

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

LASSEN

THE MAKING OF A LEGEND

A historical feature film

A film project by Torben Andersen



THE FILM

One final choice

A rebellious Danish sailor becomes an exceptional British commando. But the war that gives his life purpose forces him to discover that true courage means protecting the men who follow him.

Historical biographical drama



THE DRAMATIC PREMISE

The cost of command

Danger gives Anders Lassen a purpose.
Success gives him a dangerous
confidence in his own instincts.

The men who follow him force him to
confront the difference between risking his
own life and taking responsibility for theirs.

A character drama with the suspense of a commando thriller



THE HISTORICAL FIGURE

Anders Lassen

1920–1945

Danish merchant seaman. British special operations officer.

Maid Honor force, Small Scale Raiding Force and Special Boat Service.

Military Cross with two bars. Posthumous Victoria Cross.

A Danish life within Britain's secret war



ACT I 1920–1942

A gift without discipline

South Zealand, the merchant fleet and clandestine training in Britain.

Lassen finds a world that values his observation, initiative and courage. Under Gus March-Phillipps, those gifts begin to serve a team.

The boy who reads a landscape becomes a raider



SIGNATURE SET PIECE I

Operation Postmaster

Fernando Po, January 1942.

A covert seizure of vessels in a neutral Spanish harbour. Timing and deception matter as much as courage. Every man must do his part before the ships can disappear into the dark.

A maritime heist built on teamwork



Gus March-Phillipps

An unconventional commander recognizes Lassen's talent and gives it direction.

Their respect grows through preparation, disagreement and the understanding that daring alone cannot bring a patrol home.

The relationship that gives his courage a direction



THE TURNING POINT 1942

The loss of a mentor

March-Phillipps dies on a Channel raid while Lassen is absent through injury.

The loss strips away any belief that talent can guarantee survival. The student must begin to become the commander.

The war becomes personal



ACT II 1943–1944

The price of command

With the SBS in the Aegean, Lassen's reputation grows.

The islands conceal exposed approaches, occupation and reprisals. A tactical victory can exact a price from the raiders and the people left ashore.

Crete, Paros and the Greek islands



The people left behind

Crete and Paros anchor the film in documented operations.

Greek guides and civilians cannot sail away with the raiders. Their vulnerability forces Lassen to measure success by the lives affected.

Military success and human consequence



The men who follow him

Each commando brings his own skills, fears and loyalties. Each has a future he hopes to reach.

Their trust gives Lassen authority. Their vulnerability changes what he can ask of himself.

Every order has a human cost



THE EMOTIONAL STAKES

The possibility of peace

As victory approaches, the men begin to imagine home.

Lassen can picture the next mission more easily than an ordinary morning after the war. The place he longs for has remained in his memory. He has changed.

What will remain when the fighting ends?



ACT III 8–9 APRIL 1945

Comacchio

Eighteen men enter a narrow road with water on either side.

Their diversionary mission is to create confusion and the impression of a major landing. No previous reconnaissance of the patrol route has been possible.

The scale of the war contracts to one patrol



The last order

After attacking the defended positions, Lassen falls mortally wounded at the third.

He refuses evacuation because it would delay the withdrawal and endanger further lives. His last decision completes the film's central transformation.

Personal bravery becomes responsibility for others



THE ENDING

Five years to the day

9 April 1940

Denmark is occupied

9 April 1945

Anders Lassen dies at Comacchio

Denmark will soon be free.

Anders Lassen will never come home.



Beauty beside danger



DENMARK

Open woods
and wet earth



WEST AFRICA

Water, steel
and harbour light



THE AEGEAN

Bleached stone
and exposed sea



COMACCHIO

Black water
and reeds

Sound, weather and geography create suspense. Each mission changes a relationship.

An international feature

Target runtime: 135–145 minutes.

Primarily English, with Danish family scenes.

Proposed Danish–British-led co-production for international audiences. US participation can be explored.

Current stage: treatment and international pitch



THE INVITATION

A development partnership

Seeking a producing partner to advance the screenplay, historical review and talent package.

The next step is a credible production plan and an international financing strategy.

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