





HUNGER

"Just because you happen to be a sensitive kind of person
it doesn't necessarily mean you're mad. There are people
who live on trifles and die because of a harsh word."
Knut Hamsun





THE TIME: Late in the Autumn of 1890.

THE PLACE: "... that strange city which no man leaves before it has marked him for life" – Christiania, as the capital of Norway was then known.

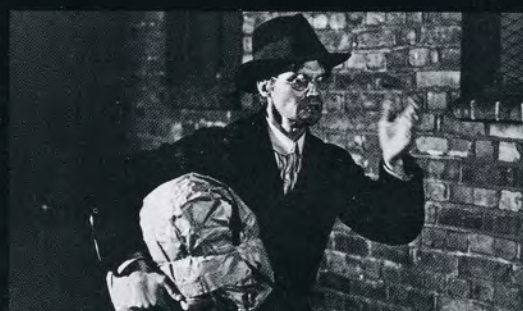
THE STORY: A shaking, deeply penetrating account of an interlude in the life of a gifted young writer, when failure to sell his work had reduced him to a state of abject poverty and insufferable pains had begun to gnaw at his stomach, brain and heart – the pains of hunger.

Only a genius could have succeeded in registering the flashes of madness, the frustration, the misery, the carnal lusts, the alternating pangs of tender love and fierce hate, the self-criticism, dreams and hallucinations that beset the mind of a man driven half-demented by starvation.

Only a genius could have managed to retain, in the face of ignominy and hopelessness, such a sense of humour, such compassion, such an eye even for comical absurdities in the behaviour of a man whose belly cried out for food and whose soul yearned for warmth and recognition – who yet, in spite of it all, faced up to the consequences of his appalling condition with dignity.

Such a genius was Knut Hamsun, the man who wrote the novel that has no parallel in world literature, the novel upon which this remarkable film has been moulded: a masterly portrayal of the workings of a hungry man's mind.





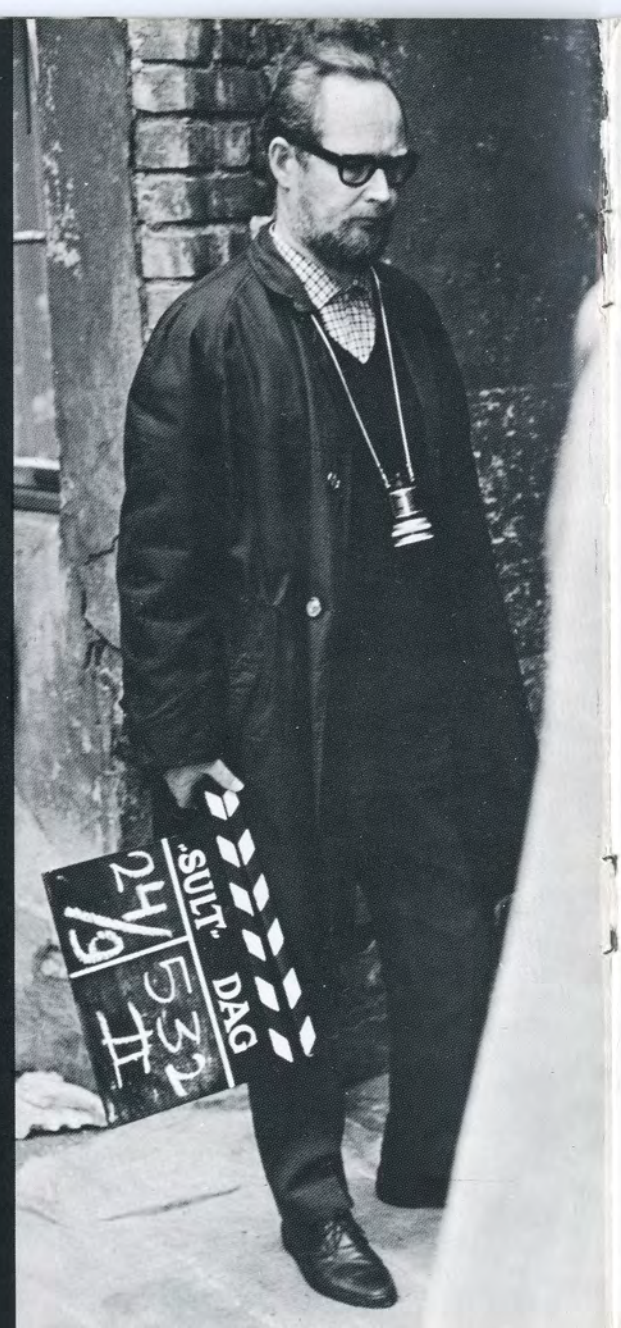




HUNGER was written by Knut Hamsun (1859-1952.) Hamsun himself lived in extreme poverty as a young man in Christiania (now Oslo). In 1890 he made a name for himself with his novel "Hunger", regarded by many as the Mount Everest of Scandinavian literature. Knut Hamsun was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1920. "Hunger" has been translated into 37 languages.

HUNGER is the first inter-Scandinavian co-production - produced by ABC-Film, Oslo, Sandrews and Svenska Filminstitutet, Stockholm, and Henning Carlsen, Copenhagen. "Hunger" was filmed in Oslo, in the same parts of the city as those in which Hamsun himself wandered about, starving.

HUNGER is Henning Carlsen's fourth feature film - after "Dilemma" ("A World of Strangers", 1st Prize at Mannheim 1962), "Hvad Med Os" („Epilogue", 1st Prize for leading female role at San Francisco 1964) and "Kattorna" (Swedish Film Institute's Gold Plaque awarded to Eva Dahlbeck for best performance of the year by Swedish actress 1965). Henning Carlsen has made 38 documentary films, many of them awarded prizes at international festivals.



HUNGER

Script: Peter Seeberg
Scenario: Henning Carlsen
Director of Photography: Henning Kristiansen DFF
Assistant Cameraman: Leif Jappe
Assistant Director: Espen Thorstenson
Unit Manager: Jack Hald
Assistant Manager: Ed Epstein
Continuity: Anja Breien
Art Director: Erik Aaes
Costumes: Ada Skolmen
Sound: Erik Jensen
Stills: Jesper Høm
Make-up: Nurven Bredangen
Lene Ravn
Music: Krzysztof Komeda
Production: Studio ABC, Norway
Henning Carlsen, Denmark
Sandrews, Svenska
Filminstitutet, Sweden

Executive Producer: Bertil Ohlsson
Director: Henning Carlsen

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PER OSCARSSON gives the most sensitive and strangely gripping performance of his career, one which will remain indelibly etched in the minds of all who see him in this pathetically exacting role.

GUNNEL LINDBLOM, whom nobody will ever forget after her performance in Ingmar Bergman's "The Silence", has the only other large part in the film - the girl who constitutes the starving man's image of the woman of his dreams, but who nonetheless succeeds in stealing his last illusions.

LEADING DANISH AND NORWEGIAN ACTORS & ACTRESSES appear in the many minor parts surrounding the protagonist, several of them inspired by Per Oscarsson's sheer brilliance to give performances of rare quality.

The Danish Government Film Foundation's Official Entry at the 1966 Cannes Film Festival.

