Øystein Karlsen

Øystein Karlsen is the name behind the highly successful and celebrated Norwegian TV series *Dag* (2010-2015), *One Night* (2017) and *Exit* (2019). Karlsen is also the director of several episodes of the popular and awarded Norwegian-American Netflix Original *Lilyhammer* (2014).

Karlsen is the creator, writer and director of the TV series *Dag*, which became an instant hit with the audience and received rave reviews from a choir of critics fascinated by Karlsen's dark, absurd humor and original style. In total, *Dag* has received a staggering 36 **Golden Screen** nominations (the Norwegian equivalent of an Emmy) and 11 wins, which is a record to date.

2019 saw the premiere of Karlsen's scandalous success series *Exit*, which shook Norway to its core and quickly became the most streamed series in NRK's history. The dark and twisted drama is lauded around the world, and has generated more publicity than any other Norwegian series. Based on true events, *Exit* is set in Norway's high-flying financial world. It revolves around four narcissistic men in their 30s who are looking for an exit from everyday pressures and obligations by using drugs, prostitutes and challenging their own – already low – sets of moral values. *Exit* was nominated in numerous categories at the Golden Screen Awards, including 'Best TV Drama', 'Best Innovation', 'Best Script' and 'Best Director'.

Karlsen is also the writer of the amiable British crime drama *Whitstable Pearl* as well as the creator of *So Long, Marianne*, the hotly anticipated, original series which tells the legendary love story of Canadian singer and poet Leonard Cohen, and his muse Marianne Ihlen.

Karlsen is director of *Jo Nesbø's Detective Hole*, the highly anticipated Netflix adaptation of Jo Nesbø's bestselling Harry Hole series, starring Tobias Santelmann, Joel Kinnaman and Pia Tjelta. The series premiered in 2026 to rave reviews.

Awards

Series Mania Festival France – *So Long, Marianne*	2024
Nominated for C21 International Drama Awards (Best Returning Series) UK – *Exit*	2021
Golden Screen Award Nominee (Best Director) Norway – *Exit*	2021
Golden Screen Award Nominee (Best Drama) Norway – *Exit*	2021

Golden Screen Award Nominee (Best Innovation) Norway – *Exit*	2020
Golden Screen Award Nominee (Best TV Drama) Norway – *Exit*	2020
Golden Screen Award Nominee (Best Script) Norway – *Exit*	2020
Golden Screen Award Nominee (Best Director) Norway – *Exit*	2020
Series Mania (International Panorama) France – *Exit*	2019
Monte-Carlo TV Festival Nominee (Best Comedy TV Series) Monaco – *En natt One Night*	2019
Golden Screen Nominee (Best Script) Norway – *Dag*	2016
Golden Screen Nominee (Best TV Drama) Norway – *Dag*	2016
Golden Screen (Best Script) Norway – *Dag*	2013
Golden Screen Nominee (Best TV Drama) Norway – *Dag*	2013
Seattle International Film Festival Nominee (New Director's Showcase Award) US – *Fuck Up*	2013
Golden Screen (Best Script) Norway – *Dag*	2012
Golden Screen Nominee (Best TV Drama) Norway – *Dag*	2012
Golden Screen Nominee (Best Direction) Norway – *Dag*	2012
Golden Screen Nominee (Best TV Drama) Norway – *Dag*	2011
Golden Screen Nominee (Best Script) Norway – *Dag*	2011

Filmography

Lazarus *(TV Series)* *(Thriller)* announced – *Writer*	2026
Jo Nesbø's Detective Hole *(TV Series)* *(Crime, Drama, Mystery)* – *Director*	2026
So Long, Marianne *(TV Series)* *(Drama)* – *Screenplay*	2024
Whitstable Pearl *(TV Series)* *(Crime, Drama)* – *Writer*	2021
Exit *(TV Series)* *(Drama)* – *Creator , Director , Writer*	2019 - 2021
Exit 2 *(TV Series)* *(Drama)* – *Creator , Director , Writer*	2021

Exit 2 *(TV Series)* *(Drama)* *– Creator , Director , Writer* 2021

Exit *(TV Series)* *(Drama)* *– Creator , Director , Writer* 2019 - 2020

Britt-Marie var här **Britt-Marie Was Here** *(Feature film)* *(Comedy, Drama)* *– Writer* 2019

En natt **One Night** *(TV Series)* *(Comedy, Drama, Romance)* *– Writer , Director* 2018

Winnerbäck - Ett slags liv **Winnerbäck - A Kind of Life** *(Documentary)* *– Director* 2017

Dag *(TV Series)* *(Comedy, Drama)* *– Director , Writer* 2010 - 2015

Lilyhammer *(TV Series)* *(Comedy, Crime, Drama)* *– Episode director* 2014

Fuck Up *(Feature film)* *(Comedy, Crime, Drama)* *– Director , Writer* 2012

De 7 dødsyndene **The 7 Deadly Sins** *(Documentary)* *– Director , Writer* 2007

Dice *(Short)* *– Director , Writer* 2005

Catch 44 *(Short)* *– Director , Writer* 2004