



Technical Information

Working Title: Heartstone

Director: Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson

Screenplay: Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson

Nationality: Icelandic

Genre: Coming of age

Format: Digital

Length: 110 min.

Shooting Location: Iceland

Production Company: Join Motion Pictures

Producer: Anton Máni Svansson

Mobile: +354 615 0005

Email: anton@joinmotionpictures.com

Partner: SF Film

Director's main previous Films and Awards

Artun, 20 min.

Whale Valley, 15 min.

Main awards:

Special Mention, Cannes F.F. 2013

Golden Starfish, Hampton's I.F.F.

Best Short Fiction, Warsaw I.F.F.

European Prize, Brest F.F.

Best European Short Ghent I.F.F.

Nominee to the European Film Awards 2014

Special Mention Chicago I.F.F.

Special Mention Zagreb F.F.

Special Jury Prize Riverrun I.F.F.

HEARTSTONE

A film by Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film.

A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or even first

feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



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cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

HEARTSTONE

“HJARTASTEINN”

While the 13-year-old Thor is overcoming his fears toward girls with the help of his best friend Christian, Christian is confronted by a secret he doesn't want to accept: He is falling for his best friend Thor.

A film by Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson



SYNOPSIS

Set in the harsh beauty of the Icelandic nature, *Heartstone* tells a story about a strong friendship between two boys growing up in a small fishing village.

Thor, 13-year-old is small and underdeveloped for his age but he has a crush on Beth, the most beautiful girl in the village. Thor's best friend, Christian, is taller and more developed than him and acts as his protector whenever Thor gets himself in trouble. Christian is good at talking with the girls and when he sees how troubled Thor is over Beth, Christian tries to help him win her heart over. But in that process, Christian begins to experience feelings that he doesn't understand – new feelings towards Thor.

Christian is not about to admit these feelings to himself, instead he tries to repress them. But when things start to

work out between Thor and Beth, tension rises between the boys. Thor slowly realizes that for Christian he is more than just a friend and when rumors about the boys' relationship start to circulate, Thor distances himself from Christian. Alone and unmoored, Christian is faced with his budding sexuality, which leads him to take a life-threatening action. After that the question arises: Will the boys be able to overcome all that has happened and reunite their friendship?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Heartstone is a personal story based on my own experience as a young boy growing up in a small fishing village. This village is a place full of contrast, where the sun shines for the longest time in the country over the summer and the shortest time over the winter. It is a place where young kids come to know animals, and often discover how nature and people, can be both amazingly beautiful and incredibly cruel. I want to reflect on this world, which I feel very strongly about.

As a kid and as a teenager I used to wish that I could show the grown-ups around me how our world really was. As a filmmaker I want to do that; portray youth in a truthful way as these years reflect our lives in a very clear, beautiful, and sometimes harsh manner.

SYNOPSIS

Situé dans la nature Islandaise, belle mais rude, *Heartstone* raconte l'histoire d'une forte amitié entre deux garçons qui grandissent dans un petit village de pêcheurs.

Thor, 13 ans, est petit et physiquement sous-développé pour son âge, mais il a le béguin pour Beth, la plus belle fille du village. Son meilleur ami, Christian, qui est plus grand et plus mature, le protège à chaque fois qu'il s'attire des ennuis. Christian est à l'aise pour parler aux filles et quand il voit la façon dont Thor est troublé, il tente de l'aider à conquérir le cœur de Beth. Mais ce faisant, Christian commence à éprouver pour Thor des sentiments qu'il ne comprend pas.

Christian refuse d'accepter ses propres sentiments, et essaie au contraire de les réprimer. Mais lorsque la relation

entre Thor et Beth se précise, la tension monte entre les deux garçons. Thor réalise lentement qu'il est devenu plus qu'un ami pour Christian et quand des rumeurs sur la relation des deux garçons commencent à circuler, il décide donc de prendre ses distances. Seul et à la dérive, Christian fait face à sa sexualité naissante et se trouve amené à tenter de mettre fin à ses jours. La question qui se pose alors est : est-ce que les garçons parviendront à surmonter ces événements et à renouer leurs liens d'amitié ?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Heartstone est une histoire personnelle nourrie de ma propre expérience en tant que jeune garçon grandissant dans un petit village de pêcheurs. Ce village est plein de contrastes, l'endroit dans tout le pays où le soleil brille le plus longtemps pendant l'été, et le moins longtemps pendant l'hiver. C'est un endroit où les jeunes enfants apprennent à connaître les animaux, et souvent découvrent être à la fois étonnamment beaux et incroyablement cruels. Je veux réfléchir sur ce monde qui me tient très à cœur.

Lorsque j'étais gamin et adolescent, j'avais l'habitude de souhaiter que je pourrais montrer aux adultes autour de moi à quoi ressemblait vraiment notre monde. C'est ce que je veux faire comme cinéaste ; représenter les jeunes fidèle limpides, agréables et parfois rudes.

