

HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2013 SWEDES ARE BLONDE TOO.

Blondie (2012) 88 min

Jesper Ganslandt writes and directs his third feature film *Blondie*. A familiar sounding story ensues from the get go, three sisters return to their family home in the countryside for their mother's 70th birthday, where all things do not go smoothly, stop me if this sounds familiar. The general premise has been covered before by many film-makers over the years to varying degrees of success. The film begins by giving us a brief look at the sisters in their natural habitat before they arrive for the party. We have the eldest sister (Elin / Carolina Gynning), the jet set model, with an appetite for drugs, alcohol and short skirts. Then there is the middle sister (Katarina / Helena Af Sandeberg), otherwise known as the sensible one, married with 2 children and having an affair with a younger man. Which leaves us with the youngest sibling (Lova / Alexandra Dahlstöm), she is the quiet one, studying in London and is obviously nervous and suffers anxiety about returning home. The girls' mother (Sigrid / Marie Göranson) I happy to greet her returning daughters, but it is obvious that she is more interested in her many dogs. As they prepare for the celebration we see old resentments between the principal characters come to the fore and tempers begin to rise.

The film's first one third begins promisingly enough, but very quickly we are subjected to all too similar scenarios and clichés. None of the women are fully-fledged characters and instead remain quite two dimensional throughout. Neither the dialogue not the performances are strong enough to keep the viewer interested. Instead the movie quickly moves from run of the mill melodramas to even more mundane day-time soap opera television.

Verdict: nothing to get excited about