



Buddy

directed by Morten Tyldum



A feel-good, eminently likeable romp about three young Norwegians in their early 20s struggling through the rites of passage from adolescence to maturity.

Norway, 100 min

Distributor Contact

Josh Levin
Film Movement
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Synopsis

Kristoffer's love life is on the rocks. But what can you expect from a guy who likes to videotape himself and his friends pulling outrageous stunts? So when Kristoffer's video diary winds up at a popular TV show, it's not just his love life that turns upside down. A vibrant young cast explores the true meaning of friendship and love in a heart-warming story about hi jinks, crazy roommates and reality television.

CAST AND CREW

Cast

Kristoffer	NICOLAI CLEVE BROCH
Geir	AKSEL HENNIE
Stig Inge	ANDERS BAASMO CHRISTIANSEN
Henriette	PIA TJELTA
Elisabeth	JANNE FORMOE
Martin	HENRIK GLÆVER
Karsten	KIM HAUGEN
Dag	HÅVARD BAKKE
Anders	EIVIND SANDER
Line	ANNA BACHE-WIIG
Nikolai	CHRISTIAN SKOLMEN

Crew

Director	MORTEN TYLDUM
Screenplay	LARS GUDMESTAD
Executive Producer	KNUT JENSEN
Producer	GUDNY HUMMELVOLL
Line – producer	CARINA BRATTVIK
Director of Photography	JOHN ANDREAS ANDERSEN
Editor:	ELI NILSEN
Set design	BILLY JOHANSSON
Music	LARS LILLO STENBERG

AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

Norwegian International Film Festival- Audience Award Winner, Exhibitors Award Winner
Karlov Vary International Film Festival- Audience Award Winner
AFI Fest- Official Selection
London International Film Festival- Official Selection

Bios

Morten Tyldum - Director

Educated at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, Morten Tyldum returned to his native Norway to help start the TV series “U” at NRK (*Norwegian Television*.) In addition to numerous award-winning short films, Tyldum has directed documentary films dealing with subjects ranging from Norway’s Conservative Party (“Folk flest bor i Kina”), to the Los Angeles gang scene. In 2000, he was named *This Year’s Film Talent* by a leading Norwegian newspaper *Dagbladet*.

Nicolai Cleve Broch - Kristoffer

Nicolai is a 1999 graduate of the prestigious Norwegian Theatre Academy. Nicolai has starred in productions of “The Rocky Horror Show”, “Amadeus” and “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf.” As the lead in the TV series “Lekestue” shown on NRK2, Nicolai was nominated for the Best Male Actor award. He was named *This Year’s Theatre Talent* in 2001 by the national Norwegian newspaper *Dagbladet*.

Anders Baasmo Christiansen - Stig Inge

Anders graduated from the prestigious Norwegian Theatre Academy in 2000. He received the ‘Teatrets Venner Artistic Award’ for his role as Mozart in Peter Schaffer’s “Amadeus”, and in 2002, Anders received the award of *This Year’s Stage Breakthrough* from the newspaper *Adresseavisen*.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Morten Tyldum (Director) on ‘BUDDY’

-“Buddy” is a romantic comedy about daring to be honest. Another message of the film is that even if your dream comes true, it doesn’t necessarily make you happy. “Buddy” is about honesty, responsibility and about growing up – and discovering in your mid 20’s that the high school parties are over.

Lars Gudmestad (writer)

-These days many people dream of getting on TV and becoming famous, even though they have no particular talent that makes them “deserving” of a place in the spotlight. People set high standards. Kristoffer experiences a lot of fun things, but is mistaken in the assumption that the experiences can solve the problems of his life. Many things just become more problematic. (Lars’ background is, among other things, a presenter on TV, and in “Buddy” he wanted to describe the media environment in a real way.)

-It’s easy to make these people “evil”. And “Buddy” is not a film that criticises the media. The staff at TV2 just does what it always does: Makes commercial TV. It doesn’t exploit the leading character Kristoffer. He manages to screw up things on his own. But it’s no fun if you can’t make characters out of people. That’s why it was fun to portray the TV producer

as a self-important schemer, and the talk show host a regular guy who's afraid of offending his viewers.

Nicolai Cleve Broch on (Kristoffer)

-Kristoffer is an observer of situations and documents everything that happens around him. He is a seeker, and in fear of being disliked, he tries to satisfy everyone. The result is that he can't be there 100 % for anyone

Nicolai feels that Kristoffer likes his job as a billposter because it's an undemanding job for a person who fears change and worships his freedom.

Anders Baasmo Christiansen on (Stig Inge)

-Stig Inge is a very nice guy who has experienced his knocks in life. He has travelled with his father around the world. Every time he has made new friends, Stig Inge's life has been uprooted. Now he has inherited an apartment at Tøyen in Oslo from his mother, and here he wants to stay.

Aksel Hennie on (Geir)

-If you were allowed to be a high school graduate for the rest of your life, Geir would say yes to the proposition. To him, life consists of skating, Playstation, video and DVD, says Aksel Hennie. Still, Aksel must face up to the choices he has made earlier in his life. The fearless, happy, extrovert and loyal friend is a complex person with secrets that give him sorrow and pain behind the facade.

Pia Tjelta on (Henriette)

-Henriette is a tough girl, but very afraid of being hurt and betrayed. The reason is that she has a mother who constantly has been hurt and left.

-Henriette is "very romantic." But in fear of being rejected, she dates people she doesn't love.

-Henriette is a good person. There's greatness in her that is shown by her ability to see people for what they really are. She's the one that makes Kristoffer discover what Stig Inge is about.

Janne Formoe on (Elisabeth)

-Elisabeth proves to be very concerned about status and career. She is perhaps more concerned about making Kristoffer fit into her world than to accept him for what he is, says Janne Formoe. He feels Elisabeth and Henriette is presented in a way that makes it unclear of who Kristoffer should choose.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM



Dan Fainaru in Karlovy Vary

09 July 2003

Dir. Morten Tyldum. Norway. 2003. 104mins

A feel-good, eminently likeable romp about three young Norwegians in their early 20s struggling through the rites of passage from adolescence to maturity, this feature debut by a director with a solid reputation in commercials should be a welcome addition to the youth-oriented film repertoire the world over. Its only drawbacks, if they can be regarded as such, are a dose of warmth and innocence and a basic decency of behaviour that some audiences may find outmoded compared with similarly-themed Hollywood products. Faithfully supported by a team of young performers, who function perfectly together and deserve most of the credit, Morten Tyldum's promising crowd pleaser could, with the right handling, easily echo the success of *Elling*, which registered more than 700,000 admissions at home and performed strongly across Europe. Sandrew Metronome releases the film in Norway on Aug 29.

Kristoffer (Broch) and Geir (Hennie), who make their living by hanging billboards all over town, move in with a recluse web designer, Stig Inge (Christiansen), whose meticulously ordained existence begs for some of the chaos his new lodgers are about to bring into his life. While ostensibly out to get as much fun out of life as they can, each one of the three has his own hang-ups, all related to their incapacity to face life as adults.

Kristoffer, the more soulful, worries that accepting the spare keys to his girlfriend's flat is too big a step in their relationship; when he suggests she should wait a little, she drops him for her boss. Geir, the most eccentric, has a chip on his shoulder from an earlier relationship and engages in crazy stunts to prove he will not be tied down. Meanwhile shy, portly Stig-Inge (Christiansen), desperately in need of affection, is terrified of the world outside and has not left his neighbourhood for over two years.

One day, while being chased by an army of security officers, Kristoffer drops some tapes containing his video diaries, filled with off-the-wall observations on life in general. The tapes arrive on the desk of a TV executive, who suggests to Kristoffer they become a regular segment on a popular reality talk show. The show is a success and the three become overnight minor celebrities - but also find their private affairs exposed beyond comfort. Kristoffer, offered a TV development deal, has to choose between his friends and the lucrative career waiting for him just around the corner.

In a heart-warming decision that goes against today's fashionable cynicism, he opts for love and true friendship over career. A thoughtfully manipulated script ties together all the loose ends, ensuring Geir and Stig Inge's future happiness is provided for as well.

Attractively shot, briskly paced and with a lively soundtrack, *Buddy* is a pleasant, sympathetic experience and never attempts to dig too deeply into any of the issues it raises, be it relationships with parents, careerism or conformism. Instead it points its barbs at targets that are too easy to hit, never staying still long enough to raise doubts or generate criticism against it.

More memorable moments include a surprise birthday party, with all the neighbours, young and old, celebrating together. The young actors, mostly from the stage, are all equally effective, from

Broch as the hesitant Kristoffer, who is easily dragged into escapades before thinking them out, to Hennie whose aggressive Geir hides his anxieties behind hyper-active mischief and Christiansen as introvert Stig Inge who constantly invents excuses for his self-imposed seclusion. Meanwhile Pia Tjelta plays the lively girl who at one point invades the bachelor flat and becomes a full-time partner in it.

Prod co: *Happy Endings*

Int'l sales: *Non Stop Sales*

Nor dist: *Sandrew Metronome*

Prods: *Gudny Hummelvoll, Knut Jensen*

Scr: *Lars Gudmestad*

Cinematography: *John Andreas Andersen*

Ed: *Eli Nilsen*

Music: *Lars Lillo-Sternberg*

Main cast: *Nicolai Cleve Broch, Aksel Hennie, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Pia Tjelta, Janne Formoe*

THIS MONTH'S SHORT FILM: Steven K. Tsuchida's *A NINJA PAYS HALF MY RENT*
USA 5:00

It's not easy living with a roommate. A ninja could either be the answer to your dreams, or the roommate from hell.

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