



# Behind The Swedish Model

Press Kit - Documentary 76" / 58"



**LOGLINE** *Behind The Swedish Model* closely joins Epidemiologist *Anders Tegnell* and Health Minister *Lena Hallengren* as their Pandemic Strategy gets headlines all over the world. How do they handle worship, hate and an increasingly astonished world?





the State Epidemiologist who became a meme, and a tattoo...

**Title** Behind The Swedish Model **Genre** Documentary **Director** Viktor Nordenskiöld **Producers** Dylan Williams Viktor Nordenskiöld  
**CoProducer Sweden** Asta Dalman SVT **CoProducer Norway** Tone Grøttjord-Glenne/Sant Og Usant **Editor** Simon Carlgren Tell Aulin  
Petter Brundell **Sound Design** Håkon Lammetun **Grafik Design** Johannes Molin **Additional Cinematography** Niklas Panthell  
**Research** Tomas Lindblad **Archive Log** Sara Henriksson **Production** Freetownfilms / SVT / Sant Og Usant **with support from the**  
**Swedish Film Institute** Klara Nilsson Grunning/Anna Weitz **Norwegian Film Institute** Eirin Gjerv **Nordisk Film & TV Fond** Karolina  
Lidin **World Sales** Outlook Filmsales GmbH

the Minister of Health who became the face of the government





"I might get into the Guinness Book of Records, for making the most interviews in a week" he says laughing.

Publicly he has a formal attitude, but a dry sort of humor is always present at the office. Somebody says that Tegnell has many wrinkles around the eyes, but few on his forehead, so he must laugh more than worry.

Soon you can buy t-shirts, bags, cups and underwear with his face. He becomes a meme, a statue and people start to tattoo his face on themselves.

He is admired but also hated. He receives threats against himself and his family, and the police begin to investigate his surroundings. Extra security measures are taken around the Corona daily briefings in order to make him keep standing there in front of the Swedish people.

Spring brings tough news for Tegnell and his Public Health Agency. In mid May 2020, Sweden has the highest number of Covid-deaths per capita in the world.

Imagine now that you are the Minister of Health - how would you react?

## TREATMENT, SYNOPSIS, PREMISE

Imagine you are about to make the most important decisions in your professional lifetime.

Something unknown is making its way into our world, along with many questions - to which somebody must answer. And this somebody is *you*.

Imagine also that the answers from you and your team are very different from the rest of the world.

This is what happens one of the main protagonists in this film.

As a reporter from Channel 4 (UK) puts it: "If not the best Epidemiologist in the world, certainly the best known."

He is talking about Sweden's *Mr Pandemic* - State Epidemiologist **Anders Tegnell** - a civil servant who suddenly becomes very controversial and very famous.





The second main protagonist of the film is Health Minister **Lena Hallengren**.

The Swedish government has a long tradition of listening to the experts, and Hallengren puts trust in the Agency.

Initially there were consensus in the parliament about what to do.

But as the death toll rises - this consensus breaks. One opposition party says that the government has chosen a strategy that kills people, that they are responsible for a massacre.

Publicly she has to stay calm, but at office her patience is wearing thin.

And there is more adding up to the pressure. One year into the pandemic, the Health Minister also becomes a patient. Hallengren suffers from breast cancer and has to go through surgery and treatment with chemotherapy.

But she gets a wig and keeps on working. And even the most personal condition has to be given a political narrative, when and how to publicly talk about the disease.

This scene driven documentary with unique access follows Anders Tegnell, Lena Hallengren, and also Tegnell's boss, **Johan Carlson**, and Sweden's Foreign Minister, **Ann Linde**, as they fight the crisis and try to deal with the rising chorus of those questioning their judgement.

As the pandemic spreads with frightening speed governments from all over the world struggle to find the right response.

Sweden is one noteworthy outlier. Most schools, gyms, bars and restaurants remain open. This approach leads to astonishment from governments, medical experts and media sources from all over the World.

Tegnell and his team talk about long-term measures. They don't believe in *lockdowns* - they argue that the most vulnerable won't get protected by it anyhow. They say closing down schools are a high-risk approach, endangering bad public health in many ways.

They also stress the importance of people believing in the restrictions implied - otherwise it will not work no matter what.

When protesters scream and urge Tegnell to resign, he looks clearly stressed. But asked about what he thinks about the people screaming, he simply says: "We live in a free society."

Is the Swedish "experiment" doomed or was the rest of the world merely acting in a knee jerk reaction? And will the Swedes in the long run be proven right - or wrong?



The Foreign Minister Ann Linde explaining the allegedly unique Swedish Model live on France 24



## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

What is it like to have the power to make controversial decisions that might effect the lives - and deaths - of a country's citizens? What does it take to go against the tide? What do you think about history judging you?

These were some of the questions I had in mind filming the people of power during this crisis.


However, to understand the people behind the decisions you must not only find what is not in the news, but also what it not possible to get from interviews; the daily life at work, the meetings, the humor, the absurdities and complexities that form a character.

I observe, the protagonists act and reflect. The film itself is surely my reflection, but I'm not interested in arguing if they were right or wrong, I let the audience be the judge.

But I do hope the film will be one piece of the big puzzle, understanding how people can deal with a crisis like this.

It was a strange ride - me biking around Stockholm - from the Minister-bubble to the Agency-bubble - always afraid of bringing contamination to the key decision-makers...

Viktor Nordenskiöld, director. Photo by Felicia Margineanu



Voices about the film: "Viktor Nordenskiöld ('The Feminister') is an expert at capturing the small details of big decisions as he follows the jovial Tegnell at work around the clock." - CPH:DOX

## PRODUCERS STATEMENT

This film offers us a rare opportunity in a historic moment to document at first hand the actions and reactions of those in power who plotted a response to the Pandemic that was so different to the vast majority of the world.

It is a story of global interest that will live long in the memory, and will be revisited and analysed for many years to come.

## MAIN PROTAGONISTS

*Anders Tegnell*, 65, physician specialized in Infectious disease. State Epidemiologist of Sweden. Previously worked for World Health Organisation WHO in Laos and for MSF in Ebola-affected Zaire (Kongo). In March 2022 he return to WHO.

*Lena Hallengren*, 47, Minister for Health and Social Affairs, since January 2019. Minister already at the age of 29.

## VISUAL APPROACH

Scene-driven observatory Cinema Varité backed up with interviews, news, voice over and graphics.

## RELEASES

Premiered at Gothenburg Film Festival **GIFF** 2022. International premiere and **Nominated for Nordic:Dox Competition** at **CPH:DOX** 2022. TV in Sweden, Denmark and Norway (SVT, DR, NKR)

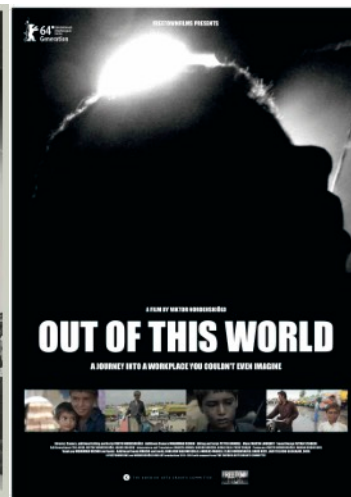


A smoothie at the Government restaurant, with the Health Minister Lena Hallengren and the Director for the Public Health Agency Johan Carlsson.





The Health Minister Lena Hallengren meeting the health workers - online.



## DIRECTOR, PRODUCER VIKTOR NORDENSKIÖLD

**BIO** Viktor Nordenskiöld is an award winning Swedish director, producer and journalist. He has made many films for TV, his first released feature *The Feminister* (2019) premiered at CPH Dox and his short *Out of This World* (2014) premiered at Berlinale. He has a Master of Arts (MA) from Stockholm University of the Dramatic Arts and a Bachelor (Bj) in Journalism from The Netherlands and Denmark. Apart from his own documentaries, he also works for the Swedish Arts Grants Committee, as an international news journalist at Swedish TV and in the board for B2B Documentary Network.

### FILMOGRAPHY (selected)

**THE SECRET / HEMLIGHETEN**

Director, (In Prod) developing SVT  
**LUST FOR LIFE / CARRY ON**  
Director, (In Prod) with support from The Swedish Film Institute  
**THE FEMINISTER (UTRIKESMINISTERN)**

Director. 2019. Feature Doc. Co-Produced by SVT. Premiere CPH Dox , Special Jury Mention, Milano International FF  
**OUT OF THIS WORLD** Director 2014. Short Doc. Winner Best Documentary FICL, Official Selection Berlinale Gen 2014  
**I WAS WORTH 50 SHEEP** Ass Producer. 2010. Feature Doc. NimaFilmSweden. (Dir Nima Sarvestani). Winner Best Doc Gothenburg Film Festival 2011.  
**TOMORROW** Director 2011. Short Doc. Winner Best Documentary, Cinema Out Of Your Backpack Awards 2011.  
**EN SOM ALLA - ALLA SOM EN** Director & Producer 2008. Doc 58" Modern Studios/ SVT/

Swedish Film Institute / Swedish Arts Grants Committee.

## DOM KALLAS RASISTER

Producer 2010. TV4. Runner up Best Documentary Swedish Broadcasting-Award "Kristallen" 2011. Doc 46 min.

## MISSION: SAVE THE OCEAN.

Editor/Producer & Field Producer. 2012-2013 (National Geographic, Nat Geo Wild/TV4) TV-doc series. 3\*28)

## SVENSKA

**SOLDATFABRIKEN** Director & Producer. 2008. Modern Studios. Co-producer TV4. Developing funds from SFI and Film i Väst.

## KANTULES SKUGGA

Director 2006. Co-produced by SVT Documentary 58.

## IDOLER MOT

**ALLA ODDS** Director 2007 Doc TV4 46 min.

## FREDLÖS (OUTLAW / GIRLS IN

**JEOPARDY)** Director 2001. TV4. Doc 46 min.

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## PRODUCER DYLAN WILLIAMS

**BIO** Multi award winning filmmaker including Best Film Silverdocs FF, Goethe-Institut Documentary Film Prize, Best Documentary – Art Doc Fest, Moscow, Winner Prix D'Italia, Best Documentary Los Angeles International Film Festival, Nominated for Best European TV Documentary – Prix Europa, Grierson Award, TV Kristallen Award.

### FILMOGRAPHY (selected)

**MEN WHO SING** Feature Doc Director. Producer. With support from The British Film Institute. Film Agency Wales, SVT In Production.

**DE KALLAR MIG: REGISSÖREN** (2019) Director. Producer With support from SVT



**THE HEART IS A DRUM** (2019)

Feature Documentary  
Producer.

With support from SVT. ARTE  
France – Germany, Film i Väst  
Premieré CPH:DOX

**LAST BREATH** (2019) Feature  
Documentary

Producer.

With support from NETFLIX. BBC.  
ZDF-ARTE, Creative Scotland.

**SWIMMING WITH MEN** (2018)

Fiction Feature

Executive Producer. Distributor:  
Icon, Cinema in 15 countries  
Dir. Oliver Parker. Starring Rob  
Brydon, Jim Carter.

**EXIT** (2018) Feature Documentary  
Co-Producer.

With support from ARTE. NRK.  
YLE. SVT. Netflix

Multi-award winning documentary  
where a former neo-nazi meets  
former Neo Nazi, Islamic and  
Anarchy extremists all over the  
world.

**THE BORNEO CASE** (2016)

Feature Documentary  
Producer/ Director. ZDF-ARTE,  
SVT, SFI, FAW, DFI (16 Financiers)  
Premieré IDFA Masters Section  
2016. 50 Film Festivals.  
<http://theborneocase.com>

**NOTES ON BLINDNESS** (2016)

Feature Documentary  
Co-producer.

With support from Netflix, ZDF-  
ARTE, BBC, SFI

Premieré Sundance, Winner at  
Tribeca, San Fransisco, Sheffield  
Doc Fest.

Nominated for 3 BAFTA Awards  
including Best Film.

Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=SAY1r13Xe5M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAY1r13Xe5M)

**STORYBOARD P** (2016) Feature  
Documentary

Producer

World Premiere Sheffield Doc  
Fest. Full Frame.

With support from SVT, SFI, SABC

**PALMES HEMLIGA AGENT**

(2015) TV Documentary

Producer/ Director with support  
from SVT, SFI, SABC

**THE MACHINE** (2013) TV

Documentary Producer

With support from SVT, SFI

**THE PERFECT SODA** (2013)

Short Documentary

Executive Producer:

With Support from TV4

**INFECTED** (2012) TV

Documentary Director With

Support from SVT

**ONCE THERE WAS LOVE** (2012)

Feature Documentary Producer

With support from SVT, DR2, YLE,  
NRK, SFI Nominated for Best  
European TV Documentary – Prix

Europa Honourable Mention  
– Prix D'Italia Best Documentary  
– Art Doc Fest, Moscow Winner

Best SVT Documentary SVT  
Ikaros Prize Nominated Kristallen  
Winner Best film Vera Film Festival  
Winner Estonian People's Award

Pärnu International Film Festival  
Nominated Dragon award GIFF

**MANEUVERS IN THE DARK**

(2011) Feature Documentary

Producer With support from  
SVT, DR2, YLE, NRK, SFI

**MEN WHO SWIM** (2010) Feature

Documentary Director With

support from SVT, BBC, ZDF-  
ARTE, VPRO, PBS, YLE

Sales to 70+ TV Territories;

Selected for over 50 festivals

worldwide Theatrical Distribution :

Sweden. Taiwan. Spain. Chile.

Argentina. Uruguay. UK

Nominated Grierson Award – Most  
Entertaining Documentary

Won The Audience Award at

Supetar Film Festival, Croatia

Won The Audience Award at AFI-

Silverdocs, Best Sound at Los

Angeles International Film Festival

Link: <https://vimeo.com/89393076>  
p: swimmers

**COPRODUCER SVT**

**ASTA DALMAN**

**EDITOR**

**SIMON CARLGREN**

**And Then We Danced**

directed by Levan Akin

Feature. A passionate coming-of-  
age tale set amidst the  
conservative confines of modern  
Tbilisi, the film follows Merab, a  
competitive dancer who is thrown  
off balance by the arrival of Irakli,

a fellow male dancer with a  
rebellious streak.

Nominee Cannes international's  
film festival 2019, Best Film  
(Guldbagge) in Sweden 2020, all  
in all 27 wins and 26 nominations.

**Mating** (Parning)

directed by Lina Mannheimer

Documentary. A year in the life of a  
young millennial couple. Nominee  
Nominee CPH:DOX, Gothenburg  
Film Festival

**EDITOR**

**TELL AULIN**

**BIO** Multi Award winning editor,  
born in Mariestad in southern  
Sweden. Specialized as  
documentary film editor with a  
distinctive artistic adherence and  
ability to create depth and feeling.  
Producer and co-director of  
several documentaries,  
e.g. *Women With Cows*, which  
received an IDA nomination 2012  
and won prizes at festivals in  
Krakow and Salem. In 2019 he  
became a board member of the  
Swedish editors association SFK.

**FILMOGRAPHY** (selected)

Producer and editing, "**The cows  
in The Sunshine Valley**" short  
documentary by Peter Gerdehag  
and Tell Aulin. Deep Sea  
Productions, SunTower  
Entertainment and SVT. Screened

at Salem Film Fest, Boston  
Massachusetts USA,  
(2019).Editing and post production  
manager of the feature length  
documentary "**Taikon**" by director  
Gellert Tamas and Lawen  
Mohtadi. SVT and SFI.

Editing and co-director of the  
feature length documentary "**The  
Horseman's last stand**" by Peter  
Gerdehag and Tell Aulin.  
*Nominated to the Swedish  
documentary Award at Tempo  
Film Festival 2014.*

Editing and co-producer of the  
feature length documentary  
"**Women with Cows**" Official  
Competition Karlovy Vary 2011,  
Official Competition Palm Springs  
Film Festival 2012. Official  
Selection at Hot Docs 2012.  
Nominated to the Swedish TV  
Prize - The Crystal Award 2012.  
Winner of The Golden Horn at  
Krakow Film Festival 2012.  
Nominated to IDA Awards, LA,  
USA 2012, winner of The Salem  
FilmFest, USA 2013

Script and editing of the feature  
length documentary "**The  
Horseman**"  
by Peter Gerdehag and Tell Aulin  
*Winner of the Northern Vision  
Prize " Prize for excellent visual  
achievement " in Pärnu Film  
Festival. Nominated to the*

*Swedish TV Prize - The Crystal  
Award and the Swedish Movie  
Award "Guldbaggen" 2007.*

Editing doc "**The Laserman**".  
*Winner of the TV award The  
Crystal Special Commendation for  
artistic expression at the Prix  
Europa IRIS Berlin 2006.*

**EDITOR**  
**PETTER BRUNDELL**  
**NILS NOUCHI**

**ADDITIONAL**  
**CINEMATOGRAPHY**  
**NIKLAS PANTHELL**

**RESEARCH**  
**TOMAS LINDBLAD**

**LOGG / ARCHIVE**  
**SARA HENRIKSSON**

#### **FULL CREDITS**

Directed by  
Viktor Nordenskiöld

Produced by  
Dylan Williams  
Viktor Nordenskiöld

Director of photography  
Viktor Nordenskiöld

Gimbal photography  
Niklas Panthell

Additional photography  
Tim Ekendahl  
Erik Pauser

Edited by  
Tell Aulin  
Petter Brundell  
Simon Carlgren  
Viktor Nordenskiöld  
Nils Nouchi  
Dylan Williams

Edit consultant  
Tone Grøttjord-Glenne

Original Music  
Martin Landquist

Film Graphics  
David Ricci

Title Graphics  
Johannes Molin

Log  
Sara Henriksson

Grade  
Fredrik Harreschou

Sound design and Re-recording  
mixer  
Håkon Lammetun

Sound effects editor  
Adrian Souyris Strumse

Dialogue mixer  
Anna Nilsson

Online editor  
Simon Carlgren  
Jens Valberg

Post Production facilities Norway  
Filmreaktor

Postproduction manager  
Birk Hanum

In Co-Production with Swedish  
Television  
Executive producer SVT  
Asta Dalman

In Co-Production with  
Sant & Usant AS  
Coproducer  
Tone Grøttjord-Glenne  
Executive producer  
Anita Rehoff-Larsen  
Line producer  
Helen Prestgard

In association with  
Backflip Media  
Producer  
Dylan Williams

Financial support by the Swedish  
Film Institute,  
Film commissioner  
Klara Nilsson Grunning  
Anna Weiss  
Controller  
Jenny Örnborn  
Festival Manager  
Sara Rüster



Financial support by the  
Norwegian Film Institute,  
Film commissioner  
Eirin Gjerv  
Production adviser  
Ravn Wikhaug

Produced with the support of the  
Nordisk Film & TV Fond  
Senior Advisor Documentary  
Karolina Lidin  
Senior Advisor Strategy and  
Administration  
Lise Lowholm

Commissioning editor for DR2  
Ida Høyer Bom

Acquisitions Executive NRK  
Fredrik Færden

Fritt Ord Foundation  
Deputy Director  
Bente Roalsvig

World Sales  
Autlook Film Sales  
Salma Abdalla,  
Stephanie Fuchs, festival manager  
Maria Rabbe, marketing

Archive:  
SVT (Rapport/Agenda/archive)  
Sveriges Radio (Ekot / Studio Ett /  
Lördagsintervjun)  
Channel 4  
TV4 Nyhetsmorgon / Nyheterna  
Aftonbladet TV  
Bloomberg News  
Sky News

Sant & Usant AS

Accounting  
Gerhard & Sønn AS  
Audit  
Partner Revisjon AS

Freetownfims AB

Accounting  
Ann-Marie Johansson  
Ordab  
Audit  
Josefine Hole  
ReCo Revision

Still photo of the director  
Felicia Margineanu

Translation  
Ellenor Larsson  
Svensk Medietext

Special Thanks to

Sofia Klemming Nordenskiöld  
Malcolm Dixelius  
Tomas Lindblad  
Ulla Nordenskiöld  
Gustaf Nordenskiöld  
Claes Nordenskiöld  
Per J Andersson  
Ingela Bendt  
Bo Landin  
Stig Hansén  
Johannes Stjärne Nilsson  
Johan Palmgren  
Edward Bromberg

## IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Anders Tegnell  
Lena Hallengren  
Johan Carlson  
Christer Janson  
Sara Byfors  
Magdalena Andersson  
Per Bolund  
Ulf Kristofferson  
Jasmina Sofic  
Catharina Piazzolla  
Ann Linde  
Klara Höök  
Pernilla Engström  
Sara Rörbecker  
Maja Fjaestad  
Olivia Wigzell  
Tobias Lundin Gerdås  
Cateno De Luca  
Antonio Decaro  
Boris Johnson  
Charlie Devereux  
Niclas Jacobson  
Kristoffer Strömberg  
Mikael Lindström  
Donald Trump  
Cecilia Söderberg-Nauclér  
Anna Wetterqvist  
Lisa Brouwers  
Moa Rehn  
Karin Tegmark Wisell  
Daniel Johansson  
Elin Aarflot  
Stefan Löfven  
Ulf Kristersson  
Ann-Christine From Utterstedt  
Jimmie Åkesson  
Ellen Lundqvist  
Malin Grape

Johan Giesecke  
Jonathan Rugman  
Maria Axelsson  
Sara Fritzell  
Jon Pelling  
Sofia Johansson  
Karin Enström  
Lars Jilmstad  
Tuve Skånberg  
Bengt Eliasson

## LINK TO TRAILER

[https://vimeo.com/  
678795519](https://vimeo.com/678795519)



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FREETOWN  
FILMS