

Liv Ullmann & Wim Wenders present

# *Songs of Earth*

A film by Margreth Olin



2023 | 90 mins | Norwegian | Norway

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a fjord. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding snow-capped mountains and a cloudy sky. In the center, a small, dark silhouette of a person stands on a patch of ice or a narrow path across the water, with their reflection clearly visible below. The overall color palette is cool, dominated by blues, greys, and whites.

"A father brings his daughter with him - to see and to listen and to feel our earth. In Songs of Earth, Margreth Olin reminds us, in a unique way, who we are and why we are. The cinematic language is poetic, different and rich. I am proud to be a part of this team."

— *Liv Ullmann, Executive Producer*

*World Sales & Festivals - Cinephil*

[olivier@cinophil.com](mailto:olivier@cinophil.com)

[shoshi@cinophil.com](mailto:shoshi@cinophil.com)

*Director & Producer - Margreth Olin*

[margreth.olin@speranza.no](mailto:margreth.olin@speranza.no)



*Songs of Earth* is a majestic symphony for the big screen. The filmmaker's father is our guide. Bringing us through Norway's most scenic valley, he grew up where generations have been living alongside nature to survive. The sounds of the earth harmonize together to make music in this breathtaking journey.

**Idea/Script**

**Director**

**Contributors**

**Composer**

**Orchestra**

**Editor**

**Sound Design**

**Director of Photography**

**Drone Photographers**

**Wildlife Photo**

**Sound**

**Producers**

**Co-Producers**

**Executive Producers**

**World Sales**

**Financiers**

Margreth Olin

Margreth Olin

Jørgen & Magnhild Mykløen

Rebekka Karijord

London Contemporary Orchestra

Michal Leszczyłowski

Tormod Ringnes

Lars Erlend Tubaas Øymo

Herman Lersveen & Dag Asle Mykløen

Torbjørn Martinsen, Ingebjørg Fyrileiv Guldvik, Baard & Guttorm Næss

Andreas Lindberg Svensson

Speranza Film AS, Margreth Olin & Lena Faye-Lund Sandvik

BBC and SWR in co-operation with ARTE

Wim Wenders & Liv Ullmann

Cinephil

Norwegian Film Institute, Nordisk Film & TV Fond, Norsk Filmdistribusjon, Fritt

Ord Foundation, Audio & Visual Fund, NRK, SVT, Folkets Bio, Bergesen Foundation

## *Director's Statement*

My father is a wanderer. In his valley, we see how climate changes are affecting nature. In 25 years, the glacier branches have withdrawn 800 meters. My father takes us to the mountains, into the glacier, into the forest, near the game animals who are living there. Then nature takes over, and we experience what he has experienced for years on his countless hikes in the mountains.

We follow Oldedalen valley through a year. The mild spring is my father's childhood, the sweetness of summer his youth, the tempests of autumn his adult life and the quiet of winter his old age. We start and end in spring. We end with hope. When he plants a new seed beside the tree his grandfather planted 130 years ago. My father's stories restore the connection to nature.

Dad was born with his heels pointing forward and his toes behind. As if he was supposed to go backwards through life. After being plastered for two years, he learned to walk. Since then he has been a wanderer. Dad started working when he was six. He could not hold the horse behind the plow. "I do not take the lives of animals, I thank my best friends for life," he quotes. Dad was 11 when his appendix was punctured. His father carried him over the snowdrifts. During the operation, his father sat exhausted in wet clothes through the night; the pneumonia his father got came again every winter after that. In the evenings when he got time off he skated on the frozen lake. He married my mother at the foot of the glacier. They have been married for 55 years. They are still in love. He has kept his father and grandfather's way of grace, spending most of his life outdoors, breathing the pulse of his mighty backyard.

Underneath the powerful scenery there is a shift ongoing, a conflict: fewer birds and insects, forest-fires, floods, the glacier that collapses and withdraws. My father's body and mind changes, this might be the last year he can share his plea with us. Suddenly it all feels urgent.

Is his generation the last to carry the deepest knowledge of how we take care of nature? Is the solution simply to restore the connection to ourselves? If our species is to survive, we must listen to the song of the earth. Songs of Earth takes you outdoors. The word "ecology" comes from the word "oikos," which means "home." Nature is our home.



## *Margreth Olin*

### *Director, Writer, & Producer*

Margreth Olin (1970) is a director and producer with a large cinema audience in Norway. She has made 13 films, which have received critical acclaim, participated at numerous festivals abroad, and won several Norwegian and international awards. Margreth has catalyzed important dialogues with the topics her films shed light on. She has personally received 26 honorary awards for her commitment and focus on human rights. Her credits include *In The House of Angels* (Yamagata 1999) *My Body* (Tribeca 2002), EFA-nominated *Raw Youth* (2004), *The Angel* (TIFF 2010), *Nowhere Home* (IDFA 2012), *Cathedrals of Culture*, *The Oslo Opera House* (Berlinale 2013). Olin was one of 6 directors in Wim Wenders series *Cathedrals of Culture*, among Wim Wenders and Robert Redford. Her film *Doing Good* (2016) is the second highest grossing documentary ever in Norway. Her last film *Self Portrait* (DOC NYC 2020) won seven awards internationally. Olin is one of the recipients of the 2022 Chicken & Egg Award. She will be awarded the Anders Jahre Culture Award 2022 together with Joachim Trier, Deeyah Khan and Nils Gaup, which is Norway's biggest honor for outstanding cultural effort.



*Executive Producers*  
Liv Ullmann & Wim Wenders

*Wim Wenders*

*Executive Producer*

Wim Wenders (born 1945) came to international prominence as one of the pioneers of the New German Cinema during the 1970's and is considered to be one of the most important figures in contemporary German film. In addition to his many prize-winning feature films, his work as a script-writer, director, producer, photographer and author also encompasses an abundance of innovative documentary films, international photo exhibitions and numerous monographs, film books and prose collections. He lives and works in Berlin, together with his wife Donata Wenders.

He was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the 1977 Cannes Film Festival for his international breakthrough "The American Friend," which was cited as Best Foreign Film by the National Board of Review in the United States. "Paris, Texas" (1984) won three awards at Cannes, including the Palme d'Or, and a BAFTA for Best Director. "Wings of Desire" (1987) brought him the Best Director Award at Cannes. Since the mid-1990s, Wenders has distinguished himself as a non-fiction filmmaker, directing several highly acclaimed documentaries, most notably "Buena Vista Social Club" (1999) and "Pina" (2011), both of which brought him Oscar nominations.





*Liv Ullmann*  
*Executive Producer*

Born in Tokyo to Norwegian parents, Liv Ullmann went to drama school in London. Recognised as one of the greatest European actresses of all time, Ullmann is known as the muse and frequent partner of filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, having had the lead roles in his most distinguished films: *Persona* (1966), *Cries and Whispers* (1972), *Scenes From a Marriage* (1973), *Face to Face* (1975) and *Autumn Sonata* (1977).

The role as Kristina in Jan Troell's *The Emigrants and The New Land* (1971) earned Ullmann a Golden Globe. She was nominated several times for Best Actress at the Oscars®, and won the American Film Critic's Prize four years in a row.

In 1992, Ullmann wrote and directed her first feature film, *Sophie*, which was awarded at the Montreal Film Festival. In 1995, she adapted and directed Sigrid Undset's famous novel *Kristin Lavransdotter*. She then directed *Private Confessions*, based on an Ingmar Bergman script. *Private Confessions* was selected for the 1997 Cannes Film Festival. In 2000 she came again in Cannes, in competition, with *Trolösa*.

Ullmann has played a number of major roles on international stages. In recent years she has concentrated on scriptwriting and directing. Additionally, she has been a UNICEF goodwill ambassador for 20 years and chairman of the International Rescue Committee. In 2022, Ullmann received an Honorary Oscars® award for her lifetime achievement in the film industry.