



A RATIONAL SOLUTION





SYNOPSIS

Erland is working in a paper mill in a small industrial town together with his best friend Sven-Erik. In his spare time he is, together with his wife May, running a school of marriage which is an evening discussion group at the local church. At a party Erland is overcome by a strong attraction and soon begins a love affair with Sven-Erik's new wife Karin. Erland's rational solution is that the four of them should sit down and discuss the situation. They decide that Sven-Erik and Karin should move in with Erland and May. Furthermore they set up 10 rules for their new life together. This experiment really puts them to test and threaten to plunge them all into the abyss.

Director's note

How far are we prepared to go for the sake of love? Quite far, it seemed to me after reading Jens Jonsson's script for **A RATIONAL SOLUTION**.

Four grown-ups in a small northern industrial town are struggling with their stormy emotions. Four perspectives and four voices that are orchestrated by a series of events that will change their lives forever. Four people who are not that young anymore but who are victims of their emotions in the same way that teenagers are, but hide it behind a façade of rationality.

These people and their moving struggle for love really captivated me. I immediately attached to them, started to regard them as close friends, wishing them all the best despite all their shortcomings. And I still do.

The script is a drama of ideas; it is old-fashioned in that sense and I wanted to keep and make use of this in the cinematic style by being traditional and simplistic. The film is based upon solid and credible acting, both low-key and realistic. Through all of the acting shines a warm feeling from the comedy that comes up when people in a crisis try to solve their problems with the wrong tools.

I have tried to create a tender-hearted portrayal of these lost people. To really pierce through and examine faith, friendship, passion and rationality with this great ensemble and this fantastic script has truly been a gift of grace.

I hope that **A RATIONAL SOLUTION** turns to a broad audience. Every adult who has been in a love relationship should be able to relate to this film and once again ask themselves how far they are willing to go.



Director Jörgen Bergmark

Jörgen Bergmark has a solid background in film, TV and Theatre. He won great success with **Kitchen Stories** where he was co-writer and co-producer. The film won a number of international awards, most notably the Fibresci Prize at Tromsø Int. Film Festival 2003, the Amanda at the Norwegian Film festival in Haugesund, The Distribution Prize "Europa Cinemas" at Cannes Film Festival, Director's Fortnight 2003 and The Golden Swan at Copenhagen Int. Film festival 2003.

Other films by Jörgen Bergmark is the short film **A love affair**, which was nominated for a Guldbagge at the Swedish Film Awards 2003 and nominated for "Best Short" at the Hollywood Film Festival 2003. His short **Time out** was awarded the Filmblicken award at Umeå Int. Film festival 2005. Jörgen also produced **Linerboard**, a short film by Jens Jonsson that was awarded the Canal+ prize "Nordisk Panorama" in 2006. Furthermore Jörgen writes and directs for Swedish Television. **A RATIONAL SOLUTION** is Jörgen Bergmarks feature film debut.



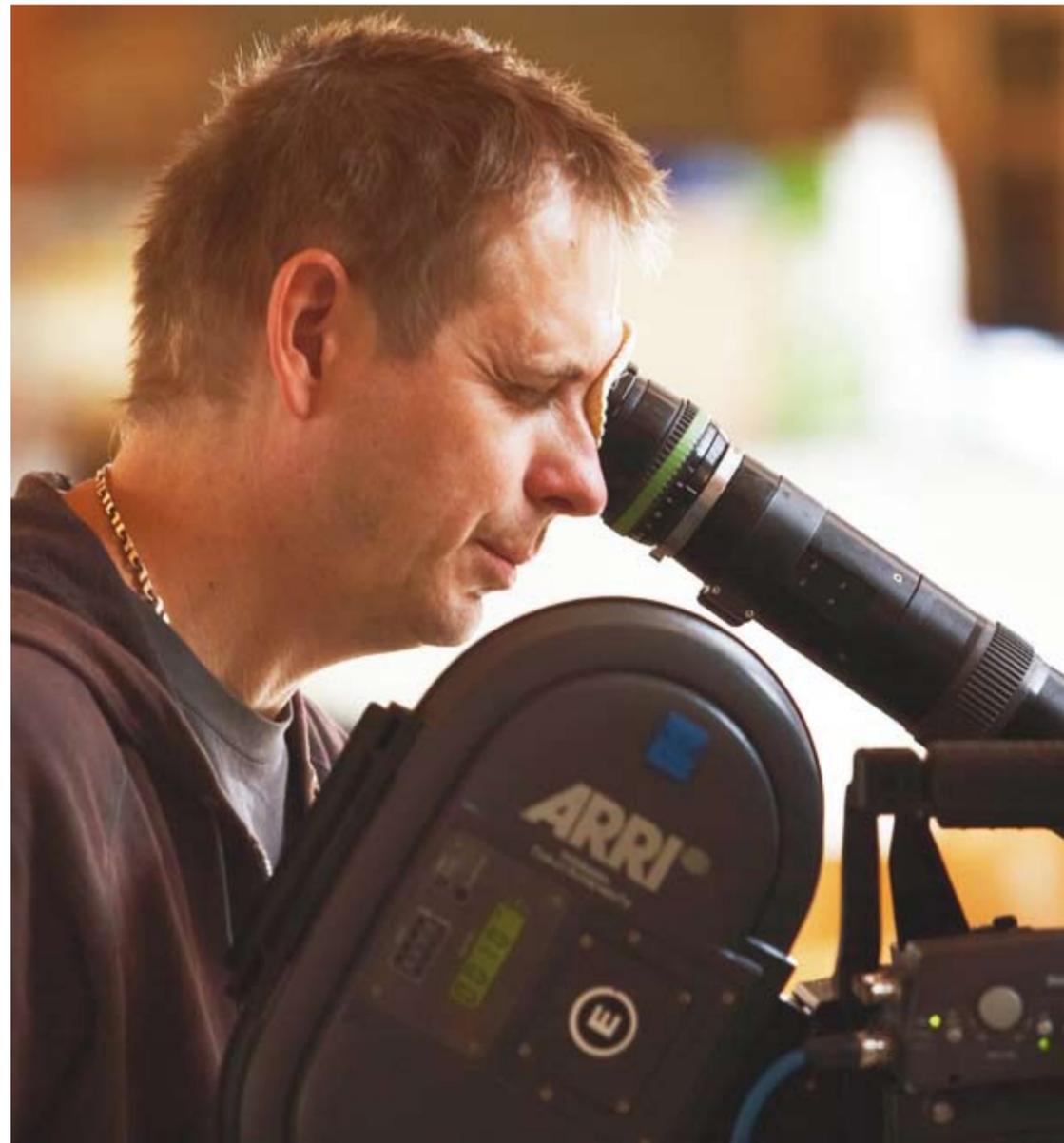
Scriptwriter Jens Jonsson

In a short period of time Jens Jonsson has established himself as one of the most internationally recognized directors in Scandinavia. His first feature **The King of Ping-Pong** won the "Grand Jury Prize" at Sundance film Festival 2008. The film also won a Silver Hugo at Chicago Int. Film Festival and a Golden Athena award at Athen's Film Festival. Before that he has been recognized for a series of short films. **Brother of Mine** was awarded the Silver Bear in Berlin, **Reparation** and **K-G for better or for worse** both were awarded the Silver-Award in Cannes Film Festival.

Jens' films have been screened in a special Jens Jonsson-retrospective at a number of festivals. Most notably at Tampere International Film Festival, Rotterdam Int. Film festival, Stockholm Cinematique, Clermont-Ferrand Int. Film Festival, Sao Paulo Int. Film Festival, Cork International Film Festival, Gothenburg Film festival, Leuven Film Festival in Belgium and lately at the Goshort Film Festival in The Netherlands.

Director of Photography Anders Bohman

During the last ten years Anders Bohman has established himself as one of the most highly renowned photographers in Sweden. Early on he started a collaboration with Ella Lemhagen with films such as **The Prince of Dreams** and **Immediate Boarding**. For his photography in Lemhagen's **Tsatsiki, Mother and the Policeman** Anders was awarded a Guldbagge for best Photography. His work can also be seen in specially recognized such as **Waiting for the tenor, Miss Sweden, Sandor Slash Ida, Mouth to Mouth** and **Heaven's Heart** by Simon Staho.



Producer Helena Danielsson Hepp Film

Hepp film was established in 2003 by Helena Danielsson after a 15 year career in the Scandinavian and European film industry as AD, production manager, line producer and producer. Since its start Hepp Film's titles have received many awards and nominations including an International Emmy award nomination, international festival prizes as well as Scandinavian academy awards. Hepp film's core activity is developing and producing feature films, TV-dramas and documentary in collaboration with top European talent. Helena Danielsson and Hepp film are members of ACE (Ateliér Cinema European) and EFA (European Film Academy).

A RATIONAL SOLUTION TEN RULES FOR A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP!

1. Sexual intercourse is engaged with the utmost respect and only in the bedroom.

2. Outsiders shall be kept outside and unknowing.

4. Everyone has a responsibility to be totally honest.

3. Discretion applies for all conversations of a delicate nature.

5. Respect everyone's need for a space of their own and time for themselves.

6. Respect must be shown for everyone's work hours and habits.

7. Knock on closed doors before you open.

8. Immediate moving apart of the collective when the current living situation has fulfilled its purpose.

10. Avoid intimacy of an emotional nature.

9. Dishes – Erland, laundry – May, cooking – Karin, cleaning – Sven-Erik. (Followed by a rolling schedule)

Productions and Co-Productions Hepp Film

Cargo, feature by Clive Gordon with screenplay by Paul Laverty. **Day and Night**, feature by Simon Staho. **The Custody**/Tv-series by Susan Taslimi and with screenplay by Kalle Lind. **Search** feature by Maria Von Heland. **Those who whisper**/Tv-series by Maria von Heland. **Smiling in a Warzone**, feature documentary by Simone Aaberg-Kaern and Magnus Bejmar. **Aparecidos**, feature by Paco Cabezas, **The Walk**, short by Csaba Bene Perlenberg. **A RATIONAL SOLUTION** by Jörgen Bergmark with screenplay by Jens Jonsson.

Hepp film also co-produced Sören Kragh-Jacobsen's latest film **What No One Knows** and is currently in preproduction for award winning actress Pernilla August's feature debut **Svinalängorna**, starring Noomi Rapace known from the international hit Millenium films based on Stieg Larsson's novels.



Actor Stina Ekblad

Stina Ekblad is a part of the Swedish Royal Dramatic Theater's permanent ensemble and one of Sweden's finest actors. She was trained at Odense Theater's drama school and came to Stockholm's Municipal Theater in 1980. She has done a number of renowned roles on radio, TV and film among which **Fanny and Alexander** (1982), directed by Ingmar Bergman, **The Serpent's way** (1986), directed by Bo Widerberg and **Like It Never Was Before** (1995), directed by Susanne Bier, are often specially mentioned. Stina also works a lot with reciting poetry and has for example put together a CD with poems by Edith Södergran. In the fall of 1998 her performance of the Gospel according to St. Lukas at the Orion Theater and the tour that followed it attracted a lot of attention.

In 2006 Stina Ekblad was awarded the Swedish daily newspaper Svenska Dagbladet's Thalia Prize for her role in **Fedra**. At the Swedish Royal Dramatic Theater she has recently been seen in Hamlet on the main stage. In 2009 she is playing in John Caird's production of **The Merry Wives of Windsor**.



Stina Ekblad



Claes Ljungmark

Actor Claes Ljungmark

Claes Ljungmark is an experienced character actor. He was trained at Stockholm's drama school and made his debut on stage with *Hoppla vi lever* at Stockholm's Municipal Theater. He has also worked at Theater Galeasen (*Don Juan* and *Broder Hund*), Theater Tribunal (*Dead End*), theater Giljotin in Stockholm (*Modet att döda*) and at the Swedish Royal Dramatic Theater (*Helgonlegender* by Majgull Axelsson).

Outside the theater he has played in many films and TV-productions. He has a fantastic ability to portray a wide variety of characters. From **Jesus lives** (1997) to a pedophile in **Good Morning Children** (2005). From a father in **Viktor and his brothers** (2002) to detective Münster in the series based on three books by Håkan Nesser (*Det grovmaskiga nätet* in 2000, *Återkomsten* in 2001 and *Kvinna med födelsemärke* in 2001). Claes has also filmed abroad in Danish films **The Bad Seeds** (1996) and **The biggest Heroes** (1996). He has worked with director Jörgen Bergmark before in the TV-series **Höök** (2007) and in the short film **Mentor** (2006).

Actor Rolf Lassgård

Rolf Lassgård is one of Sweden's most beloved actors. He was trained at Malmö's drama where he came in contact with director Peter Oskarsson who brought him to the Skånska Theater. They worked together at the theater for over four years. One of their productions, A midsummernights dream (1980) was also made in a TV-version. After that Rolf moved to the newly established Folk theater in Gävle. There he played in a number of praised productions, like for example Den stora vreden (1988).

His first film role was in **Wanted** (1991), and the year after he made the critically acclaimed role as "Tjaffo" in Kjell-Åke Andersson's **My Big Fat Father**. For the role as "Tjaffo" he was awarded the Swedish "Guldbagge prize for best male in a leading role".

After that he has portrayed a number of very Swedish and appreciated characters in a long series of films. Many times as detective Kurt Wallander in the films and TV-series based on Henning Mankell's books, like for example in **The Fifth Woman** (2002), **Sidetracked** (2001) and **One Step Behind** (2005). Rolf also played Gunvald Larsson in a number of films about detective Marin Beck, films based on the novels by Sjöwall-Wahlöö. From **The Fire Engine that Disappeared** (1993) and forward.

In Kjell Sundvall's **The Hunters** (1996) Rolf played Erik, the man who returns to the town where he grew up. In Colin Nutley's **Such Is Life** (1996) he played a cheating hotel owner and in **Under the Sun** (1998) the lonely farmer Olof. He played the leading role in the Swedish/Danish/Norwegian film **Magnetist's Fifth Winter** (1999). Rolf has also been seen in various TV-productions such as Lars Molin's **Potatishandlaren** (1996) and Leif Magnusson's **Kvinnan i det låsta rummet** (1998). The 13 January 2000 he took over the role as Billy Flynn from Jan Malmsjö in Chicago.

In the latest ten years Rolf has been seen in a many films. Two of his strongest performances were in Susan Bier's **After the Wedding** (2006) and Åke Sandgren's **To Love Someone** (2007). **After the Wedding** and **Under The Sun** were Oscar nominated for best foreign film.

Actor Pernilla August

Made her debut as early as in her teens in Roy Andersson's **Gilliap** (1975). In 1979 she was accepted to Stockholm's Drama School where she was discovered by Ingmar Bergman. This led to her role as the nanny in **Fanny and Alexander** (1982). In 1982 she started working at the "Folk Theater" in Gävle and played in Strindberg's A Dream Play and Tjechov's Three Sisters. After a couple of years she came to The Royal Swedish Dramatic Theater with roles in Shakespeare's Hamlet and Ibsen's A Dollhouse.

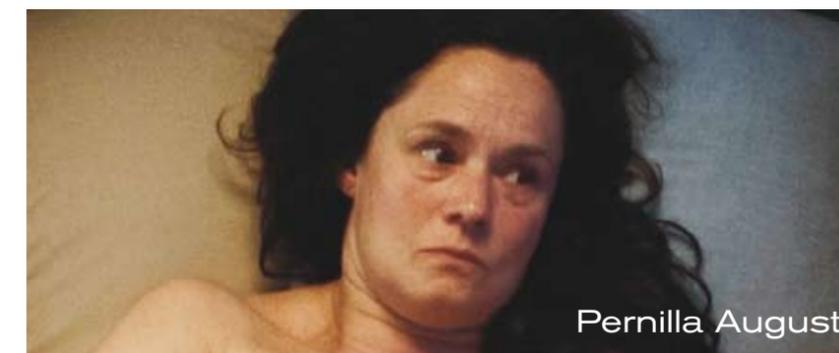
In 1991 Pernilla got her big breakthrough playing Ingmar Bergman's mother in Billie August's **The Best Intentions**. For this role she was awarded best actress at the Cannes Film Festival 1992.

In the last decade she has played in films such as **Details** (2003), **Daybreak** (2003), **Mouth to Mouth** (2005) and **Kenny begins** (2009) to mention a few. One of her strongest performances in recent years was in the Danish TV-series **Forestillinger** (2007) directed by Per Fly.

Pernilla August has also made an international career with films such as **Starwars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace** (1999) and **I am Dina** (2002). In the fall of 2008 she participated in the play Blommor av stål at the Vasa Theater. Pernilla August has been very successful as an actress and has won many awards through her magnificent work and her collaboration with Ingmar Bergman, Billie August and George Lucas. She is now making her debut as a feature film director when Susanna Alakoski's August Prize-winning novel **Svinalängorna** is about to become a film. She has also directed the short film **Time-Bomb** in 2005.



Rolf Lassgård



Pernilla August

Production Facts

Director: JÖRGEN BERGMARK

Screenplay: JENS JONSSON

Producer: HELENA DANIELSSON, Hepp Film

Co-Producers:

KARL BAUMGARTNER and RAIMOND GOEBEL, Pandora Film,

TERO KAUKOMAA, Blind Spot Pict,

STEFANO MASSEZI, Lucky Red,

JENS JONSSON, Jens Jonsson,

JÖRGEN BERGMARK, Filmimperiet

Director of Photography: ANDERS BOHMAN

Editor: MATTIAS MORHEDEN

Production Design: PETER BÄVMAN

Costume Design: PAOLA BILLBERG JOHANSSON

Makeup artist: EVA-LENA JÖNSSON LUNDE

Original Music by: NATHAN LARSON

Cast:

Erland – ROLF LASSGÅRD

Karin – PERNILLA AUGUST

May – STINA EKBLAD

Sven-Erik – CLAES LJUNGMARK

Priest – MAGNUS ROOSMAN

Amongst others.

Technical specifications:

Length: 104 min

Picture format: Cinemascope

Sound: DOLBY DIGITAL



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