

WORLD SALES

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CAST

Anne **Sidse Babett Knudsen**
 Ask **Nicolas Bro**
 Bente **Ellen Hillingsø**
 Bjørn **Anders W. Berthelsen**
 Charlotte **Ellen Nyman**
 Carl **Niels Ole Oftebro**
 Irina **Lea Maria Høyer Stensnæs**
 Fadi **Mohamed-Ali Bakier**
 Gustav **Mads Duelund Hansen**

CREW

Director **Charlotte Sieling**
 Screenwriters **Yaba Holst, Charlotte Sieling**
 Producer **Lars Bredo Rahbek, Bo Ehrhardt**
 Associate Producer **Søren Green**
 Executive Producer **Birgitte Hald**
 Co-Producers **Aagot Skjeldal, Helena Danielsson**
 Director of Photography **Jørgen Johansson, DFF**
 Editor **Mikkel E. G. Nielsen**
 Sound Designer **Mick Raaschou**
 Composer **Thomas Hass**
 Production Designer **Lars Nielsen**
 Costume Designer **Manon Rasmussen**
 Head Make-Up Artist **June Paalgard**
 Casting Director **Anja Philip**

CHARLOTTE SIELING
DIRECTOR

Born 1960. After securing a firm position as one of Denmark's finest TV directors **Charlotte Sieling's** debut feature *Above The Street Below The Water* became a box office success during late 2009 and one of the year's most widely seen Danish language titles in its home market.

Charlotte graduated as an actress from The Danish National School of Theatre back in 1985. From 1986 to 1995 she played major roles on stage at many of Copenhagen's leading theatres and in several DR TV drama series. Furthermore, she played substantial roles in films by Susanne Bier, Annette K. Olesen, Henning Carlsen, Per Berglund, Jacob Thuesen, Christina Rosendahl and Carsten Sønder.

From 1994 to 1996 Charlotte studied script writing at the National Film School of Denmark. Here she met and struck up a collaboration with producer student Lars Bredo Rahbek resulting in her 1998 debut short film *Tut & Tone* as well as her 2009 debut feature.

Starting in the late 1990's, Charlotte established herself as the most sought-after Danish TV director. She directed 8 episodes of the Emmy-awarded DR TV drama series *Unit One* and followed up by helping the Emmy nominated smash hit *Better Times* (16 episodes, running 50 minutes each). She has also directed episodes of the Emmy nominated drama series *The Killing* and most recently she won the audience award at the French Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival for the short film *45 cm*, which she directed together with Annette K. Olesen.

THE MATCH FACTORY presents a NIMBUS FILM production
 a film by CHARLOTTE SIELING
 SIDSE BABETT KNUDSEN NICOLAS BRO ANDERS W. BERTHELSEN
 ELLEN HILLINGSØ ELLEN NYMAN NILS OLE OFTEBRO

SOMETIMES IT HAS TO BREAK APART
 BEFORE IT CAN COME TOGETHER

TECHNICAL DATA

Running Time **90 minutes** • Format **CinemaScope 2.35:1**
 Sound Format **Dolby Digital**
 Original Title **OVER GADEN UNDER VANDET**
 Production Country **Denmark** • Production Year **2009**



ABOVE THE STREET
BELOW THE WATER

ABOVE THE STREET



SYNOPSIS



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Ask (Nicolas Bro) is married to Anne (Sidse Babett Knudsen). They have everything you could ever want. Good careers, lovely children and an apartment in Christianshavn – the most beautiful part of Copenhagen.

One morning Anne learns that Ask wants to take a break from their marriage. Why? Is he seeing another woman? Like rings in the water, Ask's decision starts affecting everyone around them.

ABOVE THE STREET BELOW THE WATER is a film about the adult generation of today. A generation for whom everything is possible. The sky is the limit but all choices have consequences...

Ask (**Nicolas Bro**) is married to Anne (**Sidse Babett Knudsen**). They have everything a couple could want. Good careers, lovely children, an apartment in Christianshavn, and each other. All is as it should be in a modern family faced with juggling work schedules, child rearing, and not least of all love.

Nevertheless, Anne's career as an actress and Ask's career as a photographer make their lives so difficult that they need to seek the help of couples' therapist Charlotte (**Ellen Nyman**). This morning at the therapist's place Anne learns that Ask wants a break. Why? Is he seeing another woman?

During the subsequent course of 24 hectic hours Anne can focus on nothing. Not her opening night in *Hamlet* at the Royal Theatre nor her 6 year old son Anton whom she forgets to pick up from school. When her teenage daughter Irina confides she may be pregnant, Anne succumbs to a total breakdown.

Meanwhile, Ask is ready to commit to his mistress Bente (**Ellen Hillingsø**) – a journalist he has kept waiting for several years. Bente is ecstatic about the possibility of finally moving together with Ask.

Bente's ex-husband Bjørn (**Anders W. Bertelsen**), lives on a houseboat drowning his sorrow in beer and missing Bente more than he should. Mooring just outside Charlotte's window their paths cross when Charlotte sails her kayak in the canals of Copenhagen.

Having just witnessed the break-up between Ask and Anne, Charlotte finds herself a potential but involuntary saviour of Bjørn. Charlotte is married to head of the Royal Theatre Carl (**Niels Ole Oftebro**). He loves her more than anything but finds it impossible to keep away from other women. When Bjørn enters the stage, Charlotte is suddenly the one in need of help.

Bjørn and Bente's teenage son Gustav works as a bricklayer's apprentice along with Irina's boyfriend Fadi. And finally, Fadi and Irina need to figure out if bringing a baby into a world as insane as this is truly a good idea. What if the vicious circle is never broken; what if children always end up making the same mistakes as their parents?

Above the Street Below The Water is a story about my own generation: A generation that has everything and can do everything – except figure out how to live together.

Using the Aristotelian idea of the unity of action, time and place as the guideline, I wanted to make a grotesque story of everyday life. One divorce. One 24-hour period. One city.

In a couples' therapy session, husband Ask astonishes his wife Anne with the idea, that he needs a break from their marriage. Then twenty-four hours fly by, in which six people try to survive their own choices, controlled by their passions or lack thereof. And it all plays out in one of the most beautiful parts of Copenhagen: Christianshavn.

While these adults struggle obsessively with their emotional lives, their children, who will eventually become parents, watch their role models in astonishment. Are we supposed to become like them?

Charlotte Sieling

BELOW THE WATER

