



JOHN BAUER

and

THE MOUNTAIN KING



DRAUPNER FILM®

FEATURE DRAMA BIOGRAPHY FILM PROJECT
SCHEDULED FOR LATE 2019

JOHN BAUER & THE MOUNTAIN KING

John Bauer, was a Swedish fairytale painter who illustrated famous children's book writers such as Elsa Beskow, inspired J.R.R Tolkien's Lord of the Rings and the creators behind The Dark Crystal.

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PROJECT INFORMATION

TITLE	John Bauer & The Mountain King	COUNTRY	Sweden
GENRE	Drama biography	ACTORS	Gustav Skarsgård · Vikings. Livia Millhagen · Miffo.
LENGTH	100 min	BUDGET	LOW € 1,5M · MID € 2,9M · HIGH € 4M
TARGET	15 - and older	STATUS	Preproduction
DIRECTOR	Börje Peratt	LOOKING FOR	Financing · Co-producer · Distribution · World Sales
PRODUCER	Ritva Peratt & Börje Peratt	PILOT	https://vimeo.com/240960595 · 4 min
COMPANY	Drapner Film AB · Manus AV-Produktion AB		
LANGUAGE	Swedish / English		



JOHN BAUER

1882 - 1918

BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in southern Sweden, to a German father and a Swedish mother. In 1900, he entered The Royal Swedish Academy of Arts. There he met Ester Ellqvist, the love of his life. Bauer's favourite subject was the dense forests. Ever since childhood he had wandered in the dark woods imagining all the creatures living there.

He is best known for illustrations of a series of books featuring Swedish folk tales. 1902/3 he travelled through Germany then on to Italy, spent the winter in Rome. He and his small family drowned when the ship they were travelling in was wrecked during a storm on Lake Vättern 20th November 1918.

"His art is what I would call great art, in his almost miniaturised works he gives an impression of something much more powerful than many monumental artists can accomplish"

PROFESSOR GUSTAF CEDERSTRÖM
Royal Academy of Fine Arts Stockholm



COLLECTIONS

- 1911** ROME
- 1913** MUNICH
- 1913** DRESDEN
- 1913** BRIGHTON
- 1915** SAN FRANCISCO

Awarded the medal of honor

EXHIBITIONS

THE JOHN BAUER MUSEUM

Ebenhausen Germany

BAUER MUSEUM

Jönköping Sweden

NATIONALMUSEUM, THIELSKA GALLERIET & MILLESGÅRDEN

Stockholm Sweden

GOTHENBURG ART MUSEUM

MALMÖ ART MUSEUM



INTENDED CAST

JOHN BAUER



Ludvig Falkman As young



Gustav Skarsgård As adult

ESTER ELLQUIST BAUER



Emelia Sallhag As young

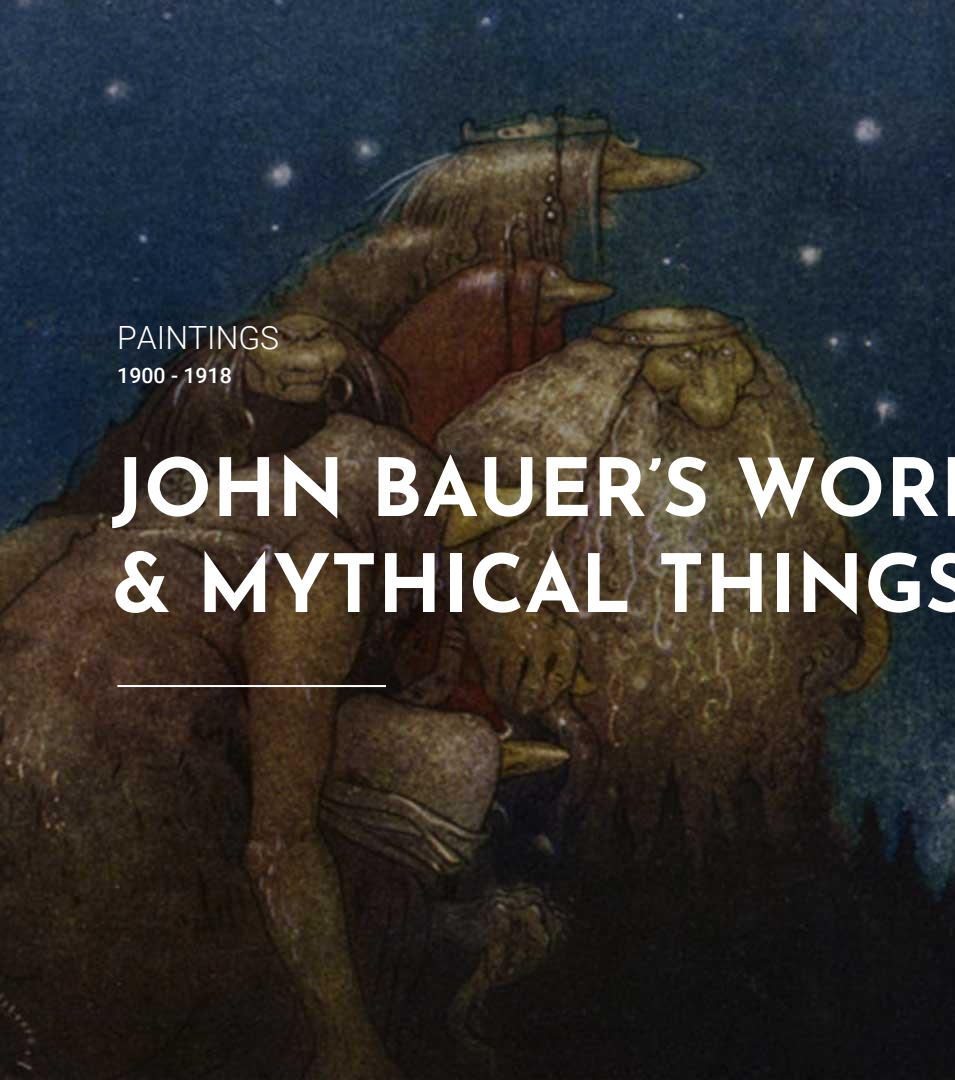


Livia Millhagen As adult



PAINTINGS
1900 - 1918

JOHN BAUER'S WORLD OF TROLLS & MYTHICAL THINGS



09



SYNOPSIS

Ester Ellqvist and John Bauer, two 19th century Swedish artists, met at The Academy of Art and fell in love. However, they have totally different aspirations: John longs for the forest, which is a place of horror for Ester. At Christmas, 1906, John and Ester marry and move into his small cottage deep in the forest.

John's father, on finding Ester depressed, sends them on a trip to Germany and Italy. When they return home they try to start afresh but Ester flees back to her friends in the city.

Ester seeks a divorce. John is saved through an artistic venture which will be a huge success and bring him world-wide fame.

A Russian choreographer wants to create a ballet based on John's art. John travels to meet him in Stockholm and also arranges to meet Ester. They are reunited and subsequently Ester gives birth to their child, leading to a new start for the couple. On the way to start their future their ship is sunk in a fierce autumn storm in 1918.

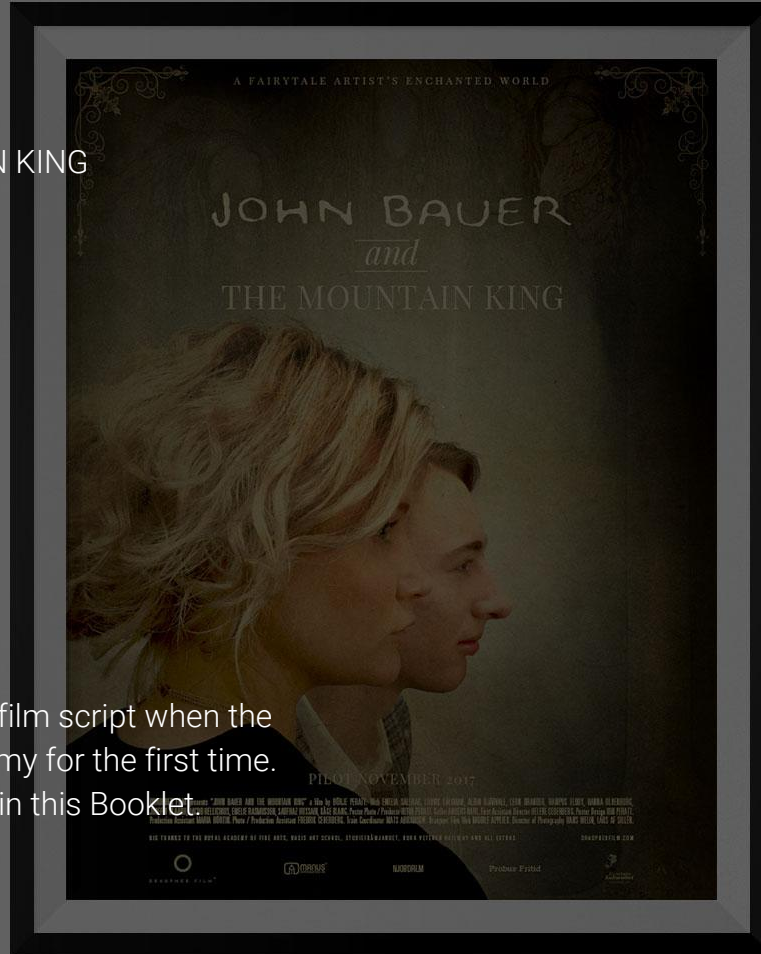
They loved each other beyond reason. They could not live together and they could not be apart. This relationship became an important "inspiration" in John's illustrations and paintings.

INTENDED CAST Gustav Skarsgård & Livia Millhagen ORIGINAL PHOTO Markus Gårder

JOHN BAUER & THE MOUNTAIN KING
RUNNING TIME 4 MINUTES

WE MADE A PILOT

It depicts the first scenes of the film script when the young artists meet at the Academy for the first time. Pictures from the Pilot are used in this Booklet.






TONE & MODE

From an early age, John was surrounded by fairies and trolls and an atmosphere where he developed the idea *The Mountain King* which he later wanted to put on stage. Ester also had a romantic side but this was based on reality and not an imaginary world.

She became afraid of those creatures and this imaginary world was especially terrifying in the forest. She rejected the isolation. She loved being surrounded by companionship with friends and her popularity among men led to conflicts with both men and women.

This on-and-off relationship was documented in their letters and affected their mental health. John was successful but Esther stopped painting and became increasingly reclusive. When they finally got a child and were about to create a new life together, fate decided otherwise.



CAPTURING CHARACTERS & THEIR PERSONALITIES
FROM PILOT

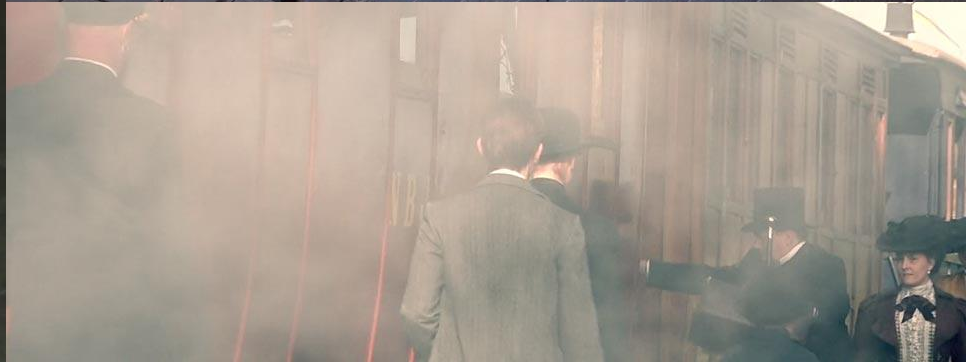
CINEMATOGRAPHY





CAPTURING ATMOSPHERES
FROM PILOT

LIGHT & COLOR



LOCATIONS IN SWEDEN & EUROPE

The environment around Lake Vättern, where John Bauer grew up is where he found his subjects and the inspiration for his paintings, in the forest, on the fields and around the lake. This may be filmed partly in Nora, where they have a vintage train and an environment that still has the look of old Jönköping and surrounding villages. It is also close to a lake.

Stockholm, the Academy of Fine arts and the Old Town. The Royal Opera House, where he met the Russian Choreographer Michael Fokin, who wanted to

help John realise his dream project, the ballet The Mountain King. Stockholm archipelago: an artist camp on the island where John made the painting of Ester.

Lapland in northern Sweden set John Bauer in a new direction. One of John Bauer's important works was to document the indigenous inhabitants of northern Sweden. The tour through Europe, which inspired him to a new artistic direction when he and his wife Ester went to Germany and Italy.

THE ARTISTIC WORLD *1896 - 1918*

When John entered the Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm 1898 and met Ester, there was an artistic battle going on in Sweden, with many famous Swedish artists opposed to a conservative academy. Socially engaged women such as Ester fought to be recognized and respected. Sadly many famous male artists rejected woman's art and disparaged her work.

Several of them gave up in this critical environment. Around 1905 it seems that Ester stopped painting. This also started an 10 year long depressing battle.

Where John developed a darker side of his painting. John started his international exhibitions 1911. Then World War One broke out 1914. Nevertheless, John continued having international exhibitions and he had his greatest success in San Francisco 1915. In the end of 1915 John and Ester found a more stable and mature ground for their relation. They reconciled and Ester began painting again. At this time Ester posed for Freja. A start to a new side of John's painting style that turned out to be his last.

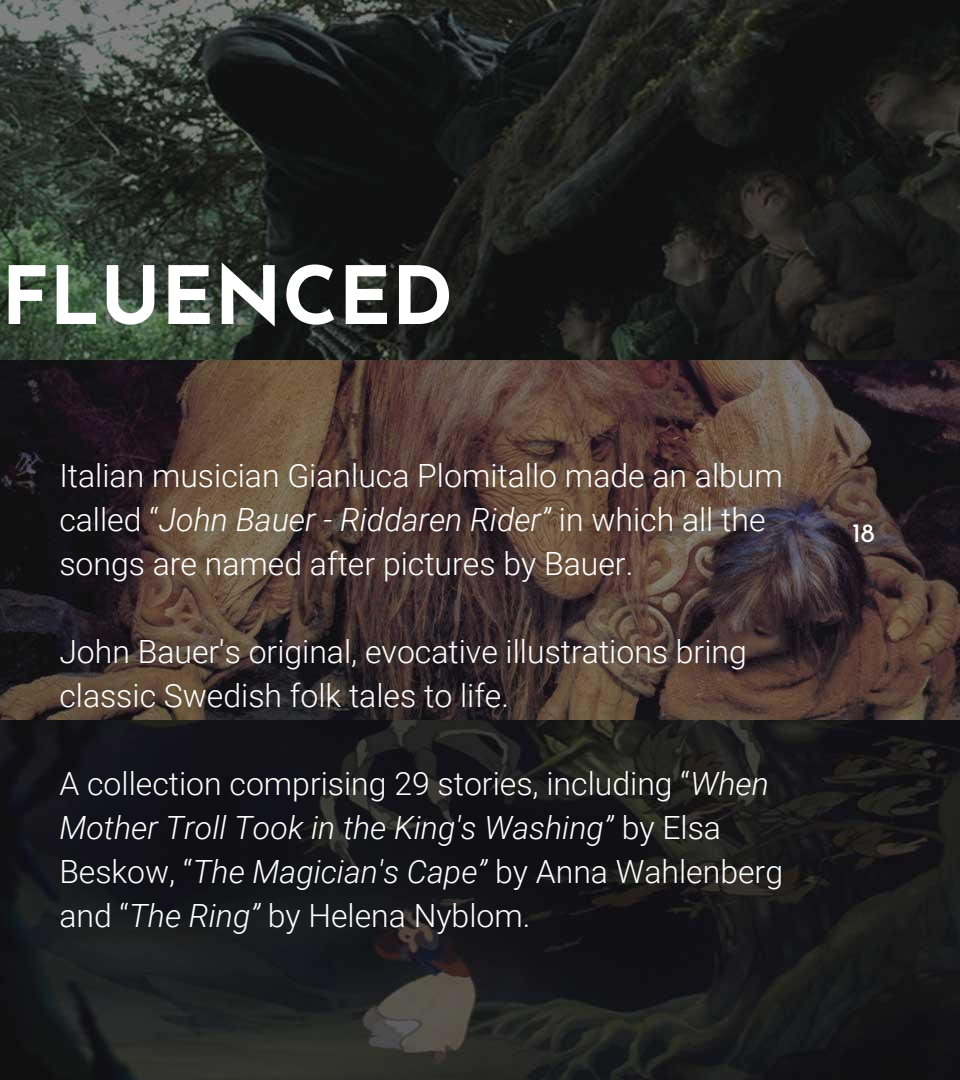


JOHN BAUER HAS INFLUENCED

As of 2014, books with Bauer's pictures have been published in ten languages.

Bauer's works have influenced Sulamith Wülfing, Kay Nielsen, Brian Froud, Rebecca Guay, Walt Disney, J.R Tolkien and more.

The visual look of the motion picture *"The Dark Crystal"*, directed by Jim Henson and Frank Oz, was inspired by Bauer's art.



Italian musician Gianluca Plomitallo made an album called *"John Bauer - Riddaren Rider"* in which all the songs are named after pictures by Bauer.

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John Bauer's original, evocative illustrations bring classic Swedish folk tales to life.

A collection comprising 29 stories, including *"When Mother Troll Took in the King's Washing"* by Elsa Beskow, *"The Magician's Cape"* by Anna Wahlenberg and *"The Ring"* by Helena Nyblom.

“The Lord of the Rings J.R. Tolkien’s avowed absorption with fairy tales John Bauer and his magical tomtes have prodded Tolkien’s imagination in the direction of the Hobbits. But more specifically, Bauer’s illustrations to the fairy tale “The Ring” seem, not surprisingly, to have stayed in Tolkien’s mind and again provided him with material for his own story.”

MARY PODLES, Expert in curating at the Metropolitan Museum of New York and the National Gallery of Art in Washington



BUDGET LOW 1,5M €

Limited travels · Limited locations · No train disaster ·
No shipwreck · Few animations

BUDGET MEDIUM 2,9M €

Full actor ensemble · All locations · No train disaster ·
Ship wreck in part · Animations

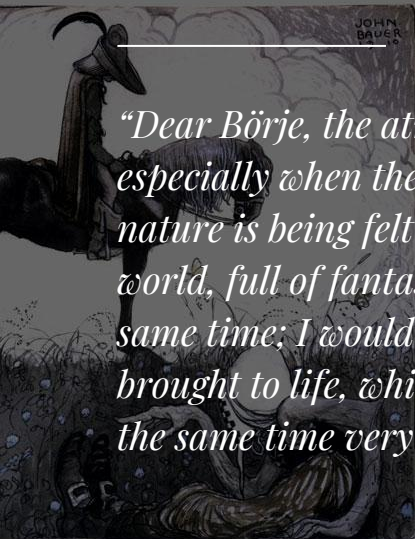
BUDGET HIGH 4M €

International ensemble · High cost leads, famous actors · All locations ·
Train disaster · Shipwreck · High class animations

4 LETTERS FOLLOWING ST PETERSBURG PRESENTATION

sent to DIRECTOR BÖRJE PERATT

01.

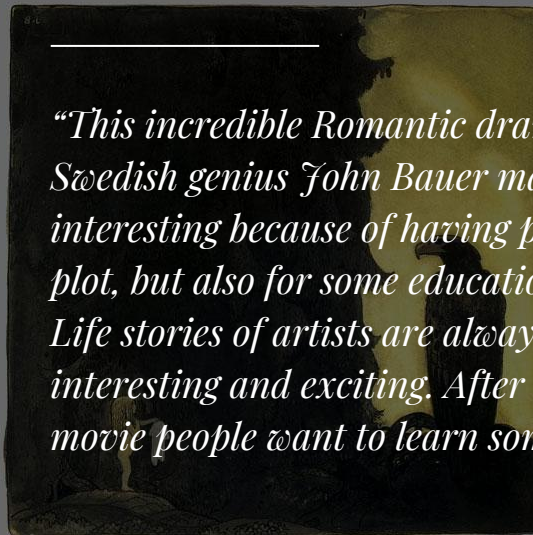


“Dear Börje, the atmosphere you are describing – especially when the somewhat magically enriched nature is being felt – will cater for a very special world, full of fantasy and hard on reality at the same time; I would really like to see these images brought to life, while telling a very unique, but at the same time very universal human love story.”

EVA JÜRGENS

FILM COMMISSION BREMEN

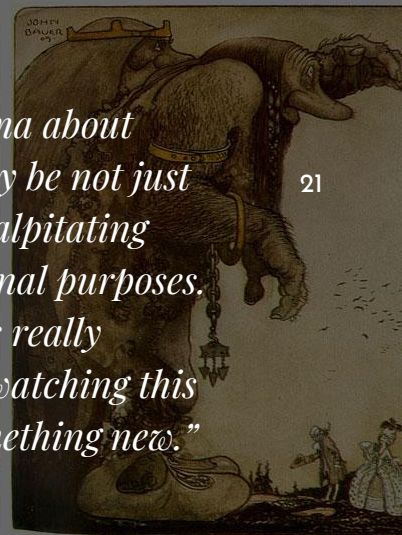
02.



“This incredible Romantic drama about Swedish genius John Bauer may be not just interesting because of having palpitating plot, but also for some educational purposes. Life stories of artists are always really interesting and exciting. After watching this movie people want to learn something new.”

ANNA MALGINA

DIR. OF PRESENTATIONS AT NORDIC SEAS FILM FORUM ST PETERSBURG



4 LETTERS FOLLOWING ST PETERSBURG PRESENTATION

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03.

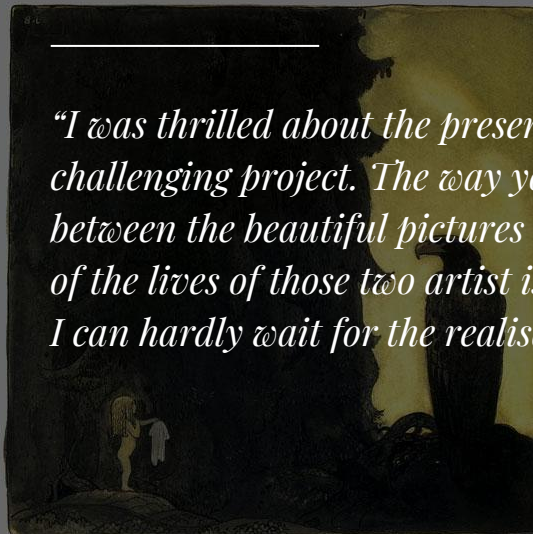


“A very interesting proposition coming from the author/director Borje Peratt which will definitely serve to promote the culture and the values of the Swedish Nation abroad. It is a love story, a human story with a transnational appeal that deserves to be made.”

RUXANA CERNAT

PRODUCER HEAD OF FILM TEEP ARTVIVA PRESIDENT ROMANIA

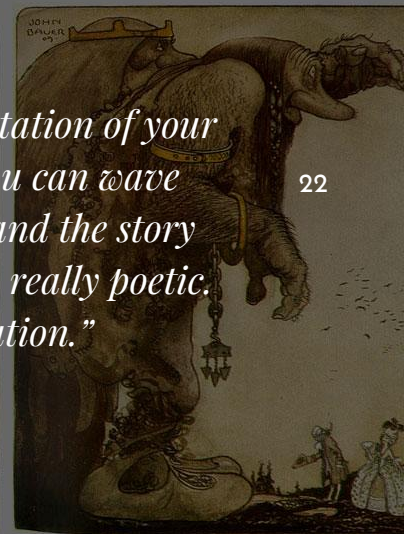
04.



“I was thrilled about the presentation of your challenging project. The way you can wave between the beautiful pictures and the story of the lives of those two artist is really poetic. I can hardly wait for the realisation.”

AELS RIETJES

PRODUCER FU WORKS NETHERLANDS



Baserad på prisbelönade kortfilmen *Bella & Real*

Om Azrakhshi, Olleh Persson, Kemal Görgü



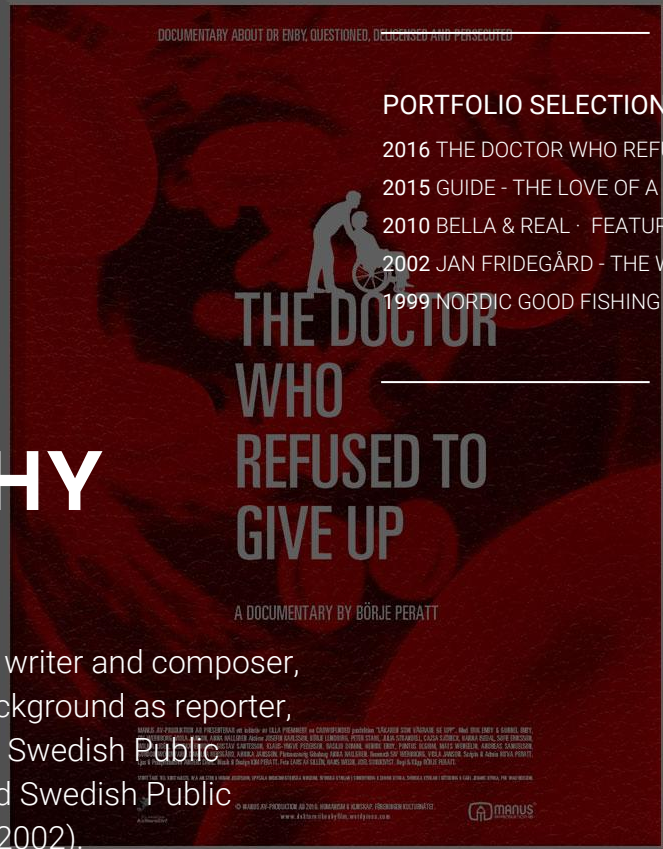
DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY

Börje Peratt is a Swedish filmmaker, writer and composer, born in 1949 in Stockholm with a background as reporter, scriptwriter, director and producer in Swedish Public Broadcast Radio (SR 1976-1980) and Swedish Public Broadcast TV (on and of SVT 1979-2002).

DOCUMENTARY ABOUT DR ENBY, QUESTIONED, DECEASED AND PERSECUTED

PORTFOLIO SELECTION

- 2016 THE DOCTOR WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP · FEATURE DOCUMENTARY (CINEMA)
- 2015 GUIDE - THE LOVE OF A HORSE · SHORT
- 2010 BELLA & REAL · FEATURE MOVIE (CINEMA FESTIVALS)
- 2002 JAN FRIDEGÅRD - THE WORDSMITH · BIOGRAPHICAL FOR TV2 (SVT)
- 1999 NORDIC GOOD FISHING · DOCUMENTARY SERIES FOR TV1, TV2, TV24 (SVT)



THE DOCTOR WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP

A DOCUMENTARY BY BÖRJE PERATT

A VIKING SLAVE'S EPIC TALE



23 LAND OF WOODEN GODS



APPROACHES & OBJECTIVES

by BÖRJE PERATT

DIRECTOR'S INTENTION

“A film about Esther and John Bauer designed to make John’s artistic world come to life and to capture their love story in such a way that the audience is captivated, enchanted and sympathetic to their fate. Depicting their relationship’s initial ecstasy to its downfalls and reconciliation. It has not the indecisive causes of problems but it has the engagement as in

Like Crazy (2011). Parts of the transition from “Look at the young, cute couple!” to “Look at this on-and-off couple!” where the constant separations in no way prepare you for the ending. And yet again it has not the dimension of the Titanic (1997) but the intensity of a dream being destroyed by catastrophic actions of nature.”



MANUS & DRAUPNER
SINCE 1981

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

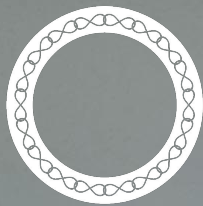
Manus AV-produktion AB (formed in 1981) is an independent TV and film-making company and has a history of producing TV series and short films.

The company produced the successful feature-length documentary *"The Doctor Who Refused To Give Up"* (2016). A sequel *"Judicial Murder - The Witness Who Disappeared"* is prepared for premier in 2018.

Draupner Film AB is subsidiary to Manus and focuses on historical films.

The first project *"Land of Wooden Gods"*, a trilogy by Swedish writer Jan Fridegård, depicts the fight for survival by a Viking slave couple.

"John Bauer & the Mountain King" is Draupner Film's latest production. All rights owned by Draupner Film.



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