1989

(Dengang jeg var 5 år gammel) (when I was 5 years old)

Animated documentary short film (2010)

PRESS KIT





40TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM



CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Jacob Jarek (Producer)

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Imdb page: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1757649/

1989

(Dengang jeg var 5 år gammel) (When I was 5 years old)

PITCH

An animated short documentary, poetically describing the memories of a fiveyear-old boy (Thor Ochsner) who ends up in a dramatic car accident with his dad.

SYNOPSIS

It is an evening in October 1989. A five-year-old boy (Thor Ochsner) is on his way to pick up his mom at the airport. His father is driving the car, it is raining and the windscreen wipers move back and forth. All of a sudden a car accident happens and the five-year-old Thor is left alone, and has to figure out what to do. 1989 (when I was 5 years old) is a short animated documentary reconstructing the traumatic memories of a car accident that the director experienced when he was 5 years old.

CREDITS

Thor Ochsner Director Thor Ochsner Screenplay Thor Ochsner Animator Composer Martin Juel Dirkov Sound Oskar Skriver Editor Thor Ochnser Producer lacob larek

MAIN CAST

Thor Ochsner Voice over

TECHNICAL INFO

Length 10min 30sec For selection screening DVD, PAL, All region Format 16:9 / 5.1 Surround sound

Genre Animated documentary, short film, drama

Language spoken Danish Subtitles English, French

For screening 1:1,78: HD Cam w/ LTRT mix, Digibeta w/ Stereo mix & DCP w/ 5.1 mix

FESTIVALS per. December 2010

2010 Nordisk Panorama 5 cities festival, Bergen, Norway, Documentary competition

> Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden, New Nordic Documentaries Sundance Film Festival, Park City, USA, International shorts, animation spotlight International Film Festival Rotterdam, Holland, *Tiger Awards competition, shorts*

Tempo Documentary Festival, Stockholm, Sweden

2011

MINI BIO- & FILMOGRAPHY DIRECTOR

Thor Ochsner was born in Copenhagen.

2003 Graduated from the European School in Luxembourg.
2004 Graduated at the European Film College in Denmark.

2004-now Worked as an editor at TjuBang Film, Zentropa, Freeport Film, Mastiff, DDB, Strix

Television, Super16.

He currently studies as a film editor at The National Film School of Denmark

graduating in 2011.

2010 **1989 (when I was 5 years old)** is his first short.

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DIRECTOR STATEMENT

When you are five years old, there are many things you don't understand. Especially when you're seeing your dad lying on the ground and not saying anything.

I reconstructed the car accident from my point of view, as a five-year-old boy, going through a tragic accident.

All the things I could see and hear that night the accident happened is reconstructed with simple drawings and sounds. There's even space for the viewer to experience it themselves.

Some of my childhood paintings/drawings that were drawn in the period of the car accident 1989 are also being used, to have some of the real feelings from my childhood.

In the end there's no difference between a 5-year-old Thor and a 25-year-old Thor, except that it was a little sadder for the little 5-year-old Thor.

Thor Ochsner



Thor Ochsner, photo by Thor Ochsner © 2010

DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

Q: How did you get the idea for the film? What was your inspiration?

I grew up as a lonely child with my mom, but 1 1/2 year ago (May 2009) everything changed. It was a late evening sitting at the National Film School of Denmark editing a midterm project with a director. While I was editing I received a message on my cellphone. I had a look at it and saw that it wasn't a number I knew. I read the message:

Unknown: Do you know Ole Duus Hansen?

I got silent, Ole Duus Hansen was the name of my father and I started to reflect over what had happened to my father and me in 1989 when I was 5 years old, the year when I lost my father. I answered back to the person who sent the message.

Me: Yes that's the name of my father.

Unknown: I'm your half sister Signe. May I call you?

I was overwhelmed to get such a message and answered back:

Me: Yes of course can call me.

My sister called me immediately and from that point on I wasn't a lonely child; now I was the youngest among 4 siblings. I didn't sleep that night at all, because my head was exploding with memories from the accident in 1989 and the imagination of having siblings. A visual reconstruction of the accident had started!

Q: The film is visually very remarkable. How did you make it? Can you tell about the technique you used?

I lost my father when I was 5 years old and because of that I only had childish memories of my head. I started researching through all my drawings from my childhood. I chose a couple of drawings and drew the rest of the drawings myself to get the real five-year-old Thor in the drawings again. The green background through most of the movie is the green color of the car.

Q: What are your future projects? Do you want to go further with your technique?

- 1. There's still a lot I want to figure out about my dad and I'm trying to get as much info out my siblings, mom and my fathers family which I'm also in contact with now. All the information I get from my family is normally not registered on film or video, so I'll probably use my memory drawings again and even let my family draw some of the images.
- 2. My father had a really good soldier friend from the US and I'd love to figure out that person was and maybe he could also tell me more about my father.
- 3. The taxi driver who found me when the car accident happened is one of my biggest heroes, but I don't know who it is. Research is starting soon!

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All photos by Thor Ochsner © 2010



