

# THE MEN'S CHOIR

fuglene presents

a film by Petter Sommer and Jo Vemund Svendsen



## SYNOPSIS

«It's harder to become a member of The Men's Choir than Hells Angels», say the members – a rowdy party of beer thirsty middle aged ex-rockers. 15 years ago they promised to sing in each other's funerals.  
«Of course, it will be awkward for the second last one of us alive», they joked.

But now the joke has become reality.

Their beloved conductor, Ivar, has been diagnosed with cancer and has just 3 months left to live. But he refuses to die before their biggest gig ever: Warming up for Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne on Midsummer's Eve in front of 10.000 people.

Ivar's sickness catalyzes a change in the choir, making the men able to show that they care about one another without feeling ashamed.

The song and the brotherhood in choir gives Ivar strength to carry on longer than the doctors thought was ever possible – the music becomes life-prolonging. Ivar's persistence to conduct until he dies makes the men think about some of life's biggest questions; When you are doing everything for the last time – what is there to live for?

<b>Title</b>	<b>THE MEN'S CHOIR</b>
<b>Production Company</b>	<b>FUGLENE AS</b>
<b>Format</b>	<b>90 MIN – DCP 16:9 NORWEGIAN</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>POST@FUGLENE.NO, +47 90 18 18 47</b>
<b>Finished</b>	<b>SPRING 2018</b>



## DIRECTOR'S VISION

During the last 15 years, the inner life of The Men's Choir has been a well kept secret. Having some well known faces from media and the music scene among them, the masculine men have been very protective of themselves; It's a brotherhood where what happens in the choir remains in the choir.

But as the conductor knew he was about to die, the film-makers got the opportunity to document these rowdy middle aged tattooed men, observing how they change both as individuals and as a group as Ivar gets sicker and sicker.

At first sight, The Men's Choir is a group of rough, vulgar, funny yet sometimes sexist men enjoying drinking beer, telling jokes and singing together. Seeing the movie, we want the audience to feel this way about them too, and – based on their prejudices – maybe wanting to take out distance. But slowly as we'll reveal more layers, we see how these assertive and tough men turns into sensitive, caring and courageous people, who behind their manly masks really

tries to find ways to express their love for each other as the first among them is dying.

We believe this film will expand people's understanding of what is to be a man in an environment of men, and that hiding our weaknesses necessarily isn't the best or only option when we're dealt a bad hand. There are many sides to being a man, and it is in fact possible for men to talk about their feelings and show that they care about their buddies without being sissies – even if you've passed 50 ...

Throughout filming The Men's Choir and Ivar's last months together, we were reminded of how important it is for us humans to belong, and that we all share the fundamental desire to find a meaning with our lives – no matter how tough we may look on the outside.

We hope this heartbreaking drama, placed in an everyday life, will make the audience feel the same way.

## CHARACTERS

**Ivar Krogh Hovd - the conductor**

Ivar is a vital guy with a strong presence who lives and breathes music. The family father is not afraid of talking or joking about death. When Ivar first started working for the choir nine years ago, they were in dire need of his excellent musical skills and devious pedagogy. But now, as he soon will die, it's Ivar who needs the choir and their care.

**Svein Bjørge - the Armani rocker**

Svein is a real badass rocker with black hair, black clothing and many tattoos – most of them taken while being drunk. At the same time he's a smart, well-spoken and a skilled business man.

**Gunnar Martinsen - the wise man**

Gunnar describes himself as the choir's most feminine man. Working as a nurse, he has a high expertise on cancer. He's therefor in a position to guide the other guys through the inevitable facts regarding Ivar's sickness.

**Knut Akselsen - the outspoken one**

Knut is a Man with capital M. At the same time, he's really caring and takes care of the conductor when he's at his weakest in front of the choir.

**Marit Gjervan - the wife**

Marit is Ivar's girlfriend through fifteen years, married for two. Together they have their young kids Lotte and Sivert. Marit is the one who is closest to Ivar's weakness, especially at the hospital, the weeks before he dies.

**Lasse - the dad**

Lasse Hovd is the father who is about to outlive his son. He's kind, and wants to be there for his eldest son as much as possible. Since Ivar is not allowed to drive himself, Lasse drives him to every single practise and concert.



## BUDGET IN EUROS

DEVELOPMENT	81 000 €
DOP AND EQUIPMENT	31 725 €
DIRECTORS	85 330 €
SOUND RECORDING	5 580 €
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	37 200 €
POST PRODUCTION	51 135 €
MUSIC	27 900 €
ADMINISTRATION	80 030 €

**TOTAL BUDGET** 400 000 €

Financing in place 15,5%



### Directors

PETTER SOMMER (born 1975) has directed the documentaries «When Dad kills» (TV2 - 2013) and «Operation conspiracy» (TV2 - 2014). Both winning the Gullruten prize in Norway. He works as a journalist at NRK and has also sound designed and mixed many Norwegian documentary films.

JO VEMUND SVENDSEN (born 1988) has directed the documentary «When children become pop stars» (TVNorge - 2017) and written «Online Celebrities» (TV2 - 2016). As a journalist he work at the «22nd of July»-documentary «Terror Island» (2011). He was voted the radio talent of the year in Norway (2012) and worked for two years as a news correspondent for P4 Radio in New York City, USA.

### Producers

KARI ANNE MOE and GUDMUNDUR GUNNARSSON are the founders of, and the producers at Fuglene, based in Oslo. Gudmundur is from Iceland and has a varied background from the theater, music and film-business. He also runs the post-production-company Bonanza, specializing in documentaries. Kari Anne works as both a producer and director, her two last films as a director are Bravehearts (2012) and Rebels (2015). Gudmundur has produced Rebels, and co-produced Diving into the unknown (2016).