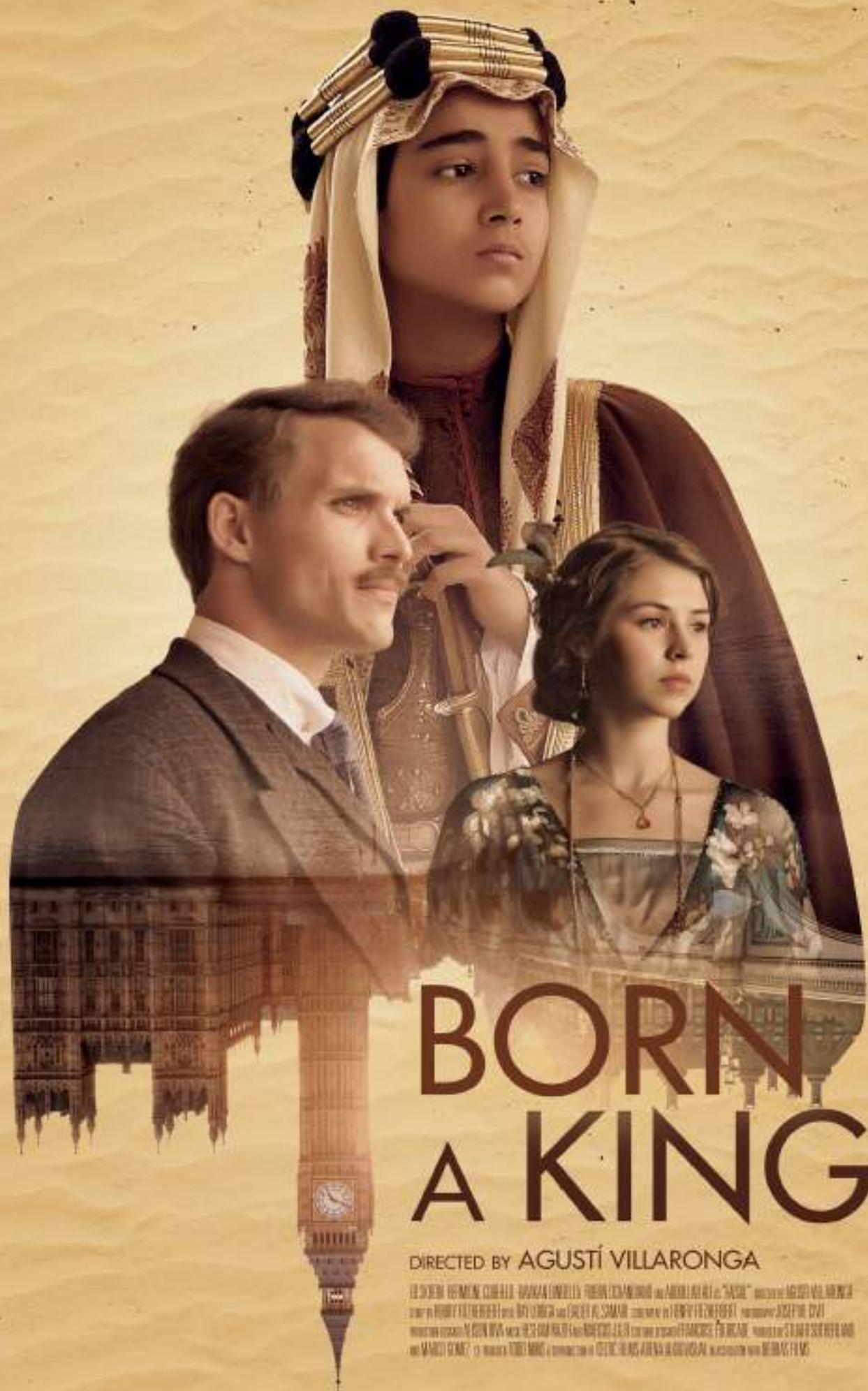


AN ANDRES VICENTE GOMEZ PRODUCTION

AT THIRTEEN HE EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY
THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY



BORN A KING

DIRECTED BY AGUSTÍ VILLARONGA

LE SIENNESE VERONICA CARRELLA, RAHMAN LINDULLA, FERRUCIO LANDOLFI, AND ANTONIO PARRI IN "BORN A KING" WRITTEN BY AGUSTÍ VILLARONGA
CASTING BY HENRY FATHALLAH, COSTUME DESIGNER BY LINDA AND CAROL AL-SAMIR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BY HENRY FATHALLAH, PRODUCED BY JOSEPHINE CHAI
MUSIC BY ANDREW COOPER, EDITOR ANDREW COOPER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREW COOPER, PRODUCED BY STRAIGHT SHOT FILMS
AND MARIO GIANI, CO-PRODUCED BY TONY MING, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREW COOPER, PRODUCED BY STRAIGHT SHOT FILMS

AT THIRTEEN HE EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY
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KING FAISAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND
ISLAMIC STUDIES presents
An ANDRES VICENTE GOMEZ production

BORN A KING

A FILM BY **AGUSTÍ VILLARONGA**

STARRING

ED SKREIN, HERMIONE CORFIELD, RAWKAN BINBELLA, RUBÉN OCHANDIANO,
ABDULLAH ALI, CELYN JONES, SAM ADEWUNMI, LAURENCE FOX AND KENNETH
CRANHAM

Running time: 100 minutes Shooting format: Color, 2,35 : 1
Genre: Epic, Historical, and Coming of Age
Language: English / Arabic



THE STORY

BORN A KING tells the extraordinary true story of FAISAL, the younger son of the first King of Saudi Arabia, who in 1919 is sent on a diplomatic mission, aged just 13. In the frenetic post-WWI atmosphere of 1919, FAISAL becomes the first Saudi Royal to visit the UK and France on a politically precarious trip lasting 5 months. FAISAL ultimately became the hugely popular King of Saudi Arabia (1964-1975), and is credited with stabilising his country's finances and implementing modernisation and reform.

THE FULL STORY

It's 1919 in the Najd, Arabian Peninsula, different political forces compete to establish sovereignty within this vast territory. None more so than the warrior Prince Abdulaziz Ibn Saud who dreams to one day rule a Kingdom of his creation, Saudi Arabia. However at this moment in time, that dream is not set and he is living in uncertain times.

Prince Faisal Bin Abdulaziz is barely 13 years old and the youngest of three heirs to the House of Saud. The young Prince is at that precarious age between childhood and adulthood, with one foot in either world. In Arabic culture he is very much on the cusp of manhood. On the one hand the young Prince loves to ride his thoroughbred horse all day and play with Marzouq, his Milk Brother and closest friend; and on the other hand he can sit mesmerized for hours watching his Father hold court and wisely rule over his subjects.



As Abdulaziz plans a military campaign to capture his Kingdom, he summons Faisal to a meeting. Sir Harry John Philby a British Diplomat and ally to the House of Saud is also present as is Faisal's older brother and heir, Prince Saud. Abdulaziz commands his thirteen year-old son Faisal to lead a delegation to Great Britain and convince her to support his bid for a Kingdom. Faisal is shocked by his Father's overwhelming command. This is a massive responsibility for such a young and inexperienced Prince. But Abdulaziz has no other choice, his son Turki has recently been killed by the Flu Pandemic and he needs his heir Prince Saud to remain at the head part of his army.

Only young Prince Faisal can undertake this essential mission. For if he cannot gain the support of the British Empire, or worse still, they oppose him, there will be no hope for a land of their own.

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To help Faisal with his mission, the King appoints his advisor Thunayyan a former Ottoman official who now serves Saud. He will act as his interpreter, adviser and make sure the young Prince does not get into any trouble. Of course Faisal shall also have his best friend Marzouq on the trip to keep him company.

And so Prince Faisal Bin Abdulaziz sets off on an incredible adventure travelling further than he could ever imagine to an exotic foreign land, the capital of the British Empire. He will experience wonder, mischief, racism, joy, laughter, sickness and pain. He will be forced to decide what kind of man he wants to be and most of all he will have to succeed in his mission and earn the respect of his Father and a Kingdom for his people.

To achieve this he must overcome the British Empire in a tense meeting to decide the fate of his home. He must meet the King of England, GEORGE V and negotiate with the formidable Lord Curzon, the British Minister of Foreign Affairs. And so it came to pass that a Young thirteen year old Arab Prince, did a successfully political battle with the mighty British Empire.

Six years later in Jerusalem Philby opens a newspaper and sees the photograph of Faisal leading his troops victoriously in the battle of Asir. The picture turns into the real battle field, the cavalry charge among the war cries. A few days later Faisal arrives to Riyadh, now a man and a warrior, fairly delivers victory to his father, Abdulaziz.



ABOUT THE CAST



ABDULLAH ALI

This is the first performance on the big screen of Abdullah Ali, a young man from the city of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Abdullah was selected after the casting of hundreds of teenagers in the schools of the Saudi Kingdom.



RAWKAN BINBELLA

Rawkan is one of the new promises of Saudi cinema, a model and actor, has studied acting in Los Angeles. In addition to this, his activity in social media has earned him a large number of "followers" in Saudi Arabia and abroad.



ED SKREIN

Skrein is one of the most highly versatile artists of his generation. He was selected by Screen International as one of their "Stars of Tomorrow" in 2013, which showcases the next generation of talent from the UK.

Most recently, Skrein starred as the villain Ajax in Marvel's and Twentieth Century Fox's box office hit, *Deadpool* (2016), alongside Ryan Reynolds.

In 2013, Skrein appeared in the Award winning HBO series, *Game of Thrones*. Skrein portrayed the character Daario Naharis. In 2015, Skrein starred in the action crime thriller reboot, *The Transporter Refueled*, and recently starred in the Danish drama *The Model*.

Other film credits include *The Sweeney*, *Tiger House*, *Piggy*, *Northmen: A Viking Saga*, *Sword of Vengeance* and *Goldfish*



HERMIONE CORFIELD

Hermione studied English literature at University College London before taking a method acting course at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York. She has appeared in such movies as *Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation* (2015), *Mr. Holmes* (2015), *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies* (2016), *xXx: Return of Xander Cage* (2017), and *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* (2017).



KENNETH CRANHAM

Kenneth Cranham is a film, television, radio and stage actor. He is popularly known for his work in *Maleficent* (2014) *Hellbound: Hellraiser II* (1988) and *Valkyrie* (2018).

He starred in the title role in the popular 1980s comedy drama *Shine on Harvey Moon* and in 2005 in the HBO series *Rome* to which Cranham brought the series the requisite sense of sophistication and political intrigue. In 2016, Cranham won the Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Play for his role as Andre in Florian Zeller's *The Father*.



RUBEN OCHANDIANO

He began his career at 17 years-old in a successful Spanish TV series. Since then, he continued working in films such as: *Flores de otro mundo* (1999), *El corazón del guerrero* (2000), *Asfalto* (2000); *Silencio roto* (2001), *Guerreros* (2002), *La flaqueza del bolchevique* (2003), and *Tapas* (2005).

Throughout his career he has worked under the orders of directors of great importance as with Pedro Almodóvar in *Broken Embraces* (2009), Steven Soderbergh in *Che* (2008), Alejandro González Iñárritu in *Biutiful* (2010) and Gabriele Salvatores in *Amnesia* (2002).

He has recently acted in the film *Infiltrator* (2016) alongside Brian Cranston.



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

AGUSTÍ VILLARONGA

Spanish film director, screenwriter and actor. He has directed eight feature films, a documentary, three projects for television and three shorts. His film *MOONCHILD* was entered into the 1989 Cannes Film Festival, and obtained the Goya to the best script adaptation.

In 2000, one of his most personal works, *EL MAR*, obtained the Manfred Salzberg Award at the Berlin Film Festival. In 2002 he directs the fake documentary *IN THE MIND OF A KILLER* (2002) obtaining the Ariel award for best script.

His best known work is *BLACK BREAD* (*Pa Negre*), which swept the 2011 Goya Awards, winning 9 awards, including a Best Director award. The film was selected as the Spanish entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 84th Academy Awards. In 2015 his film "The King of Havana" premieres at the San Sebastian Film Festival, then earning several Gaudi awards and Goya nominations. He has recently premiered her last film: *Uncertain Glory* (2017).





ANDRES VICENTE GOMEZ

Andres Vicente Gomez is one of Spain's most prolific and Europe's most highly regarded producers, winner of an Oscar for Fernando Trueba's *BELLE EPOQUE*, was honored at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival as one of the world's most important film industry professionals. In addition to awards won at the Venice, Berlin, Montreal and San Sebastian Film Festivals, his annual presence at the Goyas, Spain's Academy Awards, makes him the Spanish producer with the most national and international awards.

He has produced over 100 feature films among them several of Spain's top grossing films, working with virtually every Spanish director of renown.

MARCO GOMEZ VUOLASMAA

Marco has been working in the film industry since 1988 being involved in different sectors of the business as International Sales, Distribution and different roles within the film production from runner to co-producer or executive producer, being line producer and associate producer of many feature films produced by Lola Films focusing on international productions.

Marco has been executive producer in some of the most significant films of recent Spanish Cinema: 'THE CONSUL OF SODOM', Spanish box office hits such as "ISI DISI" etc. He has produced films with international stars, including: 'A MATADOR'S MISTRESS' with Andrien Brdoy and Penelope Cruz, 'AS LUCK WILL HAVE IT' with Salma Hayek, among others.



STUART SUTHERLAND

Stuart started his career in the entertainment industry in 1992. After doing stints at film production companies in Los Angeles in 1996 return to the family company, Celtic Films, one of the leading United Kingdom drama producers. In 2006 Stuart was appointed the executive producer and structure the finance for the return of one of the UK's best loved TV franchises, *SHARPE*, which resulted in the *SHARPE'S CHALLENGE* 2006 mini-series and the *SHARPE'S PERIL* mini-series in 2008. The average

audience of both series was 7 million viewers

From 2010 to today, Stuart has served as Executive Producer on a number of films including *A LONG WEEKEND* and *THE COURIER*.



RAY LORIGA Spanish author, screenwriter, and director. His first novel "The Worst Thing of All" was published in 1992, and he has since written and published numerous titles. Eight of his novels have been translated into 20 languages and have received great reviews all over the world, including from The New York Times, The Guardian and Le Monde. As a scriptwriter he has worked with prestigious directors such as Almodovar and Carlos Saura. In 1997, he made his directorial debut with My Brother's Gun. Teresa: The Body of Christ (2007) was his second film.

HENRY FITZHERBERT is an expert scriptwriter, film critic and editor with over 20 years of experience in the national media. A fast, vibrant and highly skilled writer with an instinctive nose for stories. Screenwriter for feature films with eight optioned/ commissioned screenplays; original ideas, novel adaptations and a true story. He is also a film critic of Sunday Express (England).

BADER AL SAMARI was born in eastern province of Saudi Arabia in 1974. Saudi Novelist, the author of bestselling novel in Riyadh book fair 2014: "IRTIYAB" (Doubt). This novel was his second novel, after "Ibn Tarrag" and fourth book in total. Bader is also a short stories and essay writer. He also translates literature from English to Arabic. In addition, Bader writes periodically in fiction writing and literacy and art critique article, mainly in Emirates Literature Magazine, and Takween page. He is also a Judge in iRead competition.

JOSE LUIS ARRIZABALAGA "ARRI" and **ARTURO GARCÍA OTADUY "BIAFFRA"**, "ARRI AND BIAFFRA", are the most recognized tandem of artistic directors and designers of the Spanish film industry. Together they have developed a trajectory closely linked to filmmakers: Alex de la Iglesia and Santiago Segura. In 1996 They received their first Goya Award of best Production Design for the film "The Day of the Beast". The films they have worked on include titles such as "800 bullets", "Torrente", "Perdita Durango" or "Los cronocrímenes". Their beginnings date back to their student days at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Bilbao. In 1988 they debuted in the cinema with the short film by Pablo Berger "Mama".

JOSEP CIVIT has been working as Director of Photography since 1986 working for productions of all types in cinema, TV, advertising, documentaries and theatre.

Josep worked internationally throughout his career working with well known directors like Monte Hellmann, Bigas Luna, Agusti Villaronga, Paul Leduc among others, taking him to countries such as USA, Mexico, Colombia, UK, France, United Arab Emirates . . . Josep has won a Gaudí Award 2016 for Best Cinematography for his work in the feature film The King of Havana directed by Agusti Villaronga. He also received a Goya Nomination for the same film. In line with each director's vision, Josep always sets out to weave a sense of emotion in his images.

ALISON RIVA is known for her strong designs, attention to detail, use of colour, historical accuracy, sourcing of local materials, and good management of her team. She has created vast sets of ancient Rome on the stages and back lot of Roma Studios for "EMPIRE" for Touchstone/ABC America. She designed sets circa 1952 in India for Merchant Ivory on the film "COTTON MARY" and, in English country style, "SEPARATE LIES" a film directed by Julian Fellowes. She created an underground world for the horror movie "LONG TIME DEAD" with Working Title and with her team built a whole village on the Isle of Taransay, in the Hebrides, for the war time film "THE ROCKET POST". She has also worked with Stephen Frears, Michael Cimino and Bernardo Bertolucci.

PABLO BLANCO has edited more than 60 feature films. He has been nominated seven times for the Goya Awards, and has received the award on three occasions, which makes him the editor who was won the award the most times. He won for AIRBAG (1996), NO RECT FOR THE WICKED(2012) and WITCHING & BITCHING (2014).

He has also edited TV series such as ALATRISTE, RED EAGLE and APACHES. At present, he is editing the last feature film of Iñaki Dorronsoro.



An ANDRES VICENTE GOMEZ PRODUCTION.

A film by AGUSTÍ VILLARONGA

Script by HENRY FITZHERBERT

Story by RAY LORIGA and BADER AL SAMARI

Produced by ANDRÉS VICENTE GÓMEZ, MARCO GÓMEZ and coproduced by STUART SUTHERLAND

director of photography JOSEP M. CIVIT

production design by ALISON RIVA (London) JOSÉ LUIS ARRIZABALGA 'ARRI' (Arabia) and

ARTURO GARCÍA OTADUY 'BIAFFRA' (Arabia)

costume design FRANÇOISE FOURCADE

visual effects BERNAT ARAGONÉS

editing by PABLO BLANCO

LOLA *Arabia* Ltd.