

Melancholia

FACTS

Title MELANCHOLIA
Original title MELANCHOLIA
Genre Psychological disaster film
Director Lars von Trier
Screenwriter Lars von Trier
Cast Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Alexander Skarsgård, Brady Corbet, Cameron Spurr, Charlotte Rampling, Jesper Christensen, John Hurt, Udo Kier, Stellan Skarsgård and Kiefer Sutherland
Producers Meta Louise Foldager, Louise Vesth
Executive producers Peter Aalbæk Jensen, Peter Garde
Production company Zentropa Entertainments27 ApS
Editor Molly Malene Stensgaard
Cinematographer Manuel Alberto Claro, DFF
Sound editor Kristian Eidnes Andersen
Duration 130 min (25f)
Year of production 2011
Shot on Arri Alexa
Sound Dolby 5.1 Digital
Format 35 mm
Screen ratio 1:2.35
Spoken language English
Country of origin Denmark
Domestic release 26 May 2011
Budget EUR 7.0m

FESTIVAL CONTACT

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Melancholia

Lars von Trier



Kirsten Dunst
Charlotte Gainsbourg
Kiefer Sutherland



PHOTOS: Christian Geisnaes

SYNOPSIS

Justine (Kirsten Dunst) and Michael (Alexander Skarsgård) are celebrating their marriage at a sumptuous party in the home of her sister (Charlotte Gainsbourg) and brother-in-law (Kiefer Sutherland). Meanwhile, the planet, Melancholia, is heading towards Earth... MELANCHOLIA is a psychological disaster movie from director Lars von Trier.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Lars von Trier (b. 1956) is the co-founder of the Danish production company Zentropa as well as one of the founders of the Danish Dogme movement in the 1990s.

Through the years, Lars has directed the following films: THE ORCHID GARDENER (1977); MENTHE – LA BIENHEUREUSE (1979), NOCTURNE (1980), THE LAST DETAIL (1981), IMAGES OF LIBERATION (1982), THE ELEMENT OF CRIME (1984), EPIDEMIC (1987), MEDEA (1988), EUROPA (1991), LÆRERVÆRELSET (1994), THE KINGDOM (1994), BREAKING THE WAVES (1996), THE KINGDOM II (1997), THE IDIOTS (1998), DANCER IN THE DARK (2000), D-DAY (2001), THE FIVE OBSTRUCTIONS (2003), DOGVILLE (2003), MANDERLAY (2005), THE BOSS OF IT ALL (2006), OCCUPATIONS (SHORT SUBJECT, 2007) and ANTICHRIST (2009).

Lars von Trier's films have won prizes worldwide and in Cannes, including the Palme d'Or for DANCER IN THE DARK, the Grand Prix du Jury for BREAKING THE WAVES and the Best Actress award for Charlotte Gainsbourg's performance in ANTICHRIST.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"It was like waking from a dream: my producer showed me a suggestion for a poster. "What is that?" I ask. "It's a film you've made!" she replies. "I hope not," I stammer. Trailers are shown ... stills ... it looks like shit. I'm shaken.

Don't get me wrong ... I've worked on the film for two years. With great pleasure. But perhaps I've deceived myself. Let myself be tempted. Not that anyone has done anything wrong ... on the contrary, everybody has worked loyally and with talent toward the goal defined by me alone. But when my producer presents me with the cold facts, a shiver runs down my spine.

This is cream on cream. A woman's film! I feel ready to reject the film like a wrongly transplanted organ. But what was it I wanted? With a state of mind as my starting point, I desired to dive headlong into the abyss of German romanticism. Wagner in spades. That much I know. But is that not just another way of expressing defeat? Defeat to the lowest of cinematic common denominators? Romance is abused in all sorts of endlessly dull ways in mainstream products.

And then, I must admit, I have had happy love relationships with romantic cinema ... to name the obvious: Visconti! German romance that leaves you breathless. But in Visconti, there was always something to elevate matters beyond the trivial ... elevate it to masterpieces!

I am confused now and feel guilty. What have I done? Is it 'exit Trier?' I cling to the hope that there may be a bone splinter amid all the cream that may, after all, crack a fragile tooth ... I close my eyes and hope! "



Lars von Trier

PHOTO: Christian Geisnaes