIGITAL

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FESTIVALS

SALEM FILM FESTIVAL, USA

BELDOCS, Belgrad, Serbia

DOXA, Vancouver, Canada

SHEFFIELD DOC FEST, Sheffield, UK

STRONGER THAN FICTION, Dendy Canberra, Australia

DOQUENTA, Queretaro, Mexico



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