



Photo: Rigmor Mydtskov

Cinematographer Andreas Fischer-Hansen

1941 - 2024.

Honorary member of the Danish Association of Cinematographers, my good friend and colleague Andreas, passed away in the early hours on the 25th of July. He was 83 years old. The last page in the script of his life has been written and the many paragraphs bear witness to an incredible life of great achievements and dreams fulfilled.

Andreas was born in 1941, and after high school he studied philosophy at the University of Copenhagen from 1962-1963. Afterwards, he chose to train under advertising photographer Bror Bernild. Finishing in 1967, he traveled to places such as Paris, to capture the General Strike and Student Occupation with his camera. He wanted more, and in 1969 he graduated as a cinematographer from the Danish Film School after two years of study.

As a cinematographer, Andreas worked on a long list of short films and documentaries, among others *A.W.O.L.* (1971, DK: *Desertøren*), *The Headhunters* (1971, DK: *Hovedjægerne*), *Leave us alone* (1975, DK: *La' os være*), and *Atlantic Rhapsody* (1990).

Andreas was the leader of the cinematography program at the Danish Film School from 1973-2000, with a small break from 1980-83 where he shot a couple of short films. In 1989 he started the production company *Nordfilm*, with director Ulla Bøje Rasmussen. Together they did several notable documentaries, including two films from the Faroe Islands, *1700-meter fra fremtiden* (1990), and *Tre blink mod vest* (1992).

Considering all these merits, it is obvious that Andreas was a valued board member of the Danish Association of Cinematographers, not least when our organization joined IMAGO, the European Federation of Cinematographers, in 1993. Andreas really shone in this work and was moved to act when IMAGO ran into financial troubles and dissatisfaction among member countries, in the start of the year 2000. Several countries banded together and convinced Andreas to run for President of IMAGO in 2003, where he was unanimously elected without contest. Andreas now chose a Secretary General and a Vice President: Paul René Roestad FNF (Norge) and Tony Costa AIP (Portugal). At the general assembly in 2004 in Copenhagen, they had corrected the course of the organization to the great delight of the member countries. In 2008 Andreas stepped down as President, according to his own wishes, and was in 2009 elected as an Honorary Member of IMAGO.

In 2006 he was appointed the leader of the Department of Cinematography at the Baltic Film and Media School at Tallinn University in Estonia. He worked there with great success until 2009 where he returned to his small farm and his sheep, another one of his passions. He did not leave Tallinn behind completely and in 2016 he was appointed an Honorary Member of Tallinn University. Many of his students from Estonia have since been in Denmark to visit him and get his advice on lighting, formats and framing.

Andreas' many competencies were recognized internationally, and many countries have welcomed him as a guest lecturer through the years. In 2023 he became an Honorary Member of the Austrian Association of Cinematographers (AAC).

Andreas also wrote two books about his profession. In 2008, with Professor Igor Korsic at the Ljubljana University, he did *The Report - A Symposium on Cinematographers*, a very educational book on framing. In 2009 he wrote *Eye of the photographer - Danish cinema through the last century (DK: Fotografens Øje - Dansk Film gennem 100 år)*, with colleagues Dirk Brüel and Jan Weincke.

He was also lauded with awards. Two years in a row, in 1989 and 1990, he received "Label" from Centre National de la Cinématographie, and in 1999 the "Klukpris" of the Danish Association of Cinematographers.

Andreas knew his trade and was always willing to share his knowledge. This was also clear when the news of his death spread amongst his colleagues. Many reminisced about their time at the Danish Film School during his tenure, and how they still to this day enjoyed meeting him, and talking about past, present and future.

Andreas was one of a kind, and many will remember him with gratitude for his enormous contribution to the benefit of all Danish cinematographers, both in and out of Denmark.

Thank you, Andreas, for your friendship and your advice.

Jan Weincke
President
Danish Association of Cinematographers

Memorial service on the 25th of August in Tisvilde (more info. later).