

# THE GREAT SILENCE

**DIRECTED BY KATRINE BROCKS**

**PRESS KIT**

**SAN SEBASTIÁN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**NEW DIRECTORS SECTION**

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*Alma is about to take her vows as a nun in a Catholic convent, when her estranged brother Erik arrives. His presence unearths a tragedy from their past and with the ceremony approaching, Alma is increasingly haunted by resurfacing trauma.*

Original title..... Den Store Stilhed  
Running time ..... 95 minutes  
Country of origin..... Denmark  
Production year ..... 2022

Starring..... Kristine Kujath Thorp, Elliott Crosset Hove & Karen-Lise Mynster  
Director..... Katrine Brocks  
Script ..... Marianne Lentz & Katrine Brocks  
Producer..... Pernille Tornøe, Monolit Film ApS

*Best Nordic Project Award, the Finnish Film Affair 2021*



## — DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT —

With 'The Great Silence' I want to explore the existential struggle between the flawed and the flawless, the saint and the sinner and the basic human instinct to hide our ugliest, darkest sides away. Clinging to the light in order to not look at our own darkness – searching for a higher truth while not being able to face the truth of who we are and stand by the things we have done wrong.

I was raised in a Christian commune and as a child I experienced God as a protective yet judgmental father figure, who would punish me if I were to trespass against Him. As an adult, I have gradually come to understand that a central part of the Christian message is that we are fundamentally loved and that we can find forgiveness regardless of what we have done. But my experience of growing up with Jesus as the ultimate role model was that I had to live up to a very high standard to be loved by God.

Although I am no longer a Christian, I still live with guilt and shame as constant companions and a tendency to suppress and hide parts of myself for fear of not being loved. These reflections on how religion has shaped me have formed fertile ground for the development of Alma's character. She suffers from a kind of "angel child complex", while her brother Erik represents the opposite - he is the problem child who was thrown out from home and feels great anger towards religious hypocrisy and Alma's feigned goodness.

This angel child complex is the essence of 'The Great

Silence'. It is a tale of going to extreme lengths to appear as a good person and how we demonize other people while polishing our own halo. The film delves into the human struggle to feel good enough and worth loving with all that we are - including our darkest secrets.

The idea of setting the story in a monastery stem from the fact that I witnessed a family friend taking her perpetual vows in a monastic order in France. It made me wonder if she has struggled with giving up all the things that normally form the cornerstones of a modern secular existence: family life, career, personal possessions, sex and worldly love. How can a modern person experience a spiritual love that transcends all that? What makes a person choose such a strikingly different life? These questions have stayed with me throughout working with the film.

The fact that the film takes place in a monastery has made it possible to bring some existential themes to the fore and examine how two people try to find meaning in 'The Great Silence' – the void that arises in the face of a senseless tragedy. When a tragedy occurs, some people become more religious, while others lose their faith or see it as further evidence of a godless universe. In the clash between the two siblings and their diametrically different outlooks on life, the film deals with this paradox.

*Katrine Brocks*



FOTO: DAVID BAUER

## KRISTINE KUJATH THORP

Kristine Kujath Thorp is a Norwegian-born actress who currently lives in Copenhagen, Denmark. Kristine is known for movies and TV series such as *Fanny* (2018), *Under bølgerne, over skyerne* (2019), *Den største forbrytelsen* (Betrayed) (2020), *Noget om Emma* (2020) (DR-3 Denmark) and *Nordsjøen* (The Burning Sea) (2021).

In spring 2021, Kristine starred in the award-winning Norwegian comedy-drama, *Ninjababy*, for which she won the Amanda award for best actress. *Ninjababy* won the SXSW Film Festival Audience Award Global and the award for best comedy at the European Film Festival in 2021, and its success both in Norway and internationally, brought Kristine to the attention of audiences worldwide for her portrayal of the lead character, Rakel.

In 2022, Kristine has leading roles in the Norwegian movie, *Sick of Myself*, directed by Kristoffer Borgli, and Danish movie, *The Great Silence*, directed by Katrine Brocks.

She also has a degree as a production designer from The Royal Danish Academy for Architecture, Design and Conservation (Det Kongelige Danske Kunstakademis Skoler for Arkitektur, Design og Konservering) in Copenhagen.



FOTO: CHRISTIAN KROG

## ELLIOTT CROSSET HOVE

Elliott Crosset Hove is a Danish-American actor born March 18th 1988, in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is educated at The Danish National School of Performing Arts, and graduated in 2015.

Elliott works in both film and tv-series, as well as theatre. He is best known for his roles in film and tv-series as “*In the Blood*” (2016), “*Winter Brothers*” (2017), “*Journal 64*” (2018), “*The Bridge*” (2018), “*Before the Frost*” (2019), “*Wildland*” (2020) and “*Godland*” (2022) and in theatre with “*Hamlet*” (2017) among others.

He has received multiple awards and nominations throughout his career. Such as a nomination at Bodil Prisen 2017 for Best Male Actor for “*Winter Brothers*”, winning Robert Prisen 2018 for the same category, and Talent Award in 2017 and Actor of the Year in 2018 at the Danish theatre award Reumert Prisen for his role in “*Hamlet*”. He has also gained international attention with the selection as one of the European Shooting Stars at the Berlinale in 2019, and winning the Best Actor award at both Locarno Film Festival 2017 and Vilnius Film Festival 2018. His latest appearance is as the leading actor in the Danish/Icelandic feature film “*Godland*”, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival 2022.



## KATRINE BROCKS

*Director & Screenwriter*

Katrine Brocks (b. 1989) is a Copenhagen based film director. She received a Bachelor's degree in film and media science from the University of Copenhagen in 2014. After studying a semester abroad at UC, Berkeley she was admitted to The National Film School of Denmark, where she graduated as a fiction director in 2019.

Brocks' graduation film "Below the Waves, Above the Clouds" (2019) grew out of her experiences with depression and anxiety and depicts how crucial close friendship is when you are in the middle of an acute mental crisis. It was nominated for a Danish Academy Award in 2020. Her latest short film "In the Blink of An Eye" (2020) portrays the young mother Johanne, who after a long stay in a psychiatric institution struggles to regain her daughter's trust. It won a Danish Academy Award in 2021.

Since 2019, Katrine has been working on the feature film "The Great Silence" which is produced by newly founded Monolit Film and funded by New Danish Screen. The film's central themes stem from her upbringing in a Christian community, where Jesus was the ultimate role model.

Brocks creates expressive films driven by complex and recognizable characters, portrayed with raw honesty and warmth. Katrine is fascinated by the dark secrets we all try to hide from each other and aims to find the poetry in everyday details through cinematic expression. "The Great Silence" is Brocks' feature film debut.



## **PERNILLE TORNØE**

*Producer*

Pernille Tornøe (b. 1989) is a Copenhagen based film producer. She graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2019 as a producer with the film, “Below the Waves, Above the Clouds” directed by Katrine Brocks, which was nominated for a Danish Academy Award in 2020. Right after graduating from film school, Pernille co-founded the Copenhagen-based production company Monolit Film. She was associate producer on the feature film “Team Hurricane” (2017) and produced the documentary “Dreaming Murakami” (2017), as well as multiple short films before and during her time at film school. In addition to developing two feature films, Pernille is currently producing a TV-series for TV2 Denmark, that will go into production in the beginning of 2023. “The Great Silence” is Pernille’s feature film debut as a producer.

## **MARIANNE LENTZ**

*Screenwriter*

Marianne Lentz (b. 1980) is a screenwriter based in Copenhagen. Lentz’ earlier works include the Danish Academy Award winning short films In the Blink of an Eye (2020) and A Fling (2019), the latter which was awarded for Best Screenplay at the Danish Ekko Shortlist Awards. Her debut short A Worthy Man (2018) won the award for Best European Short at Leuven International Short Film Festival. “The Great Silence” is her debut feature.

## **MIA MAI DENGSSØ GRAABÆK**

*Director of Photography*

Mia Mai Dengsø Graabæk (b. 1987) is a Copenhagen-based Director of Photography. Mia Mai graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2019 with the short ‘Below the Waves, Above the Clouds’. She was the DoP on Katrine Brock’s short ‘In the Blink of an Eye’ that won a Danish Academy Award in 2020, as well as several short films, that has been screened at international film festivals including Giffoni, Cannes YDA, Nordic Panorama ect. Since graduating Mia Mai has worked on a number of tv-series as well as the feature films ‘The Great Silence’ directed by Katrine Brocks and latest ‘There’s No Place Like Home’ directed by Puk Grasten.



## **OSKAR ARNFRED**

*Production Designer & Costume Designer*

Oskar Arnfred (b. 1992) graduated from the Production Design programme at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2018. Oskar works as a production designer, as well as costume and fashion designer. His work includes short films, tv-series and documentary films. Production design titles includes “Below the Waves, above the Clouds” (2019) by Katrine Brocks, “Everything Has a Beginning” (2017) by Marie Limkilde and Hungud (2021) by Sara Hjort Ditlevsen as well as the TV-series “Junglen” (2020) by Nitesh Anjaan. “The Great Silence” is his debut feature.

## **NIKOLINE LØGSTRUP**

*Editor*

Nikoline Løgstrup (b. 1992) graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2019. Since graduating she has worked on several award-winning short films here among the two shorts by Katrine Brocks “Below the Waves, above the Clouds” (2019) which received a Danish Ekko Shortlist Award for Best Editing and “In the Blink of an Eye” (2021) which received a Danish Academy Award. She has worked on multiple TV series and most recently the feature fiction films “Attachment” (2022) by Gabriel Bier Gislason and “The Great Silence” (2022) by Katrine Brocks.

## **JOHAN CARØE**

*Composer*

Johan Carøe (b. 1991) is an experimental musician and award-winning film composer, known for his collaborations with Angelo Badalamenti, Yasuaki Shimizu and Sofie Birch, among others. He has worked on numerous award-winning short films, documentaries and feature films, most recently “Attachment” (2022) by Gabriel Bier Gislason and “The Great Silence” (2022) by Katrine Brocks.

## **ANDERS ANKERSTJERNE**

*Sound Designer*

Anders Ankerstjerne (b. 1992) is a Danish sound designer. He graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2019 and has since worked on several animation, documentary and short film projects including the Danish Academy Award winning short “In the Blink of an Eye” in 2021. “The Great Silence” is his debut feature.



## MONOLIT FILM

MONOLIT FILM is a Copenhagen-based production company founded in 2019 by Emily Nicoline Quist, Pernille Tornøe and Victor Rocha Da Cunha. We are dedicated to developing new talent and strong personal voices in feature films, serial fiction, and documentaries. Monolit Film is driven by filmmakers who provide unique perspectives on significant issues and challenge our understanding of ourselves and the world we live in. We approach collaborations with curiosity, persistence and care, while constantly re-examining our creative processes and challenging the stories we tell.

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### *Download stills*

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### THE GREAT SILENCE

DIRECTED BY **Katrine Brocks** WRITTEN BY **Marianne Lentz** AND **Katrine Brock** PRODUCED BY **Pernille Tornøe** OF COPENHAGEN-BASED **Monolit Film**. IT WON **Best Nordic Project Award** AT THE **Finnish Film Affair 2021** JUST AS FOOTAGE

WAS ALSO PRESENTED AT **Goteborg's Nordic Film Market Works in Progress 2022**.

SUPPORTED BY **The Danish Film Institute / New Danish Screen** NORDIC DISTRIBUTION **Scanbox Entertainment**

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*THE GREAT SILENCE will release locally on January 12th 2023.*

