



## Sara Johnsen

Sara Johnsen (b. 1970) is one of Scandinavia's most distinguished directors and writers. In addition to penning and directing awarded TV-series and feature films, Johnsen is the author of two novels: *White Man*, and *He Knows Something She Can Try*.

Johnsen's acclaimed short film *Houdini's Hound* (2003) became an instant international hit, showing at festivals all over the world and winning 'Best Short Film' at Berlin International Film Festival and Almería International Short Film Festival among others. Her first feature film, *Kissed by Winter* (2005), received fantastic reviews and became Norway's submission to the **Academy Awards**. It was also the winner of the **Grand Jury Prize** at AFI Fest and nominated for the prestigious **Nordic Council Film Prize**.

The year 2009 saw the release of Johnsen's second feature, *Upperdog*, which was received with great acclamation and became a box office success. *Upperdog* was presented with the **Norwegian Film Critics Award** and became a huge success at that year's Amanda Awards, taking home the awards for 'Best Film', 'Best Direction', 'Best Actress', and 'Best Cinematography'.

Her film *All That Matters Is Past* (2012) had its premiere at the Toronto Film Festival and was nominated for 'Best Nordic Film' at the Gothenburg Film Festival. Johnsen's latest feature, *Framing Mom* (2017) gained great attention for its excellent direction and leading actress, Ruby Dagnall, who was awarded 'Best Actress' at the Amanda Awards.

Johnsen is creator and writer of *22 July*, a series about the everyday heroes who took action following the terror attack in Norway on July 22nd, 2011. *22 July* premiered in January 2020 and has been lauded in Norwegian and international press. Johnsen also emerged as the winner of the 2020 Nordic TV Drama Screenplay Award for *22 July*.

Johnsens latest project, *Faithless*, premiered in 2024 at the Toronto Film Festival and was released on SVT Play in 2025 to incredible reviews. *Faithless* is based on the 2000 film directed by Liv Ullman and written by Ingmar Bergman. The series is directed by Tomas Alfredson from scripts adapted by Johnsen.

## Awards

Seriekritikerprisen (Best Drama) Norway - 22. juli 22 July	2020
Fritt Ord Tribute Norway - 22. juli 22 July	2020

Golden Screen Award (Best TV Drama) Norway - <i>22. juli 22 July</i>	2020
Golden Screen Award (Best Script) Norway - <i>22. juli 22 July</i>	2020
Nordisk Film & TV Fond (Nordic TV Drama Screenplay Award) - <i>22. juli 22 July</i>	2020
Festival del Cinema Europeo Nominee (Best Film) Italia - <i>Rosemari Framing Mom</i>	2017
Trondheim International Film Festival Nominee (Best Director) Norway - <i>Uskyld All That Matters Is Past</i>	2013
Gothenburg Film Festival Nominee (Best Nordic Film) Sweden - <i>Uskyld All That Matters Is Past</i>	2013
Arne Skouens Honorary Award Norway	2012
TheWIFTS Foundation International Visionary Awards (The Jury Award) - <i>Uskyld All That Matters Is Past</i>	2012
Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival Nominee (Grand Prize) Estonia - <i>Uskyld All That Matters Is Past</i>	2012
Rouen Nordic Film Festival (Grand Jury Prize) France - <i>Upperdog</i>	2010
Amanda Awards (Best Direction) Norway - <i>Upperdog</i>	2010
Amanda Awards Nominee (Best Screenplay) Norway - <i>Upperdog</i>	2010
Trondheim International Film Festival (Best Original Screenplay) Norway - <i>Upperdog</i>	2010
Trondheim International Film Festival (Best Director) Norway - <i>Upperdog</i>	2010
Nordic Council Film Prize Nominee - <i>Upperdog</i>	2010
Norwegian International Film Festival (Film Critics Award) Norway - <i>Upperdog</i>	2009
Warsaw International Film Festival Nominee (Grand Prix) Poland - <i>Upperdog</i>	2009
Camerimage Nominee (Golden Frog) Poland - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2006
Trondheim International Film Festival (Best Director) Norway - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2006
Nordic Council Film Prize Nominee - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2005
Brussels European Film Festival Nominee (Golden Iris) Belgium - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2005
Amanda Awards Nominee (Best Screenplay) Norway - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2005
Amanda Awards (Best Debut) Norway - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2005
Bratislava International Film Festival Nominee (Grand Prix) Slovakia - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2005
AFI Fest (Grand Jury Prize) US - <i>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</i>	2005
Aspen Shortsfest (Special Jury Award) US - <i>Houdinis hund Houdini's Hound</i>	2004
Buster International Children's Film Festival (Buster's Short Film Award) Denmark - <i>Houdinis hund Houdini's Hound</i>	2003
Chicago International Children's Film Festival Nominee (Adult's Jury Award) US - <i>Houdinis hund Houdini's Hound</i>	2003

Almería International Short Film Festival (Best Short Film) Spain - <i>Houdinis hund Houdini's Hound</i>	2003
Berlin International Film Festival (Best Short Film) Germany - <i>Houdinis hund Houdini's Hound</i>	2003
Amanda Awards Nominee (Best Children's or Youth Film) Norway - <i>Houdinis hund Houdini's Hound</i>	2003
Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival (Special Prize in Memoriam R.W. Fassbinder) Germany - <i>Folk flest bor i Kina Utopia - Nobody's Perfect in Perfect Country</i>	2002
Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival (FIPRESCI Prize) Germany - <i>Folk flest bor i Kina Utopia - Nobody's Perfect in Perfect Country</i>	2002

## Filmography

<b>Trolösa Faithless</b> (TV Series) (Drama) - <i>Writer</i>	2024
<b>22. juli 22 July</b> (TV Series) (Drama) - <i>Creator, Writer</i>	2020
<b>Rosemari Framing Mom</b> (Feature film) (Drama) - <i>Director, Writer</i>	2016
<b>Helt perfekt</b> (TV Series) (Comedy) - <i>Episode director</i>	2015
<b>Uskyld All That Matters Is Past</b> (Feature film) (Drama) - <i>Director</i>	2012
<b>Upperdog</b> (Feature film) (Comedy, Drama) - <i>Writer, Director</i>	2009
<b>Vinterkyss Kissed by Winter</b> (Feature film) (Drama, Mystery, Thriller) - <i>Writer, Director</i>	2005
<b>Houdinis hund Houdini's Hound</b> (Short) (Family) - <i>Director, Writer</i>	2003
<b>Hormoner og andre demoner Hormones and Other Demons</b> (Short) (Drama) - <i>Director</i>	2003
<b>Familjen The Family</b> (TV Series) (Drama) - <i>Director</i>	2002
<b>Folk flest bor i Kina Utopia - Nobody's Perfect in Perfect Country</b> (Feature film) (Comedy, Drama) - <i>Director</i>	2002

