



Gard B. Eidsvold Anders Danielsen Lie
in

QUISLING

The Final Days

a film by ERIK POPPE

tiff





SYNOPSIS Five years of occupation come to an end on May 8, 1945. The rebuilding of the nation can now begin, but first, the final chapter must be written.

In a dark cell at Akershus Fortress sits the man who committed the greatest betrayal of all: Vidkun Quisling.

Now he must be held accountable for his actions and the atrocities caused by Nazi ideology. But first, he is to meet with the spiritual advisor and priest, Peder Olsen.

Can this priest, himself scarred by the brutality of the war, help the man who was on a first-name basis with Hitler find peace of mind?

Is this traitor, who has grandiose ideas about himself and his mission, capable of remorse?



VIDKUN QUISLING - WW2'S MOST INFAMOUS TRAITOR

After the Nazi occupation of Norway ended in 1945, a final chapter had to be written to overcome the trauma of war and to begin reconstructing the nation.

The man who committed the greatest betrayal – he invited Hitler's Nazi Germany to invade Norway – is now in his dark cell: Vidkun Quisling, the Nazi collaborator and functioning Prime Minister during the occupation, is finally held accountable for his atrocities.

Quisling asks to speak with the highest-ranking leader of the church, but the bishop sends the priest Peder Olsen in his place to counsel and support him during his trial and eventually to his execution.

Olsen is himself struggling with trauma after five long years of war and struggles to abide by Quisling's demands of respect and acknowledgement for his duty and efforts.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian people want nothing from Quisling but confessions, remorse, and vengeance.

In his quest to untangle Quisling's grandiose mission, Peder Olsen finds himself teetering on the edge of his moral void, almost losing sight of right and wrong.

In this exceptional feature by **Erik Poppe** and writers **Anna Bache-Wiig** and **Siv Rajendram** (*U 22 July* – Berlinale Competition), we follow the notorious traitor Vidkun Quisling from the days of peace in 1945, through captivity and trial, and finally towards the verdict and his execution, in a thriller-like tale of a psychological and claustrophobic struggle over truth and lies, faith and doubt.



In the role of Vidkun Quisling, we find one of Scandinavia's most acclaimed actors, **Gard B. Eidsvold**. He has appeared in over 90 films and TV series, including the Netflix hit movie *Troll*, HBO's global

success *Beforeigners*, and *In Order of Disappearance* alongside Stellan Skarsgård and Bruno Ganz.

Anders Danielsen Lie, last seen in *Mother's Instinct* alongside Anne Hathaway and Jessica Chastain, portrays the priest, Peder Olsen. He achieved his major international breakthrough with *The Worst Person in the World* and has been noted in critically acclaimed films such as *Sick of Myself* and *Bergman Island* Both *The Worst Person in the World* and *Bergman Island* participated in the main competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2021.





ABOUT THE PROJECT

Quisling – The Final Days is based on extensive research and unique source material. Among the sources being used is a diary written by the priest, Peder Olsen, in which he documents his time as Quisling's confidant and one of Quisling's two spiritual advisors in prison during the period from his arrest until his execution on October 24, 1945.

In the film, we follow Vidkun Quisling from the initial days of the Liberation in 1945, through his captivity and trial, and on up to the final verdict and his execution. We gain condensed insight into his psychological and claustrophobic struggle with the truth and lies, faith and doubt.

Five years of occupation come to an end on May 8, 1945. The rebuilding of the nation can now begin, but first, the final chapter must be written.

QUISLING – THE FINAL DAYS PRESS KIT

In a dark cell at Akershus Fortress sits the man who committed the greatest betrayal of all: Vidkun Quisling. Now he must be held accountable for his actions and the atrocities caused by Nazi ideology. But first, he is to meet with the spiritual advisor and priest, Peder Olsen.

Can this priest, himself scarred by the brutality of the war, help the man who was on a first-name basis with Hitler find peace of mind? Is this traitor, who has grandiose ideas about himself and his Nazi mission, capable of remorse?



*It was actually Winston Churchill who immortalized the term “quisling” in his 1941 speech, condemning collaborators with invading forces as “a vile race of Quislings.” He predicted the term would carry the scorn of mankind for centuries.

TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT TOOK PLACE

“How do you make a film about Quisling?” asks Gard B. Eidsvold.

“How do you defend making a film about Quisling? A defense lawyer has to defend their client. As an actor, I have to try to get under his skin and to defend him with everything I've got.” But the real purpose of this film, he explains is, of course, “to try and understand what took place. How could it happen?”

“My father Knut (1913-1994) was a political opponent to the Quisling government,” the actor continues. He helped people flee to Sweden but was arrested in July 1944 for being in the possession of illegal materials such as writings.

“For six months, he was tortured by Norwegian policemen in Oslo - with the blessing of Minister President Vidkun Quisling.” After spending several months in solitary confinement in Møllergata, where prisoners were often subject to interrogation, he then got transferred to Grini, a Nazi concentration camp in [Bærum](#), Norway. It was primarily used for political prisoners. Prisoners were forced to work in manufacturing, agriculture and other manual labor, much taking place outside.

“My father never talked about it... But I know it took its toll. It left him with mental scars and a drinking problem.”

The acclaimed actor reflects on whether he carries his father's trauma in his DNA?

“Can the trauma of war be passed on to the next generation? As an actor, I've always been interested in notions such as reconciliation and forgiveness: the ability to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. Which can prove extremely difficult. Would my father have benefited if his tormentors had asked for forgiveness? If they had felt remorse? If Quisling had shown remorse?

And what about me? Would I have been spared from my own personal darkness?”



ABOUT THE CAST

GARD B. EIDSVOLD as Vidkun Quisling

Gard B. Eidsvold (°1966) has worked as an actor since 1988 and has participated in nearly 50 stage productions and 90 films and series, in both lead and supporting roles. He is also a producer, director and screenwriter.

Eidsvold has been associated with Teater Ibsen, Agder Teater, Oslo Nye Teater, Det Norske Teatret, and the National Theatre from 1998 to 2009. In 1996, Eidsvold founded Oslo Moderne Teater, which has produced six stage productions.

In 1998, he won the Hedda Award for Best Performance together with Yngve Sundvor for *Sult*, a collaboration between the National Theatre and Oslo Moderne Teater. He won the Gullruten Award for Best Actor in 2010 for his role in the NRK series *Good night darlin* (God

natt, elskede), the Freelance Award in 2016, and with Statsteatret, he won the Hedda Award in 2022 for exceptional artistic achievement. Films and series he played in include *Troll*, *Beforeigners*, *In Order of Disappearance*, *Witch Hunt*, *Lilyhammer* and *Zero Kelvin*.

Eidsvold is currently a producer and actor at Statsteatret and the managing director and producer at Det Nye Teater company.



ANDERS DANIELSEN LIE as Peder Olsen

Anders Danielsen Lie (°1979) had his first leading role at the age of 11, as Herman in Erik Gustavson's film of the same name from 1990.

Today, he is particularly known for his leading roles in Joachim Trier's *Oslo, August 31st* and *Reprise*, for his prominent role in *The Worst Person in the World*, and for his portrayal of Anders Behring Breivik in Paul Greengrass' film, *22 July*.

In 2016, he starred in Olivier Assayas' *Personal Shopper* and was also recently seen on screen in Mia Hansen-Løve's *Bergman Island*. Both *The Worst Person in the World* and *Bergman Island* were part of the main competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2021.

For *The Worst Person in the World* he won the award for Best Supporting Actor presented by the National Society of Film Critics in 2022, as well as the Amanda Award 2022 in the same category.

Danielsen Lie also received the award for Best Actor at the Premiers Plans Film Festival for his role in *Oslo, August 31st*. He won the Kanon Award in 2012 and was nominated for the Amanda Award for the same role.



LISA CARLEHED as Maria Quisling

Lisa Carlehed (°1979) has made her mark on Scandinavian films and series with numerous memorable roles in films and series, including "The Emigrants", which earned her a Guldbagge nomination for Best Actress, and "Until We Fall", which resulted in a Bodil Awards nomination.

Her versatility and talent have made her a sought-after actress, most recently seen here in Norway in "Munch".

THE CAST FURTHER INCLUDES

Lisa Loven Kongsli (°1979) debuted as an actress in 2008, and has since had key parts in Norwegian films such as *Fatso* (2008), *Knerten* (2009), and *The Orheim Company* (2012).

In 2014, she was nominated in the Best Actress category at the 50th Guldbagge Awards, for her role as Ebba in Ruben Östlund's film *Force Majeure* (*Turist*). She also played Amazon warrior Menalippe in the 2017 film *Wonder Woman*, reprising the role the same year in the film *Justice League*. Here she plays Heidi Olsen.

Arthur Hakalathi (°1995) Arthur Hakalahti was born on October 8, 1995 is known for his roles in such productions as the series *Ida tar ansvar*, *The King's Choice*, and *Three Wishes For Cinderella*. Here he plays Arvid.

Nils Jørgen Kaalstad is known for his roles in for *Norsemen*, *Lilyhammer* and *Beforeigners*. In *Quisling – The Last Days* he plays Dagfinn Hauge.

Vidar Sandem (°1947) is an actor and writer, known for *The Worst Person in the World*, *Blodsband*, *Mammon* and *Orion's Belt*. Here he plays Erik Solem.

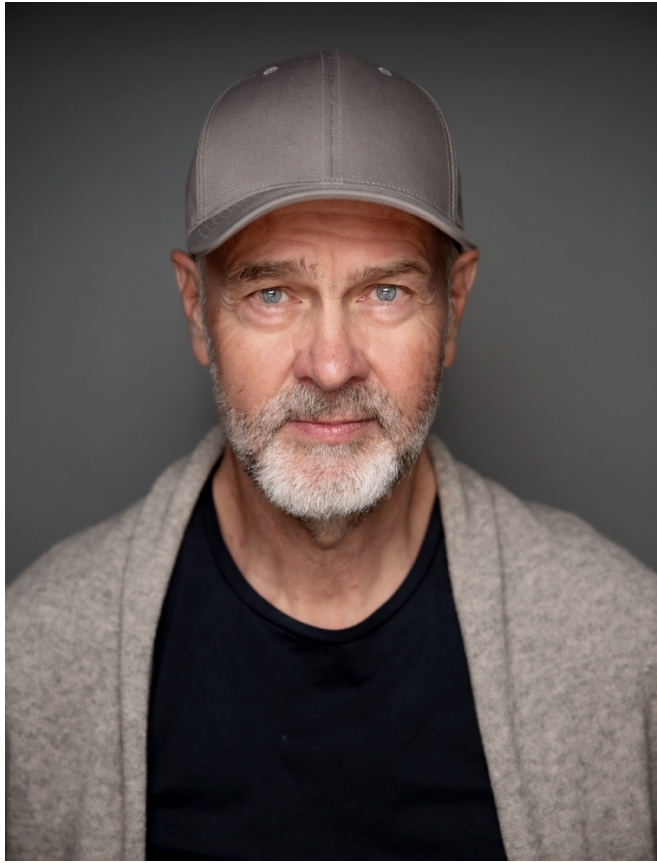
Øyvind Brandtzæg (°1971) is an actor, known for his roles in *The Manila Lover*, *22 July: Norway's Darkest Day* and *Lauget*. In *Quisling – The Final Days* he plays the role of Henrik Bergh.

Hans Rønningen, who plays the role Anneus Schødt, is known for *Brigaden*, *Homesick* and *Nr. 13*.

Lasse Kolsrud (1959) is an actor and writer, known for *Pan*, *Ved kongens bord* and the series *Kodenavn Hunter*. He plays the role of Bishop Berggrav.

Stein Torleif Bjella, who plays Vilhelm Ullman in the film, is best known for his performances in *Hope*, *Rosemari* and *Aktlaus*.

Benjamin L. Røsler (1989) is an actor, known for *22 July, Norway's Darkest Day*, *Gangs of Oslo* and *Hawaii, Oslo*. In *Quisling – The Final Days* he plays Leo Eitinger.



“The story here is not so much about WWII: it's very topical as it looks into what possibly goes on in the minds of the autocratic leaders we know today. We are living in dangerous times and that is why I had to tell this story.”

Erik Poppe

BEHIND THE CAMERA

ERIK POPPE, Director

Erik Poppe (°1960) is one of Norway's most seasoned and awarded film directors. Originally a photographer, he has garnered significant acclaim for his feature films both among audiences and critics, nationally and internationally. His latest film, *The Emigrants*, premiered in August 2022.

He is renowned for his fearless and precise interpretations of historically complex dramas and his ability to portray intricate historical events and human themes.

He debuted as a film director with *Schpaaa* in 1998, and since then, he has received numerous international film awards. Poppe won the Amanda Award for Best Film with *Hawaii, Oslo* in 2004 and A

Thousand Times Good Night in 2014. *Troubled Water* was voted the best Norwegian film of the year by cinema managers in 2008 and became the first film in history to win both the Audience Award and the Best Film award at the Hamptons International Film Festival that same fall.

In 2016, Poppe directed *The King's Choice*, which was shortlisted for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film and selected for the Panorama program in Berlin in 2017. The film won the Amanda Award for Best Film in 2017. Poppe was also awarded the Critics' Prize for *The King's Choice* in 2017, marking the fourth time he received this prize. The film *U-July 22* participated in the main competition in Berlin in 2018.

His latest film, the magnificent *The Emigrants*, premiered in August 2022.

THE SCREENPLAY

Screenplay by **Siv Rajendram Eliassen** and **Anna Bache-Wiig**, based on a story by Ravn Lanesskog and an idea by Stig Svendsen and Finn Gjerdrum.

Siv Rajendram Eliassen (°1967) has extensive experience with TV drama and feature films. She has written and co-authored some of Norway's most prominent TV series. She won the Gullruten award for the series *Ran* (2007) and *Størst av alt* (2007), and the Amanda Award for Best Screenplay for *Varg Veum – Falne Engler* (2008). Her work also includes the Danish TV series *Den som dræber* (2011), which was adapted into an English-language version starring Chlöe Sevigny (*Those Who Kill*, 2014).

Anna Bache-Wiig (°1975) graduated from the Norwegian National Academy of Theatre in 1998 and has since worked as an actress at several of Norway's largest theater stages, as well as appearing in some of Norway's most popular films and TV series, including the Emmy-winning *Mammon* (2014). She is also a recognized and critically acclaimed author, debuting with her first novel *Det aller fineste* in 2003, followed by *Sommernattsdrøm* (2005), *Lasses hus* (2009), and then the picture book *Don Fridtjof* (2010), illustrated by Lisa Aisato.

Rajendram and Bache-Wiig began their collaboration in 2011, and together they created TV series such as *Frikjent* (2015/2016) and *Heksejakt* (2019).

They have previously collaborated with Erik Poppe on the feature films *Utøya: July 22* (2018) and *The Emigrants* (2022) and wrote the screenplay for the audience favorite, *Three Wishes for Cinderella* (2020).

THE PRODUCTION

Quisling – The Final Days is produced by Paradox, represented by **Finn Gjerdrum** and **Stein B. Kvae**. They have produced all of Erik Poppe's films.

Paradox is one of Norway's leading film production companies, and was established in 1998. The company produced and co-produced more than 30 features and participated three times at the Berlinale Main Competition, as well as being shortlisted for the Oscars for Best foreign film in 2017. In 2020, Paradox started to produce TV series with a comedy-drama for HBO. Today, the company works with several streamers and broadcasters on several series.

The ambition as a company is to continue developing films and series of high artistic quality that reach a broad audience. This places great demands on Paradox, the people they work with, and the stories they choose to tell. The company is, in other words, always looking for the highest quality in both people and stories.

There's a strong belief that the talent is not only in front or behind the camera, but also in all the other stages of production.

QUISLING – THE FINAL DAYS

Original title: **Quislings siste dager**

Director: **Erik Poppe**

Cast: **Gard B. Eidsvold, Anders Danielsen, Lisa Carlehed, Lisa Loven Kongsli, Arthur Hakalathi, Nils Jørgen Kaalstad**

Screenplay: **Siv Rajendram Eliassen** and **Anna Bache-Wiig**, based on a story by **Ravn Lanesskog**, inspired by an idea from **Stig Svendsen** and **Finn Gjerdrum**

Cinematography: **Jonas Alarik**

Original score*: **Jonas Colstrup**

Still photography: **Agnete Brun**

Producers: **Finn Gjerdrum** and **Stein B. Kvae** for **Paradox**

In co-production with: **SF Studios, TV2, FILM I VÄST AB**, and **Cmore**

Theatrical distribution (Norway): **SF Studios** (Release: Sep 13, 2024)

International sales: **REinvent.dk**

Norway | 2024 | 146m | Norwegian, Russian

→ NFI Festivals contact: **Stine Oppegaard**, stine.oppegaard@nfi.no

** Jonas Colstrup's original score for Quisling – The Final Days is now available to stream/download on all major digital music services. Aroona released the soundtrack album.*



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