



Golden Bear
75th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin

DREAMS

(SEX LOVE)

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DAG JOHAN HAUGERUD

A FILM IN THE TRILOGY SEX | DREAMS | LOVE

DREAMS

(SEX LOVE)

LOGLINE

Johanne's intimate writings about her first love stir friction within her family, prompting her mother and grandmother to reexamine their own realities and dreams.

SYNOPSIS

Johanne falls in love for the first time, with her teacher. To preserve her feelings, she documents her emotions and experiences in writing. When her mother and grandmother read what she has written, they are initially shocked by its intimate content but soon see that it has literary potential. As they debate whether to publish it, Johanne navigates the gap between her romantic fantasy and reality, and all three women confront their differing views on love, sexuality, and self-discovery.

DREAMS (SEX LOVE) is part of the *SEX-LOVE-DREAMS* trilogy of director Dag Johan Haugerud.

TRAILER

International Title: *DREAMS (SEX LOVE)*

Original Title: *Drømmer*

Year: 2024

Country: Norway

Language: Norwegian

Film running time: 110 min

Screening format: DCP

Shooting Format: Digital

Aspect ratio: 1.85:1

Speed/Frame Rate: 24

Sound Format: 5.1



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The story of *DREAMS* focuses on first love as a transformational experience that changes everything; it is intense, all-consuming, and fateful. It is also confusing, in that the mental and physical longing do not necessarily unfold at the same pace. Even though a crush can feel like an unstoppable force, it is not certain that a young person's physical self can keep up with such intense emotions. In this sense, there can be a disconnect between the mental conception and the physical experience that can both feel confusing and traumatic. The strength and pain of first love are nevertheless overwhelming and can be remembered as such a wonderful event that later experiences struggle to measure up to it.

In this way, first love also creates a recognizable longing among the adults who observe it. In the film, this is primarily the girl's mother and grandmother, who, by reading about the girl's experiences, reevaluate some of the choices related to sex and love that they themselves have made in life. The three women each have their own individual experiences (and opinions) of desire, freedom, empowerment, and responsibility, which are not fixed and sometimes contradict each other. Aside from love, the story also explores how sexual desire can be used to justify certain actions toward others and how even the delicate, deeply personal experience of a crush has a market value.

Dag Johan Haugerud, director

CAST

Johanne *Ella Øverbye*
Johanna *Selome Emnetu*
Kristin *Ane Dahl Torp*
Karin *Anne Marit Jacobsen*
Anne *Andrine Sæther*
Frøydis *Ingrid Gæver*
Psychologist *Lars Jacob Holm*
Jenny *Nadia Bonnevie*
Anine *Ella Bothner-By*

Dance teachers
Brynjar Åbel Bandlien
Valdemar Dørmænen Irgens
Silje Breivik

Mushroompickers
Anne-Karen Hytten
Eija Saraneva
Nora Hagstrøm

Teacher *Marja Folde*
Teacher *Sari Kader*

Dance teachers
Karina Sjøen
John-Jannak Holst Sharma
Johannes friend Maja Taslidza

Dancers school yard
Shawn Baluyot
Anais Aurora Høie
Lea Sandven Kleivan
Kristine Dahl Iyamu

Dancers in staircase
Heine Røsdal Avdal
Shawn Baluyot
Brynjar Åbel Bandlien
Geir Hytten
Øyvind Jørgensen
Daniel Mariblanca
Ingunn Rimestad

CREW

Directed by: *Dag Johan Haugerud*

Written by: *Dag Johan Haugerud*

Production company: *Motlys*

Producer: *Yngve Sæther, Hege Hauff Hvattum*

Co-Producer *Leif Holst Jensen*

Executive Producers: *Espen Osmundsen, Kari Moen Kristiansen,*

Tanya Nanette Yildiz Badendyck, Hege Skjerven Clausen

Co-producer: *Oslo Filmfond*

Cinematographer/DoP: *Cecilie Semec*

Set Designer: *Tuva Hølmebakk*

Editor: *Jens Christian Fodstad*

Sound Editor/Mix: *Yvonne Stenberg & Gisle Tveito*

Composer: *Anna Berg*

Supported by: *Norwegian Film Institute, Nordic Film and TV fund*

MOTLYS and VIAPLAY GROUP present in co-production with

OSLO FILMFOND

International Premiere: Berlin IFF 2025 - Competition











BIOGRAPHIES

Dag Johan Haugerud has established himself as one of Norway's most influential writers and directors, in addition to being an author of novels. With *I BELONG* (2012), he won an Amanda for Best Film, Director, Screenplay and Female Supporting Role. The film also won the Film Critics Award and was Norway's candidate for the Nordic Council Film Award. With *BEWARE OF CHILDREN* (2019), he achieved his breakthrough; in addition to the Dragon Award for Best Film and Actor at the Gothenburg Film Festival, the film won a record number of 9 Amandas after the international premiere at Giornate Degli Autori at the Venice Film Festival. In addition, the film won the Film Critics Award and Nordic Council Film Prize.

SEX, which opened his trilogy, premiered at Berlinale Panorama in 2024, and won among others: Europa Cinemas Label - Best European Film and Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, along with Nordic Council Film Prize. It was followed by *LOVE* (premiere in Competition of Venice IFF) and finalized by *DREAMS (SEX LOVE)* which premieres at Competition of Berlinale 2025.





Ella Øverbye

She debuted in Dag Johan Haugerud's film *BEWARE OF CHILDREN* in 2019.



Selome Emnetu

She graduated from The Academy of Theatre in 2014 and is working at the National theater. She was nominated for the Hedda prize 2022 for her role in *DE MÅ FØDE OSS ELLER PULE OSS FOR Å ELSKE OSS* in the category of best female actor/lead role.



Ane Dahl Torp

Torp had her first film appearance in *THE WOMAN OF MY LIFE* (2003). She has received Amanda Awards for her performances in *SVARTE PENDER*, *HVITE LØGNER* (2004), and in the film *GYMNASLÆRER PEDERSEN* (2006), and for her supporting role in *LØNSJ*. Torp was named a "Shooting Star" at the Berlin IFF in 2006. She also starred in *URO* (2006), and played the lead in the television series *HOME GROUND* for which she won the Gullruten award for best female actor in 2018. She also won the Best Actress award at the Swedish Film Awards (Guldbagge Awards) for her lead role in *CHARTER* (2020), a film directed by Amanda Kernell.



Anne Marit Jacobsen

One of Norway's most popular actresses, mostly known for her work in theatre, but also for her roles in *THE WILD DUCK* (1979), *WEEKEND* (1998), *I BELONG* (2012) and *NORSKE BYGGEKLOSSER* (2018). She received an Amanda award for her role in *NORSKE BYGGEKLOSSER* and won the Honorary Award in 2016.



MOTLYS is an independent production company that has produced motion pictures like *BIG BOYS DON'T CRY* (1995), *COMRADE PEDERSEN* (2006), *THE MAN WHO LOVED YNGVE* (2008), *NORTH* (2009), *OSLO, AUGUST 31ST* (2011), *I BELONG* (2012), *LOUDER THAN BOMBS* (2015), *BEWARE OF CHILDREN* (2019), *NINJABABY* (2021), as well as the television series *HOME GROUND* (2018-19) and *POWER PLAY* (2023-24). Motlys films have competed at all the big international film festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Sundance, and Toronto. The company has received 55 Amanda Awards for its feature films. In the fall of 2023, Motlys celebrated its 40th anniversary, making it Norway's oldest existing production company.



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