

— FEMALE —
FILM CLUB

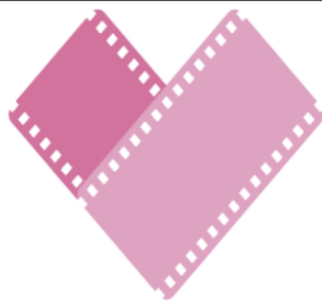
Resources Sheet

Film: *Simon and the Oaks*

Director: Lisa Ohlin



Lisa Ohlin: “[Sweden] doesn’t have stories that deal with World War II, nor specifically with the Jewish question. Seeing the film, the audience suddenly understood the fear of not knowing if you would be able to protect your family. Not knowing if the Germans were going to come. Our government made choices that enabled us to not to become occupied, but we were surround by occupied countries. The fear was very real.”



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Trivia / FunFacts:

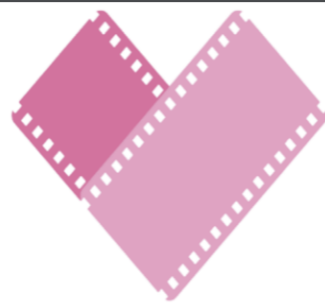
- Director Lisa Ohlin left her position as film commissioner at the Swedish Film Institute to direct the film.
- Ohlin worked closely with her director of photography, Dan Laustsen, to create a classical style with a modern feel that evoked the south west of Sweden. She has said that visual references and influences included Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather*, Bernardo Bertolucci's *1900*, and Peter Weir's *Witness*.
- Like Simon in the film, Ohlin herself has experienced the power of searching for one's own identity separate from her parents when she discovered previously unknown information about her ancestry.
- Screenwriter Marnie Blok adapted the story from Marianne Fredriksson's 1985 novel, *Simon and the Oaks*, a bestseller that has been translated into 25 languages and sold more than 4 million copies worldwide. The novel was adapted into a Swedish stage play in 2002 prior to Lisa Ohlin's 2011 film adaptation.
- Jan Josef Liefers, who plays Ruben in the film, was not able to speak a word of Swedish prior to his performance. He did not learn the language for the film but rather learned to speak the sound of his lines.

Guldbagge Awards Nominations – “The Swedish Oscars”:

- Best Film
- Best Director
- Best Actress
- Best Supporting Actor – Jan Josef Liefers (Won)
- Best Supporting Actress – Cecilia Nilsson (Won)
- Best Visual Effects
- Best Original Score
- Best Costume Design
- Best Art Direction
- Best Make-up/Hair
- Best Cinematography
- Best Sound Editing
- Best Film Editing

Other Awards:

- Festival De Cine Escandinavo, Buenos Aires – Audience Award
- Filmfest Hamburg – Best Screenplay (Marnie Blok)
- Gothenburg Film Festival – Festival Prize of 50,000 Swedish krona



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Interviews:

<i>Simon and the Oaks</i> : Interview with Lisa Ohlin (Kylie Boltin)	<u>SBS</u>	https://www.sbs.com.au/movies/article/2012/03/05/simon-and-oaks-lisa-ohlin-interview
Bill Skarsgard 2011 Interview on <i>Simon and the Oaks</i>	<u>YouTube</u>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnfRcEIwD7A

Reviews:

<i>Simon and the Oaks</i> Review: A Holocaust Film with a Third Act (Roger Ebert)	<u>Roger Ebert.com</u>	https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/simon-and-the-oaks-2012
<i>Simon and the Oaks</i> Review (Jan Lisa Huttner)	<u>WomenArts</u>	https://www.womenarts.org/film-reviews/simonandtheoaks/
<i>Simon and the Oaks</i> Review: A Heartrending Story (John Delia)	<u>ACED Magazine</u>	https://acedmagazine.com/simon-oaks-heartrending-story/
<i>Simon and the Oaks</i> Review (Diego Semerene)	<u>Slant Magazine</u>	https://www.slantmagazine.com/film/simon-and-the-oaks/
New York Times Critic's Pick: <i>Simon and the Oaks</i> – Two Families Become One in World War II (David DeWitt)	<u>The New York Times</u>	https://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/12/movies/simon-and-the-oaks-from-sweden.html

