

SONS OF THE SOIL



— S A G A —

BORGARÆTTARINNAR

— 1 0 0 Á R A —

KVIKMYNDASAFN ÍSLANDS ÍSAMSTARFI VIT GUNNARSSTOFNUN OG SINFONIANORD VINNA SÖGU BORGARÆTTARINNAR MYND NORDISK FILMS KOMPAGNI

LEIKSTJÓRI GUNNAR SOMMERFELDT LEIKARAR GUÐMUNDUR THORSTEINSSON 'MUGGUR' GUNNAR SOMMERFELDT INGE SOMMERFELDT INGEBOURG SPANGSFELDT ELISABETH JACOBSEN
FREDERIK JACOBSEN PHILIP BECH GUÐRÚN INDRIDADÓTTIR STEFANÍA GUÐMUNDSDÓTTIR MARTA INDRIDADÓTTIR BERTEL KRAUSE OVE KÜHL VICTOR NEUMANN KAREN POULSEN

TÓNLIST PÓRÐUR MAGNÚSSON TÓNLEIÐSTJÓRNARAR SINFÓNIAHLJÓMSVEIT NORDURLANDS UNDIR STJÓÐA BJARNA FRÍMANNSS HLJÓÐBLANDI STEVE MCCLAUGHLIN

SinfoniaNord

Kvikmyndasafn
Íslands

GUNNARSSTOFNUN

PLOT

Sons of the Soil, from the novel Guest the One-Eyed by Gunnar Gunnarsson, deals with brothers Ormarr and Ketill, sons of Örlygur, a grand farmer at Borg. At the beginning of the story, Ormarr rescues the peasant Páll and his daughter Rúna from danger. Örlygur takes the girl in and she grows up with the brothers at Borg. Ormarr is artistic and moves to Copenhagen to study the violin but abandons music and starts a business career. He falls in love with banker's daughter Alma and intends to ask for her hand in marriage, but then Ketill appears on the scene, charms the socks off Alma and marries her in haste. Ormarr returns to his home in the country, where he finds out that Ketill has seduced Rúna before his departure. Ormarr finds Rúna when she is about to throw herself off a cliff. They fall in love and to save Rúna from scandal they get married and travel abroad, where a son is born. When Ketill returns with Alma, his father has disowned him. Ketill becomes priest at Hof, but neglects his wife, who develops a mental illness. He starts nasty rumours about his father and brother and those lies lead to Örlygur's death, after which Ketill disappears.

The second part of the movie takes part twenty years later, when Ormarr has taken on his father's role as grand farmer at Borg with Rúna by his side, and young Örlygur, the son of her and Ketill. Alma also resides at Borg. Young Örlygur is in love with Bagga, the daughter of a poor widow who Ormarr doesn't feel is worthy enough for his son. One day, when the young man is going to see his girl, he meets a one-eyed vagabond. This is a noted tramp, Guest the One-Eyed, who has been wandering around the country, preaching Christianity. He seems to know all about the people in the area and Örlygur is fascinated by his worldly wisdom. Ormarr has arranged for Bagga to become a housekeeper with the local doctor, but Örlygur stops her, professes his love and takes her home to Borg. En-route they happen upon Guest the One-Eyed, who is in need of help. When they return to Borg, Ormarr and Rúna soon realise that this vagrant is none other than Ketill, who has tried to seek forgiveness through the humble life of the tramp. The three of them give the young couple their blessing, the future is theirs.

The End



Bagga, played by Elisabeth Jacobsen, Guðrún Indriðadóttir as the widow at Bolli and Gunnar Gunnarsson as doctor Jón Hallsson.

CENTENNIAL

Guest the One-Eyed (Borgslægtens Historie) was Gunnar Gunnarsson's first novel, published in Denmark in 1912-14. It was extremely popular and Danish director Gunnar Sommerfeldt saw an opportunity to create an epic movie, based on the story, accentuated by the Icelandic landscape. He managed to convince the author and the chairmen of Nordisk Film to participate in the project. The film marks the start of filmmaking in Iceland, it was shot with Danish and Icelandic actors in 1919, mostly in Reykholt in Borgarfjörður, Keldur at Rangárvellir and in a studio, built on

Amtmannstún in Reykjavík. It premiered in Copenhagen in August 1920 but in Iceland in January 1921. Ever since, it's been dear to the Icelandic people and shown regularly in film theatres and on TV.

To mark the centenary of the film, The National Film Archive of Iceland, Gunnar Gunnarsson Institute and the Akureyri Culture Company have collaborated on a digital reconstruction of the film in high definition, with new original score by Þórður Magnússon, performed by SinfoniaNord. Sons of the Soil has gained a new life.

CAST

Frederik Jacobsen (Örlygur at Borg)
Guðmundur Thorsteinsson (Ormarr Örlygsson)
Gunnar Sommerfeldt (Ketill / One-eyed Gestur)
Ingeborg Spangsfeldt (Rúna)
Inge Sommerfeldt (Alma)
Ove Kühl (Örlygur "Young Eagle")
Elisabeth Jacobsen (Snæbjörg "Bagga")
Guðrún Indriðadóttir (The widow at Bollli)
Stefanía Guðmundsdóttir (Old Kata)
Gunnar Gunnarsson (Doctor Jón Hallsson)
Marta Kalman Indriðadóttir (Old Ossa)
Philip Bech (Bank manager Vivild)

Bertel Krause (Captain Janzen)
Victor Neumann (Professor Grahl)
Jón in Gunnarsholt (Local farmer)
Sigurður Magnússon (Páll at Seyra)
Christen Fribert (Grocer Bjarni)
Stefán Runólfsson (Reverend Daniel)

Director: Gunnar Sommerfeldt
Script: Valdemar Andersen
Cinematography: Louis Larsen
Icelandic translations: Árni Óla

RESTORATION

Film restoration; scanning, colour analysis and image processing:

National Film Archive of Iceland/Jón Stefánsson

Score: Þórdur Magnússon

Music performance: SinfoniaNord

Conductor: Bjarni Frímann Bjarnason

Mixing: Steve McLaughlin

THANKS

Akureyri Culture Company

Det Danske Film Institut

Nordisk Film

Erlendur Sveinsson

Gunnar Árnason

Árni F. Sigurðsson.

Sponsors: Music Fund • Music Recording Fund • The Composer's fund of RÚV and STEF • Gunnar Gunnarsson Culture Fund

— S A G A —
BORGARÆTTARINNAR
— 1 0 0 Á R A —