



TIGER AWARDS COMPETITION  
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INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM

## FACTS

**Title** BLACK'S GAME  
**Original title** SVARTUR Á LEIK  
**Genre** Thriller  
**Director** Oskar Thor Axelsson  
**Screenwriter** Oskar Thor Axelsson  
**Cast** Thorvaldur David Kristjansson, Johannes Haukur Johannesson, Damon Younger  
**Producers** Thor S. Sigurjonsson, Skuli Fr. Malmquist, Arnar Knutsson  
**Executive Producers** Nicolas Winding Refn, Chris Briggs  
**Production companies** Zik Zak Filmworks, Filmus  
**Editor** Kristjan Lodmfjord  
**Cinematographer** Bergsteinn Bjorgulfsson  
**Sound editor** Ingvar Lundberg  
**Duration** 104 min  
**Year of production** 2011  
**Shot on** Arri Alexa  
**Sound** Dolby Digital  
**Format** HD  
**Screen ratio** 1:2.35  
**Spoken languages** Icelandic  
**Country of origin** Iceland  
**Domestic release** 2012  
**Budget** EUR 1m

## FESTIVAL CONTACT

**Icelandic Film Centre**

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BASED ON THE BEST SELLING NOVEL BY STEFÁN MÁNI

# BLACK'S GAME

A FILM BY ÓSKAR ÞÓR AXELSSON



## SYNOPSIS

The last few years of the millennium marked a transformational period for the Icelandic underworld. What had been a relatively innocent playground for petty criminals and “hobby pushers” progressed into the organized and violent industry that prevails today.

BLACK'S GAME takes place during turbulent times, using as framework a handful of real events from the period; the Ecstasy revolution, two armed bank heists, a large scale insurance scam and the biggest drug-bust in the country's history. All these events shook Icelandic society profoundly, not least because of the high level of professionalism.

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

A native of Iceland and a graduate from NYU's Film Department, Oskar Thor Axelsson, born 1973, has extensive background in TV commercials production.

Axelsson's numerous short films are his NYU thesis, MISTY MOUNTAIN (2007), a nominee for the Student Academy Awards and winner of three Craft Awards at NYU's First Run Film Festival and the award-winning comedy NYLON (2003). BLACK'S GAME marks Axelsson's feature film debut. Based on an Icelandic best-selling novel, it chronicles the true story of how Iceland's underworld came of age in the late 1990s.

Axelsson is represented by William Morris Endeavor (WME) Entertainment.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“BLACK'S GAME chronicles a part of Iceland's recent history that I'm fascinated with. Around the turn of the century, the local crime scene progressed into the organized and violent industry that prevails today. I sometimes like to call it a coming-of-age tale of the Icelandic underworld.

The main character, Stebbi, is in many ways an Icelandic everyman. And his eagerness to impress and belong is in a way typical for the country of Iceland in the company of larger nations. He is (we are) always trying to play in a league above. But that can sometimes take its toll!

As much a lover of movies as a filmmaker, my key goal has always been to enjoy both the making of BLACK'S GAME as well as viewing it in the theatre. At least I can say the first part has proven quite successful...”



Photo by: Bergsteinn Björgulfsson



Photo by: Godi Gurbjornsson

Oskar Thor Axelsson