

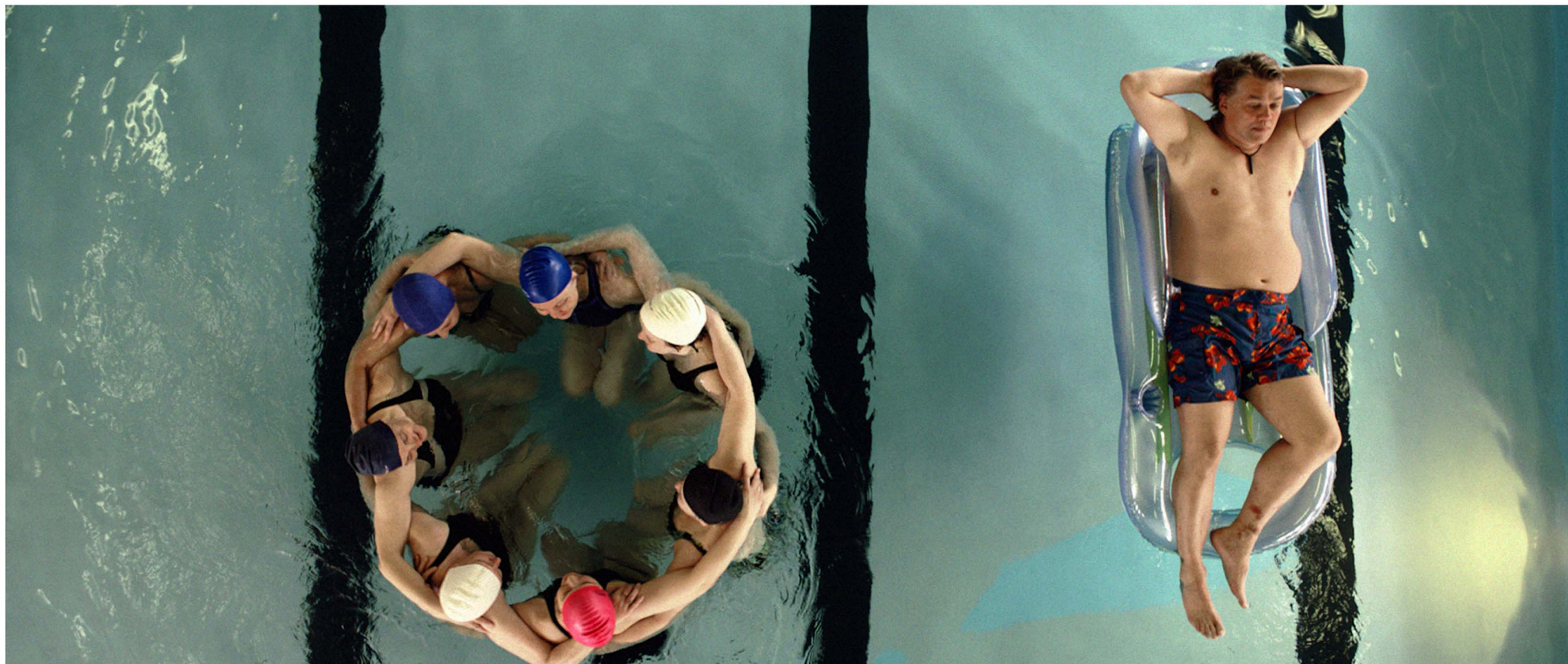
**A KJARTANSSON &
ZIK ZAK FILMWORKS
PRODUCTION**

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH
ARIZONA PRODUCTIONS
FLICKBOOK FILMS &
PROFILE PICTURES**

**DIRECTED BY
HAFSTEINN GUNNAR
SIGURÐSSON**

PARIS OF THE NORTH





PARIS OF THE NORTH INFORMATION

KARLOVY VARY SCREENINGS

July 8, 2014, 8:30, Congress Hall (Press and Industry)

July 8, 2014, 17:00, Grand Hall

July 9, 2014, 10:00, Pupp

July 11, 2014, 9:00, Drahomira Cinema

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PARIS OF THE NORTH

SYNOPSIS

Seeking shelter from the trials and tribulations of city life, Hugi has built a quiet existence for himself in a tiny village in the middle of nowhere. Here, he passes his days jogging, attending AA meetings and taking Portuguese lessons online. But when Hugi's estranged, boozy father shows up out of the blue, the precarious balance he has worked so hard to achieve is tested to the limit.





PARIS OF THE NORTH DIRECTOR

Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson was born in Reykjavík, Iceland in 1978. He studied screenwriting and film directing at Columbia University, New York. His first feature film *Á Annan Veg* (*Either Way*) screened at more than 50 film festivals around the world and was re-made in the US as *Prince Avalanche*. In 2012, Hafsteinn Gunnar was selected as “Variety’s Ten European Directors to Watch”. *Paris of the North* is his second feature film.

FILMOGRAPHY

2014 *Paris of the North*. Feature film.
(Karlov Vary).

2011 *Á Annan Veg* (*Either Way*). Feature Film.
(San Sebastian, Torino (Best Film, Best Screenplay), Karlov Vary, Edinburgh, Thessaloniki, Montreal, Transilvania, Seattle, Gothenburg).
Nominated for Nordic Council Film Prize.

2007 *Skröltormar* (*Rattlesnakes*). Short film.
(Tribeca, Oberhausen, Aspen, Nordisk Panorama).

EMOTIONALLY HANDICAPPED MEN

Paris of the North is a dramatic comedy about possible and impossible family ties. It is also an exploration of distances in human relationships - especially the ones that should feel very close - and about the crisis of masculinity.

The story is in many ways universal, although it takes place in a very peculiar setting. The script was written especially for this tiny and decaying fishing village in the North West of Iceland (total population 150), where the main character has found shelter from the complications of city life. The idea was to create a microcosmos with that village and to emphasize the claustrophobic relationships of a small town - which sometimes get a bit too intimate. The town is a place of many contradictions where worn down buildings meet magnificent nature. It is also a melting pot of different nationalities; Thai, Philippine, Polish, Icelandic - and then we have the awkward romance in the story, which leads us to the title, Paris of the North.

Visually I was very drawn to this contradictory tone of the setting and I wanted to allow the depressing parts of the village to meet the magnificent landscapes. Time passes very slowly in this world and I wanted to convey that through composition and editing. Favouring long, static takes and sparse editing. I've been exploring the long take in my previous work and I find it very actor friendly. And since the story is quite minimal, it relies heavily on subtle, yet precise and moving performances. It is a quiet film, which requires the audience's attention - and although a dry one - it is nevertheless a comedy.

"It's a sad and beautiful world" is a great line from a great film from the 80's - and very descriptive of the tone of Paris of the North. I hope you enjoy.

PARIS OF THE NORTH

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

PARIS OF THE NORTH ACTORS



Björn Thors

Björn is an Icelandic actor born in 1978. He has worked consistently in theater, TV and film, since his graduation from drama school in 2003 in Iceland and abroad, cementing his reputation as one of Iceland's leading actors. Björn has received several nominations for theatre and film awards - Among recent projects are the Sci-Fi thriller *FROST*(2012), *Transporter; The Series*(2012-), and the Icelandic Oscar-running *Deep*(2012).



Helgi Björnsson

Born in 1958, graduated from the Drama Academy of Iceland in 1983. That same year he started acting in films and on the stage and started touring with Grafík, his first rock-band. Divided his work between film, stage and music the next years and has been one of Iceland's most popular actor and rock singer up to this date.



Nanna Kristín Magnúsdóttir

After graduating from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts in 1999, Nanna has gone on and established herself as one of Iceland's leading actresses. She has won several awards as an actress, writer and producer. Titles include: *Foreldrar*(2007), *Brim*(2010) and *XL*(2013).



PARIS OF THE NORTH CREW

Director:

Writer:

DoP:

Music By:

Editor:

Sound Design:

Production Design:

Costumes:

Hair and Makeup:

Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson

Huldar Breiðfjörð

G. Magni Ágústsson

Prins Póló

Kristján Loðmfjörð

Huldar Freyr Arnarsson

Hálf dán Pedersen

Margrét Einarsdóttir

Eva Vala Guðjónsdóttir

Helga Sjöfn Kjartansdóttir

Producers:

Co-Producers:

Sindri Páll Kjartansson

Pórir Snær Sigurjónsson

Skúli Fr. Malmquist

Ditte Milsted

Jacob Jarek

Guillaume de Seille

Tobias Munthe