

Reviews: The Best of Intentions

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A bitter tale of revenge, *The Best of Intentions* (Ham som ville hen sa val) shows us the dark side of justice as a father confronts his disabled daughter's carer, a man he suspects of sexual abuse.

A stinging tale; Emil T. Jonsson (who directs and stars in this piece) creates the perfect mix of tension, suspense and mystery in this harrowing short film. Emil T. Jonsson (Jocke), and Per Ragnar (Let the Right One In) play their roles perfectly. Kjell (Per Ragnar) truly believes he loves his patient, and, so driven by hatred powerfully displays a man who has lost all sense of morality. The tension, questioning and relatively slow pace of this 15 minute film only heightens the panic of the final scenes.

In truth, very little needs to be said about this piece, and due to its length it's difficult not to give much away. What I can say with assurance is that you'll struggle to find anything as thrilling in any format. This is undoubtedly one of the best shorts I've watched and it deserves all the praise it's been given. I'll be pressing everyone I know to go and watch this film.

Alex Cole, Battle Royale With Cheese

16th October 2016

<https://battleroyalewithcheese.com/2016/10/brwc-reviews-best-intentions-2014/>

Watch: Swedish Suspense Thriller Short Film 'The Best of Intentions'

"I'd love to talk a little, we haven't done that very much." Another intriguing and well-made short film to feature this month. *The Best of Intentions*, also known as *Han som ville henne så väl* in Swedish, is a Swedish suspense thriller short film directed by actor Emil Jonsson - who also stars in this film. Famous Swedish actor Per Ragnar, seen in *Let the Right One In*, co-stars as a father of a disabled woman who comes to confront one of the workers at the care home where she lives. It's described as a thriller "in the vein of old *Twilight Zone* episodes" and definitely has that feel. The two lead performances are outstanding, and the

tension building is impressive. It's a thought-provoking thriller cleverly addressing moral dilemmas.

Alex Billington, First Showing

October 17, 2016

<https://www.firstshowing.net/2016/watch-swedish-suspense-thriller-short-film-the-best-of-intentions/>

Horror Short Film Spotlight: 'The Best Of Intentions' - A Father's Vengeful Plan Has Dreadful Consequences

For me, the best horror tales do not involve gratuitous amounts of blood, guts, and gore. Instead, I prefer horror stories that delve into the darkest crevices of the human psyche. While ghosts, zombies, vampires, and other ghouls that go bump in the night can make for a creepy yarn, nothing compares to the terror inspired by the dark impulses of human beings. A prime example of this more psychological brand of horror is the Swedish short *The Best of Intentions*. This unsettling film is reminiscent of classic psycho-thrillers by the iconic "master of suspense," Alfred Hitchcock.

The short tells the story of Kjell (starring famed Swedish actor Per Ragnar), a man who believes his disabled daughter is being sexually abused in her assisted care facility by her attendant Jocke (portrayed by Emil T. Jonsson, who also directed). Furious, Kjell has a dire confrontation with Jocke about his daughter. From the first moment Ragnar appears onscreen as Kjell, you sense something is very amiss. He radiates cold rage and menace that is boiling just beneath the surface of his dignified demeanor.

Jocke notices Kjell's hostility towards him immediately, which causes the tension between the two men to gradually thicken until it engulfs them like a shroud. Like a coiled cobra about to strike, you know something terrible and violent will happen. To reveal more specifics would spoil the plot, but Jonsson manages to masterfully build nail-biting suspense by means of body language and dialogue alone. When Kjell enacts a chilling plan of revenge, its tragic consequence will haunt him - and you the viewer.

Rod T. Faulkner, The 7th Matrix

October 20, 2016

<https://www.the7thmatrix.com/blog/2016/10/19/the-best-of-intentions>

Short Film Review “The Best Of Intentions

Reliance. Assurance. Credence. Trust. So often, it requires a large amount of faith and established proof to truly gain this from someone, much less to extend it back to them. This is even more evident when a situation involves entering into a commitment to watch over someone precious to another. Responsibility then takes on a whole new meaning. Facing this exact situation, caregiver Jocke (Emil Jonsson) accepts the task of watching over the mentally disabled daughter of a doting father, Kjell (Per Ragnar).

Coming home one particular evening, however, Kjell is suddenly struck with a terrible notion in regard to Jocke, brought about by pictures and words presented on several pieces of paper, all written or drawn out by his daughter. Putting on a calm yet increasingly hostile demeanor, Kjell begins to question Jocke about the nature of his involvement with the girl, leading to guiltless but no less inflammatory admissions by him about her. The more Jocke pleads innocent to the sudden charges of sexual assault Kjell accuses him of, the tensions rise to boiling point, and a vindictive father’s motives turn dark.

Swedish actor Jonsson makes his directing/co-writing/producing debut via this 14-minute dramatic thriller that assuredly delivers a strong message with wholehearted conviction and intent. Addressing the film’s candid themes by immersing the viewer squarely in the midst of an exceptionally awkward and highly volatile encounter between a protective parent and a young man being blamed for acts not even committed, the narrative is riveting, emotionally charged, and executed with a subtly building, anxiety-ridden, anger-filled atmosphere, leading to a convincing and markedly effective finale. Additionally, the film’s sparse music score and “what’s not seen, but inferred” sequences only add to the agitated state of affairs shown.

Jonsson does a fine job here as the hapless caregiver Jocke, giving him the pleasant, “regular guy” vibe and dedicated work ethic one would expect for a person with his job description. Jonsson also presents him as someone who, despite the intimidation factor he faces in Kjell, stands firm in the face of accusations with no merit, regardless of how it looks based on the

“evidence” he’s confronted with. Likewise, Ragnar is absolutely excellent as the resentful and unforgiving father, Kjell, whose honest love for his disabled daughter is clouded by what he sees as complete and utter betrayal of confidence. Ragnar enacts his character’s rising ire with a calm, calculated, escalating glower, genuine in precision and purpose.

In summary, “The Best Of Intentions” illustrates the ramifications of choices made, the irreproachability of those decisions in the eyes of those involved, and the dangers present when mistrust and misunderstanding in light of incomplete facts or flat out wrong assumptions take their toll on someone’s conscious. It’s a cautionary tale, and an exceptional one at that.

Kirk Fernwood, One Film Fan

16 Oct 2016

<http://onefilmfan.com/short-film-review-the-best-of-intentions>

The Things We Do For Love: Short Swedish Thriller 'The Best Of Intentions' Is An Eerie Cautionary Tale

For a film that's only thirteen minutes long, #TheBestOfIntentions (Han som ville henne så väl) packs quite a bit of depth and happenings in its two-character, single room setup. The Best of Intentions comes to us from Swedish director, Emil Jonsson, in his directorial film debut. It stars Per Ragnar (#LetTheRightOneIn) and Jonsson himself, having been an actor for the past 15 years. The film has been featured at multiple film festivals around the world, including the Gothenburg International Film Festival, Palm Springs International Short Film Festival and the International Short Film Festival of Cyprus.

The short tells the story of a man by the name of Kjell (Ragnar) — a father who believes that one of the workers in the care home where his mentally-disabled daughter is cared for, is sexually abusing his (not so) little girl. That worker is named Jocke (Jonsson), and when mercilessly confronted with accusations of sexual abuse, he becomes nervous and defensive, but still keeps his composure and refuses to back down.

The result is an awkward conversation between the two that is full of tension and emotion. It's dark and nail-biting as the details of this highlyvolatile situation unfold and come to light

— you find yourself unsure who to side with, building to a very effective finale. The film does a great job of making the viewer feel boxed into this situation with no escape, much like the characters (particularly Jocke) themselves. *The Best of Intentions* is described as being "in the vein of old #TwilightZone episodes" and it is just that.

Both men put on fantastic performances. You can really get a sense of what they're both feeling through just their expressions with no need for dialogue. Kjell is great as the unforgiving and anger-fueled father, while Jocke shines as the "regular guy" care-worker who keeps his cool in the face of danger.

The Best of Intentions is an excellent debut for Emil Jonsson that tackles the themes of judgement and how love and emotions can cloud it. It explores rational vs. irrational thinking and love vs. commitment, the dangers of misunderstanding and mistrust and the dangers of assumption. The title alone should give you an indication of those themes. "Good Intentions" doesn't normally spell a good time.

Most of the drama in *The Best of Intentions* comes from what is "not seen, but inferred," and the film is full of symbolism. The numb sounds of the score and the use of camera focus, noise and long still-shots focused on what seem like mundane objects help further immerse you into Kjell's broken and clouded mind.

One thing I particularly liked when it came to capturing those emotions came from the camera work — often using facial close ups, over-the-shoulder and lots of still, dynamic shots like something out of a comic book. The camera often focuses on the character who is the most emotionally at stake when something is being said, and this really helped sell the story and illustrate what both characters are going through.

I often find it difficult to become emotionally invested in a short film, but what's presented here not only had me invested — it has me still thinking about it hours later. I very much look forward to seeing what Jonsson does next.

Alex Leptos, Movie Pilot

26 Oct 2016

The Best of Intentions short film

Swedish short film *The Best of Intentions* follows the story of a father who suspects his daughter's caregiver is abusing her, and how he plans to confront the man. The dramatic thriller, directed by Emil Jonsson and co-written by Jonsson and Björn Boström, packs a lot into its 13 minutes run time that leaves you thinking about jumping to conclusions without all the facts.

The film stars Per Ragnar as the father Kjell, and Jonsson as Jocke the caregiver, both of whom provide stunning yet understated performances. The audience is given subtle indications just through their expressions or slight inflection in their voice. Kjell keeps his anger at Jocke simmering just under the surface of his polite demeanour, and it puts you on edge guessing when he might break and do something worse. Opposite him is Jocke, who also manages to keep his calm, but in a completely different way as he keeps his cool when up against some horrid accusations.

The Best of Intentions proves to be an exceptional first short film for Jonsson in the themes it tackles of judgement and how easily it can be taken over by emotions. It explores the dangers of even the simplest of misunderstandings and the irrational thought which stems from them, through the nuanced acting, clever dialogue and the sombre cinematography.

The thrill and drama of the short film derives more from the implied and subtle hints in the conversation between Kjell and Jocke, and symbolism used within the frame.

Cinematographer for the film Gabriel Mkrttchian uses long, lingering shots of mundane objects or the simplistic set, over-the-shoulder shots combined with close ups, and off-centred framing to further enhance this emotional and gripping story, as the audience can immediately ascertain that everything is not what it seems, simply from the way it appears to us.

This is the sort of film that stays with you, not least because of the subject matter of moral dilemmas, but also the music, performances and the way the film captures the viewer into the story through the small set. It will be interesting to see where Emil goes next with his filmmaking choices.

Monica Jowett, UK Film Review

April 6, 2017

Review: 'The Best of Intentions' Short, Perfect Mix of Suspense & Intrigue

It's hard to pack a punch in just 14 minutes, but *The Best of Intentions* does just that. With a list of "Official Selections" from around the globe, this horror short from Sweden is a psychological thriller that focuses on an old man (Per Ragnar) and his daughter's caretaker, Jocke (Emil Jonsson). The old man believes his disabled daughter is being sexually abused by Jocke and decides to confront the young man.

The dark tone of the film followed by its naturally unsettling rhythm is Grade A horror. Per Ragnar is immediately scary, he plays the part with such calm and deliberate action. His thoughts and intentions clearly conveyed through subtle facial expressions. Brilliantly written, beautifully shot and creepy with a bit of *Twilight Zone* sprinkled in for good measure. It's got a rustic feel choosing brown earth tones that are slightly muted to drive the mood of the film.

It's almost a cautionary tale on the dangers of uncontrolled anger. *The Best of Intentions* gets into your head and leaves the right questions unanswered. It doesn't give you all the background either making it hard to know which one of the characters is the villain and which is the victim. Directed by Emil Jonsson and written by Björn Boström, *The Best of Intentions* is the perfect mix of suspense and intrigue. You won't find blood and gore in this flick but it will tickle your nerves.

The film has screened at several festivals worldwide including Palm Springs International ShortFest, Gothenburg International Film Festival, Starz Denver Film Festival, and was recently picked for FilmShortage and Bleeding Critic.

Joseph R. Davis, We are indie horror

November 2, 2016

Filmrecension: Han som ville henne så väl – 14 långa och otäcka minuter!

Emil Jonssons debutfilm "Han som ville henne så väl" har redan visats på en rad olika

festivaler, bland annat Göteborgs Filmfestival och Palm Springs International Film Festival. Spel och Film recenserar vad som kanske är årets läskigaste kortfilm.

Vi möter en hämndlysten far (Per Ragnar) som är starkt övertygad om att hans förståndshandikappade dotter blivit utsatt för sexuella övergrepp. Han bestämmer sig för att ta saken i egna händer och ställa den misstänkte mot väggen. Vi får följa detta omtumlande möte som pågår i 14 obehagliga minuter.

“Han som ville henne så väl” är enkel i sin framtoning men oerhört effektiv. Kortfilmen har allt och lite därtill! Starka karaktärer, ruggigt gripande handling och oväntade vändningar. Man har även lyckats ta fram helt rätt stämning och miljö. Det här är en smart och välgjord film med goda skådespelarinsatser. Per Ragnar fullständigt briljerar i sin roll och gestaltning och sänder kalla kårar längs ryggraden. Det rafflande slutet kommer inte lämna någon oberörd. “Han som ville henne så väl” är en rysande och skräckinjagande thriller som är läskigt bra!

Regissören bakom kameran heter Emil Jonsson och det här är som tidigare nämnt hans första film. Filmen sägs ha tagit ungefär ett år och kostat tvåhundra tusen kronor. Väl investerade pengar, då kortfilmen imponerar stort. Vad kommer Jonsson leverera närmast? Vi väntar med spänning!

Hedda Lundborg, Spel och film

9 oktober, 2016

<https://www.spelochfilm.se/filmrecension-han-som-ville-henne-sa-val-14-langa-och-otacka-minuter>

Recension: Han som ville henne så väl

Kortfilmen Han som ville henne så väl har redan visats på en radda filmfestivaler sedan 2014, men har inte fått någon release för gemene man förrän nu. Den 10:e oktober anländer nämligen debutregissören Emil Jonssons film, som är baserad på en radiopjä, till webben. Det är ett passande datum. Medan höstmörkret börjar sno åt sig allt mer av våra dagar och starkare vindar får husen att knaka finns det nämligen få filmer som passar bättre än de som kryper under skinnet på en. Vilket är precis vad detta atmosfäriska kammerspel gör.

Kortfilmen handlar om – utan att avslöja för mycket – en lika delar orolig och oroväckande man (Per Ragnar, Låt den rätte komma in), som trotsar den annalkande snöstormen för att ta sig till en person som han känner beskyddande känslor för. Där möter han en annan person (Emil Jonsson) med likartade intressen. Det görs snabbt klart att Per Ragnars rollfigur har fattat fasansfulla misstankar mot Jocke. För varje replik börjar det bisarra dramat mer och mer påminna om en thriller.

Han som ville henne så väl gör sig bäst utan någon ingående beskrivning och jag är glad att jag inte läste någon sammanfattning av filmen innan jag såg den. Redan några sekunder in börjar nämligen den absurda, påträngande stämningen att byggas upp och resten av filmen spelas ut som ett slags humant Twilight Zone-avsnitt med thrillerelement. Tittaren får själv lägga varje pusselbit för att slutligen lämnas med flera moraliska frågeställningar snurrandes i huvudet – ackompanjerade av en väldigt gripande känsla av olust. Det är en kortfilm som gynnas av att ses flera gånger och jag kan inte låta bli att tänka på den isbergsteknik som Hemingway gjorde sig känd för. Hela tiden upptäcker man en ny nyans att ta hänsyn till i den sparsmakade men effektiva dialogen och upplösningen uppmanar verkligen till diskussion.

Med några tittar i bagaget inser jag tyvärr att några frågetecken gällande manuset aldrig har rätats ut, men det väger inte över när så många delar – allt från fotot till faktumet att stämningen effektivt lyckas etableras mellan så få karaktärer – övertygar. Bäst av alla är Per Ragnar, som absolut själ showen med en subtil prestation som lämnar förvridna, illavarslande och iskalla kårar i en. Jag kan inte göra något annat än att rekommendera de som dras till mystik och kammarspel att fånga den krypande känsla som oktoberrusket kan erbjuda genom att ge den här imponerande debuten en chans.

Daniel Turfors, Filmtopp.se

6 oktober, 2016

<https://www.filmtopp.se/2016/10/06/recension-han-som-ville-henne-sa-val>