

WETTLAUFRERS ENKE

What happened?

*The madness that took place in that house
is as real as this conversation.*

I swear that everything I tell you is true.

Agnes Wettlaufer reads too many stories.

The police don't believe her. But listen in as she tells it. A loving husband suddenly descends into murderous madness? Something doesn't add up.

Listen in and follow her down.

Why it happened I do not know.

*I know only one thing,
it was not of this world.*



What are others saying?

The film is photographed in beautiful black and white and along with the original music written by SEID it has become an amazingly atmospheric movie. Enjoy getting to know Wettlaufers Widow!

- Ramaskrik

Wettlaufers Widow is a playfully theatrical film, located somewhere between André Bjerke's novels and Shinya Tsukamoto's body-horror movies. In other words, this is liberatingly little realistic!

- Forstyrret Filmsalong

(...) the film is well made, has great atmosphere and an original story. Shot in a murky black and white really enhances the feeling of unease. Recommended!

- Rabalder

With a hypnotic guitar pattern, a morbid synth loop, particularly uncomfortable dissonances, Seid stands out from the herd of revivalists via a keen sense of harmonious research and gives you the keys to understanding this film that you may never see.

- The Bloggers Cinema Club



He never loved her - but he learned to respect her.

Mrs Wettlaufer is being interrogated by the police in a murder case. She tells a tale of a cruel and controlling husband, a creeping madness, demons and a very close shave.

Wettlaufers Widow is a gruelling encounter with the moist reality of the subconscious.

It was shot in 2001. It premiered in 2017 at Ramaskrik in Oppdal.

In 2018 it is ready for the world. It's 30 min long!



The Production

In 2001 in the fjordlands of Northern Scandinavia the scriptwriter approached the director with a short sharp script, Lovecraftian in nature, dark and visceral. They gathered a cast and crew willing to work and endure for no pay. This is the way.

The shoot used borrowed equipment and borrowed locations. The total budget of approx \$100 was spent on makeup effects.

Sometimes these things takes time. The film was nearly completed in 2002, but remained hidden for years. The tapes for *Wetlaufers Widow* followed director Kristian Moe from apartment to apartment. In 2014 he started re-cutting the film. In 2017 it was finished.



Lead actor Margrethe Røed and cinematographer Thomas Søbstad standing behind director Kristian Moe while producer Frode Dreier holds the boom. Shooting key closeups of the book.

From left to right: Lead actor Margrethe Røed, cinematographer Thomas Søbstad, make-up artist Gudmund Saxvik, writer Espen Aukan and lead actor Søren Veine watch recently shot footage. Probably the closeup of "the scratching"...



Margrethe Røed is Agnes Wettlaufer

In 2001 Margrethe Røed was a student in Trondheim and an ambitious amateur actor. She had played a number of parts as a member of the local students society theater group as well as a number of local short films and music videos.

After a number of roles on the stage and in short films she became iconic as a childrens television host for Norways biggest broadcaster NRK. Margrethe has continued to work as an actor and host for NRK, toured with a number of childrens shows, performing in the Norwegian version of *Strictly Come Dancing* and announcing the Norwegian points in the *Eurovision Song Contest* finale.



Photo: Tomas Kvitoik

Sven Veine is Ernst Wettlaufer

In 2001 Sven Veine was doing improv-theatre when Kristian Moe approached him for the role of the cruel and cold Ernest Wettlaufer.

Later Sven would perform in the other Trondheim based shorts.

Since 2001 Sven Veine has pursued an academic career and is an Assistant Professor at NTNU.

He is still doing improv.



Arne O. Reitan is Rikard Sylvander

For the role of the two police officers Kristian Moe recruited professional actors from Trøndelag Teater. Arne O Reitan was thoroughly established theatre actor. He made his stage debut as Pablo in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at Folketeateret in Oslo when he was 11 years old, and continued to perform in theater, radio and commercials and was even offered a record contract. He made his film debut as a 12-year old in 1957 in the film *Stevnemøte med glemte år* (A Date with a forgotten past). From 1970 he was permanently employed at Trøndelag Teater.

Arne O Reitan continued to be employed at Trøndelag Teater until he retired in 2015. In addition to numerous theatre roles he has been a theater instructor, performed opera, recorded audio-books and acted in a number of short films, a small role in Norway's longest running soap *Hotel Cæsar*, as well as small roles in the feature films *Børning* (2014) and *The Disappearing Illusionist* (2015).



Trond Ove Skrødal is Kurt Damm

Along with Arne O Reitan, Trond Ove Skrødal was the only professional actor involved in *Wetlaufers Widow* in 2001.

Trond Ove had earned high praise for his theatre roles in 2001, including the monologue *Lola* about notorious Nazi-collaborator Henry Rinnan.

Trond Ove has remained at Trøndelag Teater since and recently performed in Henrik Ibsens *The Wild Duck*.



The Crew

Director Kristian Moe

In 2001 Kristian Moe had produced a number of locally successful short films in Trondheim. After 2001 Kristian Moe continued to work with video and tv. He was involved in shooting and editing a number of documentary series, producing live local television broadcasts in Oslo and an almost endless number of internal corporate movies. His debut feature *A Waste of Time* is currently in post production.

Writer Espen Aukan

Together with Kristian, Espen set out to devise a three-part anthology movie called *W* where *Wetlaufers Widow* was supposed to be the first chapter. After getting a degree in film and theatre studies from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Espen Aukan studied screenwriting at the Norwegian Film School in Lillehammer (NFS). He graduated in 2008. He has since written screenplays for short films, several stage plays, and has worked on children's television series such as *The Games* and *Elias: Rescue Team Adventures*. He has been involved as a script consultant on the television series *Hellfjord* and the feature film *The Wave* (2015), while developing his own feature film screenplays. For his reworking of Snow White for the stage in 2009 he was nominated for the prestigious Norwegian Ibsen Award

Makeup artist Gudmund Saksvik

Gudmund Saksvik's make-up for Ernest Wetlaufers metamorphosis is one of the movie's main strengths. After 2001 Gudmund has largely stayed outside of the film industry and his talents have mainly been used for live-action roleplaying. However, he was a part of the make-up department for Norwegian nazi-zombie feature *Dead Snow* (2009) and has done make-up, writing, acting and/or directing for a number of shorts.

Cinematographer Thomas Søbstad

For most of his earlier work Kristian Moe had handled the cinematography himself, but for *Wetlaufers Widow* he wanted to hand over duties to someone else to be able to focus more on the actors. His choice was Thomas Søbstad, who like most of the 2001 crew was a member of Trondheim Student-Television. After 2001 Thomas Søbstad continued his film/television education in Trondheim and Volda. Since 2004 he has been employed by Norway's most popular television channel, NRK, where he has been a cinematographer, editor and production manager for a number of shows, mainly in the music program *Lydverket* and the investigative journalism program *Brennpunkt*. He was also an editor for the Norwegian version of *Stricly Come Dancing* on Norway's second biggest channel, TV2.

Producers Frode Dreier and Marius Øfsti

Frode Dreier, another of Kristian Moes Student-Television friends, acted as producer for the original 2001 shoot. Producing a \$100 short in 2001 meant trying to find a camera that could be borrowed for one entire week, and a bed that could be smashed through. Dreier found a bed and was able to borrow a PD-150 camera from a friend and lights and other equipment from NTNU. Since 2001 Frodes main source of work has been as a live-television camera-operator and has been shooting a lot of news reports, horse-racing, football(soccer)-games and ice-hockey in Trondheim. He has also shot a number of concert/music-films, and most notably shot and produced several films for and about the band Motorpsycho.

Marius Øfsti met and started to make movies with Kristian Moe when they were both teens living in Steinkjer. After a series of more and more ambitious VHS-shorts Kristian and Marius moved to Trondheim to join the Student-Television and continued to make short films, but had left Trondheim for Oslo before the *Wettlaufers Widow* shoot. He did however join Kristian as an editor for the version that was almost finished in 2002 before the film was abandoned. Since 2001 Marius has worked primarily as a teacher and is currently pursuing a phd in Audiovisual Media. He has however made a few music videos and wrote and co-produced *En øy i Oslo* a documentary about Norways premiere music festival, Øyafestivalen, that was screened on NRK in 2017. In 2014 when Kristian Moe resumed work on *Wettlaufers Widow*, Marius happily resumed producing duties.

Executive Producer Ulf Tønder Flittig

In 2014 after assembling the first cut of what would be the finished *Wettlaufers Widow* Kristian Moe contacted Ulf Tønder Flittig to help with grading, special-effects and similar technical issues. Ulf was also a veteran from Trondheims Student-Television, and has a long list of editing, producing and directs credits from various Norwegian television programmes and a number of music videos. Ulf soon assumed a major role in the post-production process of *Wettlaufers Widow* and in giving the 15-year old DV footage its current and unique feel.

Sound editors Andreas Revheim, Peder Lindvær Hammersborg, Adam Andersson

A sound recordist is notably absent from the *Wettlaufers Widow* credits. The boom was generally handled by anyone with a time and arms to spare. The task of assembling a complete and engrossing soundscape fell on Peder Lindvær Hammersborg, Adam Andersson and Andreas Revheim. Peder and Adam were students at The Norwegian Film School while Andreas Revheim is a veteran from a number of Norwegian commercials and the feature films *Troll Hunter* (2010) and *Vegas* (2009).

The Soundtrack

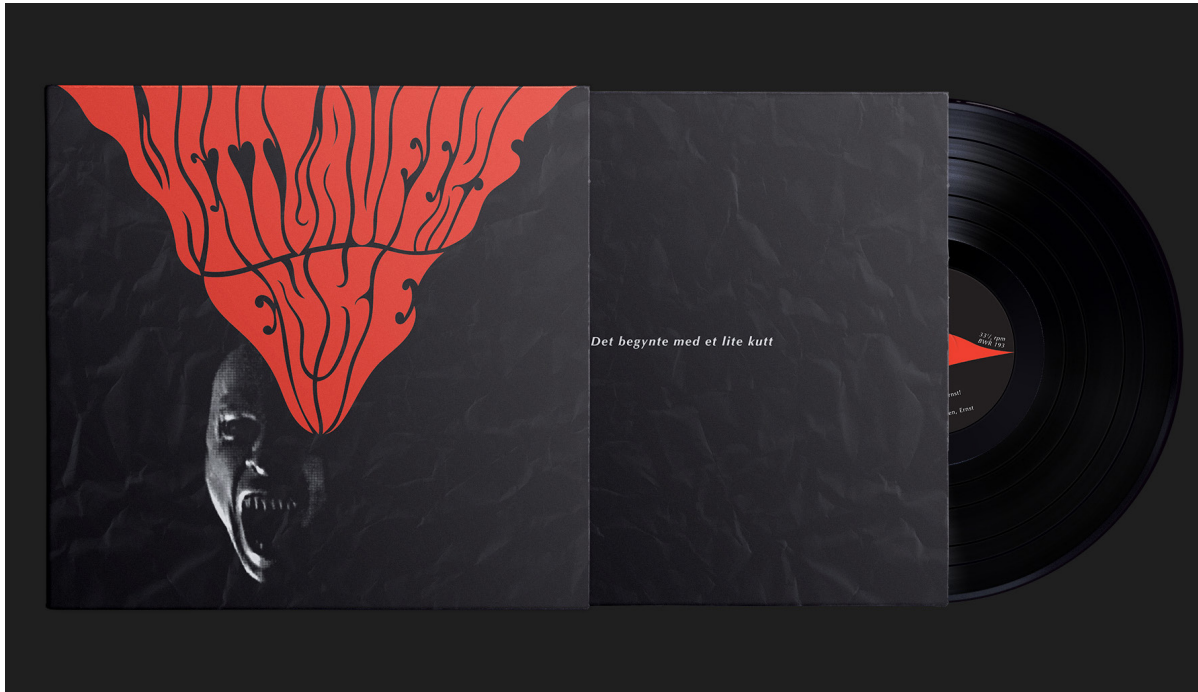
When Kristian Moe returned to *Wettlaufers Widow* in 2014 he used a number of Italian horror movie soundtracks for the temp track. Who could write new music that could achieve the same effect as these classic synth scores?

The answer was to ask Norwegian prog-veterans (or «cosmic space rock-veterans» as they prefer themselves) SEID. SEID's wonderful take on the classics that had inspired Kristian becomes a huge part of the final movie and in achieving Kristian Moe's vision.

SEID has existed for almost 25 years and have released three «regular» albums and the fourth will be released in November 2018.

Wettlaufers Widow was their first experience with writing a soundtrack.

The album is released on limited edition vinyl and is self distributed in Norway and by Black Widow records in Europe.



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