

NIMBUS FILM PRESENTS

SUPERCLÁSICO

A Film by

OLE CHRISTIAN MADSEN





02

SYNOPSIS



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Christian (*Anders W. Berthelsen*) is the owner of a wine store that is about to go bankrupt and he is just as unsuccessful in just about every other aspect of life. His wife, Anna (*Paprika Steen*), has left him. Now, she works as a successful football agent in Buenos Aires and lives a life of luxury with star football player Juan Diaz.

One day, Christian and their 16-year-old son get on a plane to Buenos Aires.

Christian arrives under the pretense of wanting to sign the divorce papers together with Anna, but in truth, he wants to try to win her back!



COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Filmed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, *Superclásico* is a Danish comedy set in an exotic locale. And the wine, the tango and the Latin tempers run high – when Brønshøj meets Buenos Aires!

This is the first time that a Danish film crew has shot a feature film in Argentina, and it has been a great source of experience and inspiration not least for director Ole Christian Madsen for whom *Superclásico* is also his debut as a comedy director. The following is an interview with Ole Christian Madsen by Christian Monggaard.

Life is a party

"You experience a kind of liberation in Argentina," says Ole Christian Madsen about his new film, the comedy *Superclásico*, which takes place in Buenos Aires and deals with passion, love, wine, football, and a divorce.

Passion is one of the central points in Ole Christian Madsen's new film, *Superclásico* – his first after *Flame & Citron* – which is set in Buenos Aires and deals with different kinds of love. According to the director, the film is the last installment of a trilogy that started with *Kira's Reason – A Love Story* and *Prague*.

"*Kira's Reason – A Love Story* is about the lead-in to the break-up," he says. "*Prague* is about the break-up itself, and *Superclásico* was to be about the time that followed the break-up. I wanted to maintain that division into three, I just wanted to do it in a very different way, tell it in a very different tone."

And that is exactly what Ole Christian Madsen has done in collaboration with screen-writer Anders August: Where *Kira's Reason – A Love Story* and *Prague* were intense and dramatic chamber plays – with a few touches of humor – *Superclásico* is a purebred comedy.

A film about love

"Normally, when you tell the story of a divorce, you focus on the time when you sit and nurse your emotional wounds. But after *Prague* I learned that I had yet to tell the story of all the absurd and funny aspects of my own and others' lives that I find myself laughing at," says 44-year-old Ole Christian Madsen. "And essentially, I wanted to tell a story about love. *Superclásico* is about different kinds of love. Every character we meet in the film has an idea of what love is. The problem with our sorrow in relation to love and divorce and loss is that we tend to make a claustrophobic prison for ourselves. This film tries to open that up, put it into a bigger picture and view it in a highly cheerful light. It deals with very serious matters, but it insists on seeing the positive emotions in the situation."



Football player Juan Diaz is someone, who focuses on the positive side of life, the director explains. "He has a complete openness, a great, great passion, and a sense that life is fleeting and must be lived to the fullest. He has decided that his life is a party. We often make the opposite choice, the easy one."

After all, it's easier to just nurse your wounds – which Christian has done for a year when the film starts. Argentina is just the right country for him to go to. You experience a sense of liberation in that country, which is linked to the fact that the people are passionately engaged in what they talk about, engaged in passing on information and discussing. It's a conversation country and people converse in a way that I haven't experienced before."



Comedy lightens the story

The Danish director has found inspiration especially in American and British comedies for the tone of *Superclásico*, partly because he thinks that most of our domestic comedies are based on the same, farce-like template. The farce is fine in smaller portions, but if you use it too much: "You let down the real characters of real life stories behind the story," says Ole Christian Madsen.

"In other countries, they know how to tell stories about what people long for and think of, and at the same time they manage to use the comedy genre to lighten the tone of those stories." Ole Christian doesn't think that making a comedy was difficult for him, because, as he explains, there are also elements of comedy in his other films.

"It was just a matter of rearranging the elements," he says. "The challenge for me, when making a film like this, is to always look for the comedic element. How do I make the scenes funny? We shouldn't let them get over the top – sometimes the film goes right up to the line, but it sticks to the basic story."

Football and tango

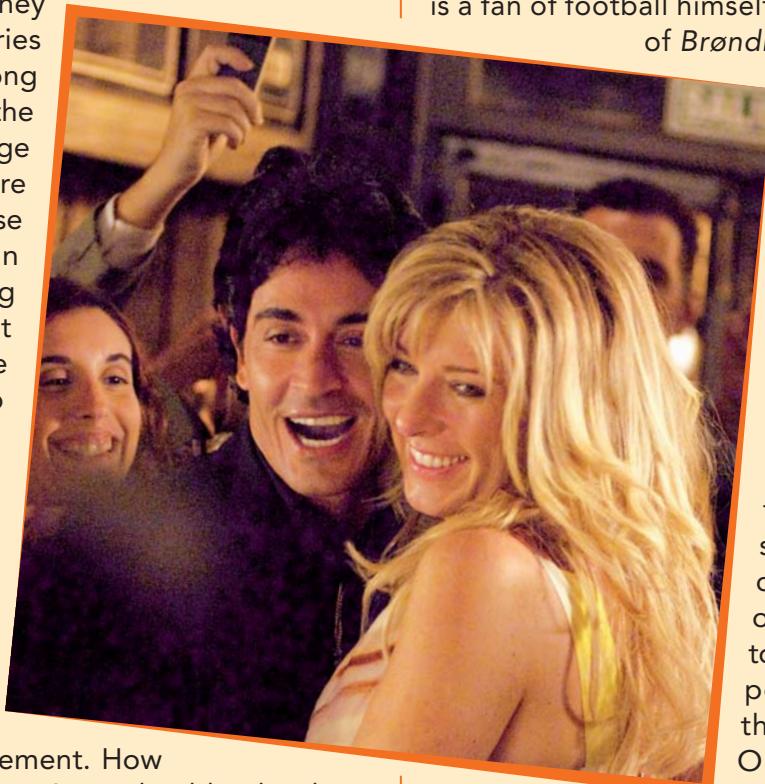
From the very beginning we wanted Anna to be a football agent. "She trades in men," says Ole Christian Madsen, who has always wanted to bring together Anders W. Berthelsen and Paprika Steen

in a film. "They haven't acted together before, and they are very different and have two very different temperaments. I wanted her to be a woman who does business with men and is capable of making these very drastic decisions that I find that women are often capable of making."

However, *Superclásico* is not about football, as the director stresses, but football is a sounding board for the marital comedy drama. And of course this gave him the chance to work with something he enjoys – Madsen is a fan of football himself and a longtime supporter of *Brøndby* – and to set the story in Argentina and Buenos Aires, where football is a passion. (By the way, Ole Christian Madsen is also a wine enthusiast, and Argentine wine plays a substantial role in *Superclásico*.)

"Spending time in Argentina has definitely given me a new perspective on the game of football," he says. "I knew about the big clubs, but I didn't know that one could devote one's life to a 4th division club, which people do simply because that is their favorite club. Only a very few people devote their lives to *Brønshøj Boldklub* or to any other club in Denmark."

The title of the film, *Superclásico*, is also the name of the local showdown between Buenos Aires' two greatest football clubs, which causes a fever of excitement in the city every year. "It's violent, wild, and crazy, and I wanted that kind of passion to be reflected in this marriage. Argentina is a country of great passion – controlled passion that simmers below the surface."







Easier and more fun

The Argentine actors have also made a great impression on Ole Christian Madsen. "There is an absurd madness in them," says the director about soap star Sebastián Estevanez, who plays *Juan Diaz*, Miguel Dedovich, who plays one of Christian's new friends, the misanthropic wine farmer *Mendoza*, and Adriana Mascialino, who plays *Anna* and *Juan Diaz'* aging but highly sensual maid, *Fernanda*.

"It has been a challenge to make them understand that it was meant to be both moving, light, and funny, but seeing that they were able to play their parts in that way has given me a new perspective on life. I'm not sure who I'd rather be." He pauses and then smiles. "But I'd probably rather be *Juan Diaz*."

End of the interview

About the title

The title refers to the annual *Superclásico* – a local football showdown between the two rivaling football clubs *Boca Juniors* (which Maradona played for before he moved to Naples) and *River Plate*. The showdowns of FCK and Brøndby are no match at all for the Argentine ones. Being a football fan in Argentina is a passion without equal.

But in diplomatic circles the title also refers to 'un caso clásico' – an expression the Argentines use about the very frequent case of a European woman applying for a visa to settle down in Argentina after having fallen in love with a (usually) younger and very hot Latino man.



THE CAST



Anders W. Berthelsen *Christian*

Anders W. Berthelsen graduated from The Danish National School of Theatre in 1994. He had his breakthrough on film in 1996 in Niels Arden Oplev's *Portland* and since then he has had roles in some of the greatest Danish film successes. His credits include Ole Christian Madsen's *Pizza King* (1999), Søren Kragh-Jakobsen's *Mifune* (1999), Lone Scherfig's *Italian for Beginners* (2000), Nikolaj Arcel's *King's Game* (2005), Ole Bornedal's *Just Another Love Story* (2007), Niels Arden Oplev's *Two Worlds* (2008), and Charlotte Sieling's *Above the Street, Below the Water* (2009).

Anders W. Berthelsen has also made his mark on TV, where he had his breakthrough as René in *Taxa* (1996-99) and later in *Better Times* (2004-06) and *Album* (2008).

In theatre he has had several roles at The Royal Danish Theatre, Østre Gasværk and Nørrebro Teater. In 1999, he won a Reumert award for best supporting role in *Personkreds 3*. Recently, he could be seen on stage with Nikolaj Kopernikus and Troels Lyby in the performance of *Tre lede stjerner* at Bellevue Teatret, and in 2011, Anders can be seen in *Superclásico*, in Carlos Oliveira's *Rosa Morena*, and in Niels Nørløv Hansen's *Klassefesten*.

Paprika Steen *Anna*

Paprika Steen graduated from Odense Theater's School of Acting in 1992 and since then she has made a name for herself as one of Danish film's most important actresses. She has shown her versatile talent in comedic as well as dramatic roles. She revolutionized Danish comedy with Martin Brygmann, Hella Joof and Peter Frödin in the comedy quartet Lex & Klatten. Paprika Steen was the only actress to appear in all of the dogme films *The Idiots* (1998), *Mifune* (1999), and *The Celebration* (1998).

Furthermore, most Danes remember her for her role as Sidse Babett Knudsen's friend Stella in *The One and Only* (1999) for which she received a Bodil award. In 2003 Paprika Steen made Danish film history, when she was the first one ever to win two Robert and two Bodil awards for her leading role in *Okay* (2002) and her supporting role in *Open Hearts* (2002). Since then, Paprika Steen has had memorable roles in such great Danish film successes as *Rembrandt* (2003), *Adam's Apples* (2005), *The Substitute* (2007), *The Early Years* (2007) and *Fear Me Not* (2008). In 2009, she played the leading role in Martin Zandvliet's *Applause* for which she won a Robert award for best actress in a leading role.

Simultaneously with her career in Denmark, Paprika Steen has also worked as an actress in the USA, Sweden and Germany in recent years. Paprika Steen debuted as a director in 2004 with the drama *Aftermath* which was nominated for 10 Robert awards in 2005. In 2007 she directed the dark comedy *With Your Permission* featuring Sidse Babett Knudsen and Lars Brygmann in the leading roles.



Jamie Morton *Oscar*

Jamie Morton is probably best known for his role as Buster Bob in *Buster Bob and Streetwise Sally* (2005) as Krumme in *The Crumbs – A Very Crumby Christmas* (2006). But he has also lent his voice talents to a number of films, series and animated films including *Brother Bear* (2004), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005), *Nanny McPhee* (2006) and *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody* (2007).



Sebastian Estevanez *Juan Diaz*

Sebastian Estevanez is the most famous of the Argentine actors in *Superclásico*. In Argentina and Mexico he is beloved for his great roles in a number of very popular TV series. *Superclásico* is Sebastian's feature film debut.



Adriana Mascialino *Fernanda*

Adriana Mascialino is known primarily from the comedy genre in Argentina. She has been in a number of plays, including *Boeing-Boeing*, which earned her an award for best actress in a comedy. Furthermore, she has appeared in a number of TV series and shows.



Dafne Schilling *Veronica*

As of yet, Dafne Schilling is an unknown quantity. Apart from *Superclásico* she has only appeared in *Blood: The Last Vampire* (2009).



THE CREW

Ole Christian Madsen *director & writer*

Ole Christian Madsen is the man behind some of the best Danish films in recent years. He co-wrote with writer Lars K. Andersen and directed *Flame & Citron* (2008). Ole Christian Madsen feature film debuted with *Pizza King* in 1999. The following year came the acclaimed, historical TV drama series *The Spider*. This was followed by the striking and award-winning feature films *Kira's Reason – A Love Story* (2001), *Nordkraft* (2005), and *Prague* (2006). Furthermore, Ole Christian Madsen has directed episodes of the TV series *Taxa* (1997) and *Unit One* (2000), and directed *Happy Jim* (1993), *Stormfulde Hjerter* (1994), and *Sinan's Wedding* (1996). He has also directed the documentary film *Only for Madmen* (1988) about the Danish rock band *Steppeulvene*.



Signe Leick Jensen *producer*

Signe Leick Jensen is attached to Nimbus Film as a producer and in addition to *Superclásico* she has also produced *The Experiment* by Louise Friedberg (2010) and co-produced *Limbo* by Maria Sødahl. Her filmography includes several of the most memorable Danish films produced in the last ten years. As a producer she has been involved in Lars von Trier's *Manderlay* (2005), *The Boss of It All* (2006), and Anders Morgenthaler's *Eat Shit and Die* (2008). As a production manager / coordinator she has worked on *The Celebration* (1998), *Mifune* (1999), *Pizza King* (1999), *Miracle* (2000), *Kira's Reason – A Love Story* (2001) and *It's All About Love*.

Lars Bredo Rahbek *producer*

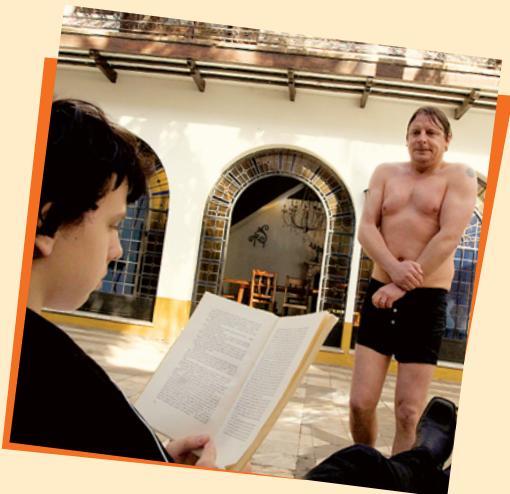
Lars was employed as a producer for Nimbus Film 1997 – 2008 and again from 2009. Here he launched the great dogme film successes *The Celebration* (1998) and *Mifune* (1999) internationally. Lars has worked with a number of the greatest directors in the business. He executive produced *It's all about Love* (2003) by Thomas Vinterberg and produced *Skagerrak* (2003) by Søren Kragh-Jacobsen, *A Soap* (2006) by Pernille Fisher Christensen (which received several awards at the 2006 Berlin Film Festival, including the great Silver Bear), Ole Christian Madsen's epic film *Flame & Citron* (2008), Søren Kragh-Jacobsen's successful paranoia thriller *What No One Knows* (2009) and Charlotte Sieling's feature film debut *Above the Street, Below the Water* (2009). Furthermore, Lars has co-produced the Spanish film pearl *Torremolinos 73* (2003).

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Anders Frithiof August *screenwriter*

After having worked as a cinematographer's assistant on several films and commercials, Anders Frithiof August was accepted to the screenwriting program at The National Film School of Denmark, where he graduated in 2007. He was the co-writer of the Danish short film *The Pig*, which was nominated for an Oscar in 2009, as well as *Camping* (2009), and *Applause*, which he wrote with Martin Pieter Zandvliet. Furthermore, he has written episodes of the TV series *Lulu & Leon* (2010) and *Lærkevej* (2010). This year, he has written the screenplays for *Superclásico* and *Dirch*.

CREDITS

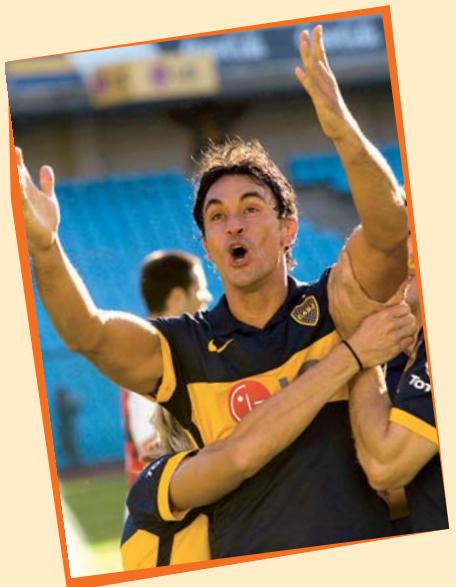


Cast

Christian *Anders W. Berthelsen*
Anna *Paprika Steen*
Oscar *Jamie Morton*
Juan Diaz *Sebastian Estevanez*
Fernanda *Adriana Mascialino*
Veronica *Dafne Schilling*
Mendoza *Miguel Dedovich*

Crew

Director *Ole Christian Madsen*
Producers *Lars Bredo Rahbek / Signe Leick Jensen*
Executive Producer *Bo Ehrhardt*
Line Producer *Kristina Kornum*
Screenwriters *Ole Christian Madsen / Anders Frithiof August*
Cinematographer *Jørgen Johansson*
Editor *Søren Ebbe*
Production Designer *Søren Schwartzberg*
Sound Designer *Hans Møller*
Composer *Jonas Struck*



Technical Details

Running Time *99 minutes*
Screen Ratio *Cinemascopic*
Sound Format *Dolby Digital 5RD*
Language *Danish/Spanish/English*
Production Country *Denmark*
Production Year *2011*



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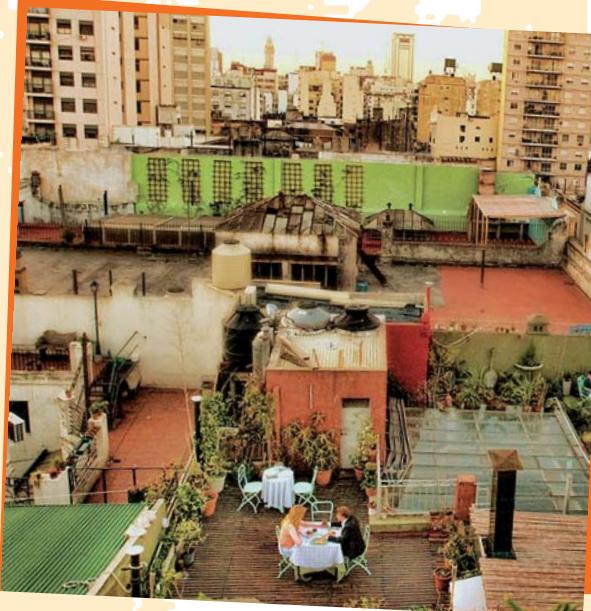
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