

Goteborg Fest Turns Spotlight On Iceland



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Baltasar Kormakur will receive the inaugural Nordic Honorary Dragon Award

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The [Icelandic](http://variety.com/t/icelandic/) film industry will be feted at the upcoming 37th edition of Goteborg Intl. Film Festival, Scandinavia's biggest film fest, as part of the annual Nordic Focus tribute.

Baltasar Kormakur, [Iceland](http://variety.com/t/iceland/)'s best-known helmer/producer who's now also working in Hollywood, will receive the inaugural Nordic Honorary Dragon Award.

Repped by WME and attorney Peter Nelson, Kormakur's credits include "The Deep," the previous [Icelandic](http://variety.com/t/icelandic/) candidate for the foreign-language Oscar, and "Two Guns" with [Denzel Washington](http://variety.com/t/denzel-washington/) and [Mark Wahlberg](http://variety.com/t/mark-wahlberg/)

<http://variety.com/t/mark-wahlberg/>). He's also reportedly set to direct Christian Bale (<http://variety.com/t/christian-bale/>) in Universal's disaster movie "Everest." While leading a prolific career in the U.S., Kormakur is also, via his outfit RVK Studios, a leading force within the Icelandic film biz, producing ambitious local movies and TV series, such as real-life survival tale "The Deep" and the skein project "Vatnajokull."

"Whether Iceland's economic turmoil has spurred the creativity of the country's filmmakers in a question we'll unanswered. But the fact is that this year the country has produced a number of very well-made, original and artistic films of high-quality. Each of them manifests Iceland's distinct character in a refreshing and personal way," stated the fest.

As part of the Nordic Focus, two Icelandic pics, [Ragnar Bragason](http://variety.com/t/ragnar-bragason/) (<http://variety.com/t/ragnar-bragason/>)'s "Metalhead" ("Malmhaus") and Benedikt Erlingsson's "Of Horses and Men" ("Hross i oss), will be competing for the best film nod.

Erlingsson's movie succeeds "The Deep" as Iceland's candidate in the Oscar's foreign-language race.

Fest, set to run Jan. 24-Feb. 3, will also host a retrospective spanning 20 years, including Kormakur's "101 Reykjavik," Fridrik Thor Fridriksson's "Movie Days" ("Biodagar") and Valdis Oskarsdottir's "Country Wedding" (Sveitabrudkaup).