



KON TIKI



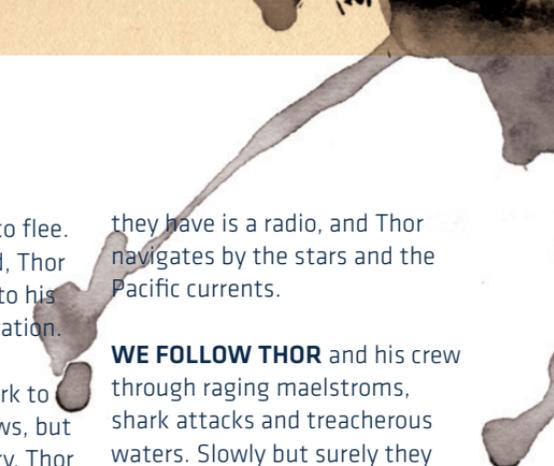
THE STORY

Half a century ago, young Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl became one of history's most famous men with the Kon-Tiki voyage, an astonishing journey of 4,300 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean on a balsawood raft. But this is not the whole story.

A handsome and charismatic figure, Thor developed a theory that Polynesia had been settled by peoples travelling east from South America, not west from Asia as previously thought. No-one in the scientific community took him seriously, to say nothing of having it published. After an American professor jokingly told Thor to try sailing from Peru to Polynesia on a balsawood raft, Thor realized that this is what he must do. He decided to prove his theory by sailing the legendary voyage himself.

Christening his raft 'Kon-Tiki' after a sun-god, Thor set sail from Peru along with five daring crew, none of whom knew each other. Only one knew how to sail. Though he was afraid of water and couldn't swim, Thor was willing to sacrifice everything and everyone to prove himself right...





THOR AND HIS CREW frequently reported home by radio, and the Kon-Tiki expedition became an international media phenomenon. People around the globe followed the drama taking place across the Pacific. In a sense, it became the world's first reality show. Would they succeed in reaching their goal, a small archipelago in Polynesia? Or die trying?

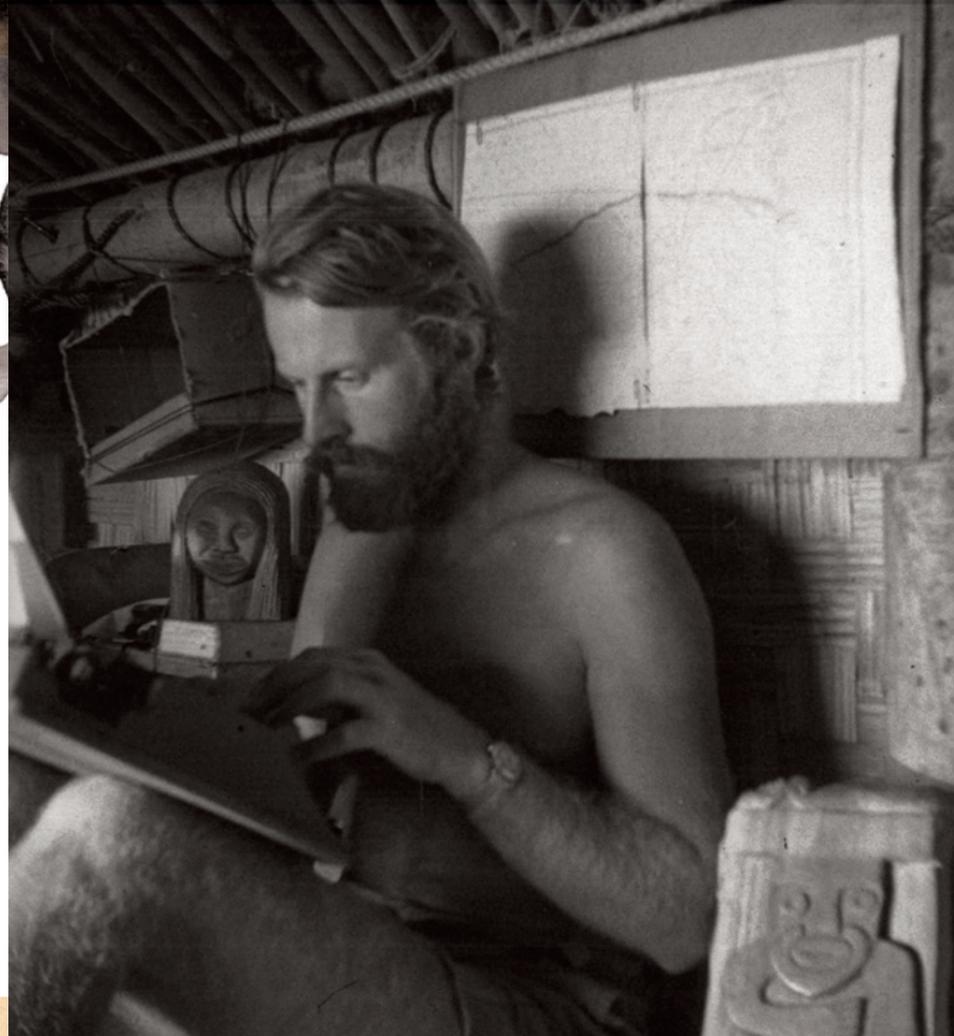
KON-TIKI is a personal story with the world as its stage, beginning as Thor sails to the remote paradise of Fatu Hiva in the South Seas with his new bride, Liv. Determined to escape civilization, the couple live as natives for a year in great beauty and danger

until disaster forces them to flee. From his days on the island, Thor sees evidence leading him to his new theory of ancient migration.

THOR TRAVELS to New York to gain acceptance for his views, but no one believes in his theory. Thor realizes he will have to prove it. Though he has a fear of water and can't swim, he decides to build a balsawood raft based on ancient drawings and sail it from Peru to Polynesia. Everyone continues to claim this is impossible, but Thor puts together a fearless crew. He builds the raft from nine balsawood logs lashed together with hemp rope, names it 'Kon-Tiki', and sets sail. The only modern equipment

they have is a radio, and Thor navigates by the stars and the Pacific currents.

WE FOLLOW THOR and his crew through raging maelstroms, shark attacks and treacherous waters. Slowly but surely they find peace, harmony and a new understanding on the open sea as they become one with Nature. Over three dangerous months, Thor and his crew experience a physical and mental transformation: they leave Peru in suits and arrive in Rarua as the world's first hippies.





THIS FILM IS ABOUT a man who starts out cataloging Nature in an attempt to understand it, but ends up surrendering himself to it in his quest for truth. We witness how Thor, through sheer willpower, proved his theory right and became a popular hero across the world. But we also witness the price that he and those around him had to pay.

THOR'S EPIC VOYAGE was spectacular and captured the public imagination. He loved the thrill of endeavor, and opened the world's eyes to both the harsh and serene beauties of the natural world. His documentary of the journey won an Oscar, and his book was translated into



70 languages and sold over 50 million copies around the world. Thor's ideas and achievements continue to inspire today.

KON-TIKI spans Norway, Polynesia, America, Peru – and the Pacific Ocean. It's a story about choosing adventure, about daring to stand up for what you believe in and simply going for it, even when everyone says it's impossible. It is an incredible journey that forever changed the men who took part in it.



FILM SYNOPSIS

IN 1947, the world is gripped with excitement as the young Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl embarks on an astonishing expedition - a journey of 4,300 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean on the Kon-Tiki raft. From his days living in the Marquesas with his wife Liv, Thor suspected that the South Sea Islands had been settled by ancient South Americans from thousands of miles to the east. Despite his inability to swim and fear of water, Thor decides to prove his theory by sailing the legendary voyage himself.

After replicating the design of an ancient raft in balsa wood, Thor and five fellow adventurers set sail from Peru. Their only modern equipment is a radio, and they take a parrot along for company. A natural leader, Thor uses the stars and the ocean's current to navigate the raft. After three dangerous months on the open sea, encountering raging storms, sharks, and all the dangers the Ocean can muster, the exhausted crew sight Polynesia and make a triumphant landing.

Having sacrificed everything for his mission, even his marriage, the success of the Kon-Tiki expedition proves bittersweet for Thor.

THOR'S CREW

THE CREW that Thor asked to join him on the Kon-Tiki were young and restless. World War II had just ended, and many didn't know where life would now lead them. They agreed to take part in a dangerous journey to a place they had never been, with people they didn't know. Each had different reasons for jumping aboard - curiosity, a desire to travel, desperation, boredom - but all shared a tremendous spirit of adventure...



THOR HEYERDAHL

Our handsome, ruthless leader. Won't take no for an answer, but has an Achilles heel - he can't swim..

PÅL SVERRE HAGEN | FILMOGRAPHY

- Ragnarok (2013)
- I Travel Alone (2011)
- Shooting the Sun (2009)
- House of Fools (2008)
- Max Manus (2008)
- Troubled Water (2008)





HERMAN WATZINGER

An engineer home from the war, desperate for adventure. Thor's daring sidekick.



ANDERS BAASMO CHRISTIANSEN FILMOGRAPHY

- Reisen til Julestjernen (2012)
- Fuck Up (2012)
- Vegas (2009)
- North (2009)
- Arn: The Knight Templar (2008)



PHOTO: OLA RØE

TORSTEIN RAABY

Carefree and blue-eyed, Torstein mans the raft's radio and keeps a pet parrot aboard.



JAKOB OFTEBRO | FILMOGRAPHY

- Victoria (2013)
- Reisen til Julestjernen (2012)
- Black Sheep (2011)
- Max Manus (2008)



PHOTO: KILIAN MUNCH

KNUT HAUGLAND

A fearless war hero with a dark secret, which comes to light on the voyage.

TOBIAS SANTELMANN | FILMOGRAPHY

- Escape (2012)
- The Writing on the Wall (2010)



ERIK HESSELBERG

Thor's childhood friend, a gifted artist. His loyalty is tested to the limit.

ODD-MAGNUS WILLIAMSON | FILMOGRAPHY

- Tina og Bettina (2012)
- You Said What? (2011)
- Reprise (2006)





BENGT DANIELSSON

A Swedish red-bearded scientist, a deft hand with a film camera.

GUSTAF SKARSGÅRD | FILMOGRAPHY

- The Way Back (2010)
- Patrik, Age 1.5 (2008)
- Evil (2003)



PHOTO: ANNA-LENA AHSTRÖM

LIV HEYERDAHL

Thor's beautiful wife Liv who stayed behind in Lillehammer to care for their sons.

AGNES KITTELSEN | FILMOGRAPHY

- Reisen til Julestjernen (2012)
- Happy, Happy (2010)
- Max Manus (2008)





ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

CHILDHOOD FRIENDS Joachim Roenning (40) and **Espen Sandberg** (41) grew up in southern Norway in the '80s. Amongst the first video generation, they spent their spare time making short films with a massive 30-pound home video camera belonging to Joachim's father.

AT A TIME WHEN VIDEO EDITING was only performed on expensive equipment by professionals, they gained access to their home town's only video production company. Here they could sit at night and create their little films. Thus, Roenning and Sandberg were given a golden opportunity to practice on that most important aspect of filmmaking: storytelling.

IN 1991 THEY STARTED THEIR OWN COMPANY, Roenberg – a combination of their two names. In 1994, they graduated from Stockholm's Filmskola in Sweden, and began their military service later that year. As part of the same unit, they travelled all over Norway, which allowed them to film everything from submarines to helicopter shots of NATO exercises in the far north.

IN 1995, ROENNING AND SANDBERG began their career in advertising. Their visual style and comedic sense quickly made them popular across Europe. When they won the USA Today Ad Meter survey for their Budweiser spot during the 2001

Super Bowl, their path to the American market was opened and they moved to Los Angeles for two years.

ALONG WITH Espen Horn and Harald Zwart, they own and run Motion Blur in Oslo, Scandinavia's largest and most-awarded advertising film production company. In 2006, their first feature was released worldwide, the English-language Western *BANDIDAS*. Starring Penelope Cruz and Salma Hayek with legendary French director Luc Besson as screenwriter and producer, the €30M production was shot over 81 days in Mexico.

2008 SAW THE PREMIERE of their war epic *MAX MANUS*, based on the books by the Norwegian resistance hero of the same name. The film opened to rave reviews and drew a record 1.2 million Norwegians to the box office. *MAX MANUS* won 7 Amandas (Norwegian Oscars) including Best Film, and screened in Official Selection at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2009.

TODAY, ESPEN AND JOACHIM live in Oslo with their families.





LOCATIONS

THE ACTION TAKES PLACE across the globe. These different environments give the film richness and texture. From a snow-bound cabin outside Lillehammer to a grand harbor in Callao, Peru, from the dizzying crowds of New York to the magnificent vastness of the Pacific.





LOCATIONS

- Lillehammer, Norway
- Göteborg, Sweden
- Sofia, Bulgaria
- Valletta, Malta
- Khao Lak, Thailand
- North Atoll, Maldives



FROM THE PRODUCERS

I STARTED DEVELOPING the movie in 1996 at the suggestion of my friend Michael Douglas. Michael urged me to get in touch with the Norwegian industrialist and publisher Johan Stenersen, who owned the rights to all the materials relating to Heyerdahl's quest.

There were many false starts, but at the suggestion of Johan, I met the writer Petter Skavlan, and later the directors Joachim Roenning and Espen Sandberg, who honed their skills on spectacular and award-winning ad campaigns for Coca-Cola, Nokia, Nintendo, Airbus and Budweiser. Their epic *Max Manus* was the highest-grossing Norwegian film ever, shattering box office records by selling 1.2 million tickets, meaning a quarter of the country's population saw it at the cinema. The directors I was attracted to their inventive and confident filmmaking style, and the scope of their ambitious visuals.

When I met Joachim and Espen, I discovered that they shared my passion for bringing Thor Heyerdahl's important journey to the screen. They made an epic film for a realistic price, and have a truly international outlook. With Joachim and Espen, I was able to do justice to Thor's magnificent adventure, as I promised him before he died.

Jeremy Thomas

Recorded Picture Company

ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO I received an offer I couldn't refuse: the opportunity to co-produce the feature film *Kon-Tiki*. This is perhaps the ultimate dream project for a Norwegian film producer.

The story of the *Kon-Tiki*, six men on nine balsa-wood logs crossing the Pacific for 101 days, is simply a modern-day adventure – with a happy ending. And the story resonates around the world: The book has been translated into over 70 languages and sold over 50 million copies, and the documentary was awarded an Oscar in 1951.

As a true cooperation between three of Scandinavia's largest film production companies and England's Recorded Picture Company, with Oscar-winning producer Jeremy Thomas on our team, I am convinced this film will be a success not only in Europe, but around the world.

Aage Aaberge

Nordisk Film Production Norway



ABOUT THE SCREENWRITER

PETTER SKAVLAN worked on *KON-TIKI* for a number of years after Jeremy Thomas attached him to the project in 2001. Skavlan became friends with Thor Heyerdahl during his research and worked closely with him in developing the film's story. Since then *Kon-Tiki* has been a recurring project for him. Skavlan has worked for years in the Norwegian and international film industry. In Norway, he is best known for the screenplay for the film and TV series *Sophie's World*.

ABOUT RECORDED PICTURE COMPANY

Jeremy Thomas founded Recorded Picture Company in 1974, and has since produced more than sixty films, including Bernardo Bertolucci's nine-time Academy Award winner *THE LAST EMPEROR*. RPC's body of work is characterised by its intimate director relationships. Film greats such as Bernardo Bertolucci, David Cronenberg, Nic Roeg, Wim Wenders, Takeshi Miike, Terry Gilliam and Takeshi Kitano, amongst others, have long-standing relationships with the company. RPC has also fostered a new generation of film talent in Jonathan Glazer and David Mackenzie. RPC is currently in post-production on Jim Jarmusch's *ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE*, starring Tilda Swinton, Tom Hiddleston and Mia Wasikowska.

ABOUT NORDISK FILM

Nordisk Film is part of the Egmont Group and the leading Nordic developer, producer and distributor of creative content in movies and games. Nordisk Film holds the Nordic distribution rights to Sony PlayStation and owns movie theaters in Denmark and Norway. The company also supplies production and post-production facilities to a number of Nordic film companies. Nordisk Film co-produced and distributed Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy, and been involved in major Nordic productions including *MAX MANUS*, *EASY MONEY*, *ANTICHRIST* and *HEADHUNTERS*.

ABOUT HANWAY FILMS

HanWay has established itself as leading international sales, distribution and marketing company specialising in high-profile quality films from worldwide talent. HanWay arranges financing, sales and distribution for all films from Recorded Picture Company, along with projects from third party producers.

HanWay Films' Toronto slate includes *QUARTET* directed by Oscar-winner Dustin Hoffman; *GREAT EXPECTATIONS* starring Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes and Jeremy Irvine; *SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS* starring Colin Farrell, Sam Rockwell, Christopher Walken and Woody Harrelson, all premiering at the festival in addition to Bernardo Bertolucci's *ME AND YOU* screening in the Masters section.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

- YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2011/2012
 - DIRECTORS: Joachim Roenning and Espen Sandberg
 - PRODUCERS: Jeremy Thomas and Aage Aaberge
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- SCREENPLAY: Petter Skavlan
 - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Geir Hartly Andreassen
 - PRODUCTION DESIGN: Karl Juliusson
 - COMPOSER: Johan Söderqvist
 - EDITOR: Per-Erik Eriksen
 - VFX CONSULTANT: Lars Erik Hansen
 - SOUND: Baard H. Ingebretsen and Tormod Ringnes
 - CASTING: Jannecke Bervel
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- PRODUCED BY Recorded Picture Company and Nordisk Film Production AS and in cooperation with Filmlance International and Roenbergfilm
 - INTERNATIONAL SALES: HanWay Films
 - FINANCED BY Nordisk Film Production AS and Aircontactgruppen/JM Stenersen Invest, and DCM of Germany, with support from the Norwegian Film Institute, Eurimages, Nordisk Film & TV Fond, the Swedish Film Institute, the Danish Film Institute and Film3



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