



DIRECTOR PROFILE

JOHAN STAHL



Some of Johan's earliest memories as a young boy revolve around his captivation and obsession with cinema. One hot summer afternoon at the age of nine: Johan was charged with the joyful duty of taking his younger brother to see the Disney classic "Dumbo" at a local small cinema on an island south of Copenhagen.

But instead of "Dumbo" flapping his ears into the kids hearts that day, the projectionist had mistaken the film rolls and the first twenty-five minutes of "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" was screened instead --- to an audience of traumatized pre-teens. Johan – unlike most of the other kids – was absolutely mesmerized by the visceral thrills of the imagery. His little brother was in shock.

Not content to simply being a spectator to this magical medium, Johan began writing and filming his own versions of classic cinema themes and comedy sketches. He used his two cousins as "talents" and an old VHS camera that was unknowingly loaned to him by the school his Mother taught at.

The idea of directing films stayed with Johan as he grew into his teens. This was his life's obsession, along with writing songs and playing Rock N Roll music in his many young garage bands.

Johan went on to be educated at the National Danish Broadcasting. While there he spent eight years executing everything from hosting radio and TV shows, to directing, writing, shooting and producing multi award winning comedy shows, entertainment shows as well as TV-documentaries.



The years spent at the Danish Broadcasting made Johan a one-man army. He directed, filmed and produced music videos and segments for a variety of different shows e.g. "The Boys From Angora" – one of the most successful and multi award winning comedy show in the history of Danish Broadcasting.

Johan was D.O.P on two multi award winning documentaries "THE RED CHAPEL" which was shot in the world's most tyrannical dictatorship, North Korea. (World Cinema Jury Prize, Documentary 2010 Sundance, Best Nordic Documentary, Best of the Fest IDFA 2009) and "THE AMBASSADOR".

An exposé on the vast web of corrupt diplomats that screened at Sundance 2012, was the IDFA opening film 2012 and won a Robert Award (the Danish Oscars) for Best Feature Length Documentary.

Johan also directed and hosted a TV-comedy series where he did "a day in the life" interviews with icons such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Dolph Lundgren, Ralph Machio, Ice-T and many other "has-been" celebs from the eighties and nineties.

Johan's first commercial was a world wide TV & Cinema campaign for the fashion brand "Jack & Jones". It was shot in Los Angeles in one nineteen-hour shoot day, which to Johan felt like a day spent in heaven.

The pure joy of this experience forced Johan to make a leap from TV and become a full time director to pursue commercials and features.



Johan recently finished campaigns for GE, Shell, The Danish Defence and & The Carlsberg Group.

His first short-film WEEKEND DAD has already picked up two awards for best shortfilm at Europe's biggest children's film festival - The Giffoni Film Festival & at The Rimouiski Carrousel in Canada. Johan is currently writing and developing two features.

Johan is a great visual storyteller and continues to prove himself as a filmmaker that balances disarming humanity and razor-sharp technique with the ability to naturally tell fun fast paced stories.





