



The Hunt

Spring
Season
2013

Release: 2012

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 115 mins

Director: Thomas Vinterberg



In his outstanding new film, *The Hunt*, Vinterberg has chosen to revisit his earlier film *Festen*. Like *Festen*, *The Hunt* (scripted by Vinterberg and Tobias Lindholm) is set in idyllic rural Denmark, but in a small tight-knit, lower middle-class community, rather than a haut-bourgeois family...

At the centre of *The Hunt*, rarely out of the frame, is Mads Mikkelsen, one of the finest actors at work today. In recent years he's played the most frightening of Bond's enemies (Le Chiffre, the villain with bleeding eyes in *Casino Royale*); Stravinsky in *Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky*; a reckless Resistance leader in Nazi-occupied Denmark in *Flame and Citron*; a petty Copenhagen criminal in the first two parts of the *Pusher* trilogy; a charismatic 18th-century physician in *A Royal Affair*; a medieval prisoner of Norse warriors in *Valhalla Rising*. He's played every kind of man and everyman and given each real individuality. (Philip French)

A drama-thriller with the atmospheric grip of a horror film; there are echoes of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, Sam Peckinpah's *Straw Dogs* and Lars von Trier's *Dogville*, but the film has its own exemplary power, maturity and intelligence. To see *The Hunt* is to be reminded of our own recent history: we watched as a flagship news programme suffered a spasm of misjudgment that could have been avoided with a Google image search, and as a TV interviewer solemnly handed to the prime minister his piece of paper, apparently under the impression that lots of people on Twitter naming the same man was compelling evidence, perhaps unaware that everyone in a lynch mob is in favour of lynching the same person. (Peter Bradshaw)