



what makes the faeroe islands

'we do not build this country for practical reasons'

29 minutes — colour — 16 mm — documentary, education

Up till now films on the Faeroe Islands have all day-dreamed of gorgeous nature, the picturesque folklore, bird-catching and whale-killing. Things you do not find elsewhere — interesting but often mal-treated.

Most of us living in this very modern community, surrounded by deep-freezers, cars and electric shavers, are quite simply embarrassed still to be shown as a backward, barbaric, but beautiful tribe! With this film we'll tell a very different story of ourselves.

It is made by people born and living in the Faeroe Islands, with technical aid from professionals in Copenhagen.

It tells you of how we make our living and fight the rock mountain; of why we must protect the Northatlantic Sea; of why we support little industries in the small communities and why we don't want to be strangled in a conveyer-belt; and of our intriguing relationship to Denmark.

We hope to give with this film a more complex picture of our way of life. Perhaps to set an example.

For further information and sale:

TOR-FILM pf

P.O.Box 184

3800 Thorshavn FAEROE ISLANDS

EBBE PREISLER film/tv

Rosenvængets Allé 14

2100 Copenhagen Ø

DENMARK

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A short description

The modern community in the Faeroe Islands is almost as complicated as you may find it anywhere in the western world. It has grown rapidly due to the wealth taken from the Northatlantic Sea and is now facing the fact that industrialisation must come: Fishing has become so effective that it may soon lead to its own suicide, if it is not limited and controlled, and the community must find its support elsewhere. In the crafts for example, and in agricultural development. With industrialisation.

But — this community will not develop at any cost. It is on the guard for not capsizing in modernism, centralisation and mechanisation. »We do not build this country for practical reasons« the film quotes a Faeroe poet. And so everybody — and those responsible in particular — favour the little milieus, dynamic and well-groomed, thriving on middle-size industries and not busted by quick ideas coming from abroad. — This is the main thread of the film.

Another thread describes the relationship to Denmark, to whom the Faeroes are bound by constitution. The subject is very much a matter of discussion. One large group work for independency, another find that the connections are fruitful and economically necessary.

In the film we have important comments on language problem especially.

A young woman teacher advertises the great need for school-books in the Faeroe language, and a bright student explains how he and a fellow student failed their exams, simply because they denied to speak Danish on this occasion. In other words — the self confidence of the people has been at stake for years. The wish is towards an intimate relationship to MANY nations, especially the Scandinavian, INCLUDING Denmark. To which nation there will always be strong emotional ties. The film ends by telling the story of a village, which 12 years ago had virtually died from the lack of possibilities. A new doctor came around and gave the diagnosis: The people need word! He took away all the medicine and called for a village meeting during which a fileting factory was founded on a co-operative basis — and a new trawler was soon built to serve the factory.

The doctor is now minister for fishing, by the way, but he is not all that unusual in a faeroese connection.

Very few know of all this (and more) — and that's why the film was made.

Facts about the Faeroe Islands

The Faeroe Islands consist of 18 islands, 17 of which inhabited. They are situated halfway from Scotland to Iceland. The population, which is growing, has exceeded 40.000. The capital Torshavn has 12.500 inhabitants. The islands cover 1400 km².

The faeroe Islands are the 6th nation of Scandinavia and have their own language and their own tradition and culture. Their history goes back more than 1000 years, and their parliament is one of the oldest in Europe. For 500 years the islands have been under Danish supremacy. In 1948 a Home Rule Act was introduced, granting the Faeroese parliament legislative power in local affairs, whereas foreign affairs etc. are ruled by Danish authorities. Other important affairs, e.g. education, are also ruled by the Danish authorities, represented in the Faeroe Islands by the Danish High Commissioner, residing in Torshavn.

The Faeroe Islands are not a member of the Common Market.

The Faeroese flag was introduced in 1940.

Special Faroese bank notes and postal stamps are issued.

The main industry is fishing. In 1974 the total exports amounted to approx. 500 million Danish kroner.

Today the Faeroe Islands are considered a welfare society of Scandinavian standards. The fishing fleet is modern and well-equipped. The network of roads includes bridges and tunnels. The inshore traffic service is carried out by coastal liners and ferries. There are daily flights to other countries in the summer, and those who prefer the seaway may take advantage of the big passenger and carferries available.

Credits: Sound: Arni C. Joensen

Camera: Henning Kristiansen, Kjeld Ammundsen

Cut: Keld Appel Hansen Production:

TOR-FILM pf. P.O. Box 184, 3800 Thorshavn

Directed by: Jens Pauli Heinesen,

Eydan Jonasson, Roland Thomsen, Eirik Prestler

Music: William Heinesen (famous author)

Harkalidid (4' 20'') Havnar Dansifelag Dance & song



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