

Venner For Altid

("Friends Forever")

Denmark : 1986 : dir. Stefan Henszelman : : 95 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Claus Bender Martensen; Thomas Elholm; Thomas Sigsgaard

Christine Skou; Lillemar Lindfars

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5988	1.5	2	1	473	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

“ Innocence is no excuse ”



Commercial gay video distributor – **Award Films International** – review:

www.gayweb.com/106

“A teenage boy's sexual confusion becomes a catalyst for dramatic change in this tender and unpredictable first feature from Danish director Stefan Henszelman. Not since **"YOU ARE NOT ALONE"** has Denmark dealt as openly and honestly with, what for America, still remains a taboo subject, the open exploration of sexual identity. Several unexpected twists punctuate the young hero's coming-of-age odyssey, making **"FRIENDS FOREVER"** the hands-down audience favourite at every international film festival where it has screened. Fresh, provocative and illuminating, **"FRIENDS FOREVER"** dares to go where commercial American cinema still fears to tread – and the result is a haunting and memorable film experience.

Unrated. Mature sexual themes. In Danish with English subtitles. \$59.95 ”

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

“Upon entering a new school, adolescent Kristian (Claus Bender Martensen) befriends an eccentric peer (Thomas Elholm) but quickly finds himself avoiding the boy since he desires to be in with the in-crowd, led by the often obnoxious and always rowdy Patrick (Thomas Sigsgaard). Patrick and Kristian eventually hit it off, grow close, but Kristian soon notices something isn't quite "right" with his new pal, that he seems a bit too "friendly" with older men. Will Kristian abandon his chum because of his fears, or is he capable of seeing beyond their differences, being close with someone he suspects is gay? Although the film's ending

might be considered a bit sappy, falling into a few cliches, the meat of it is exceptional, one of the most realistic, well done portrayals of the teen years on celluloid, is up there with **"FLIRTING"**, **"MURMUR OF THE HEART"**, **"YOU ARE NOT ALONE"**. Directorial debut for Stefan Hanzselman. This one should not be missed!

Rated NR: profanity; sexual scenes; moderate nudity; intense adult themes [sic]; intense sexual themes

Language: Danish (with English subtitles)

Categories: Best Buddies, Boy Films, Adolescent, Bullies & Teasing, Coming-of-Age, Drama, Gay & Lesbian."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Images in the Dark – an Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video review:

"A teenage boy's sexual and emotional development is the theme in this pleasant Danish drama by gay filmmaker Stefan Christian Hanzselman, who died of AIDS in October 1991. Kristian is a shy and innocent [sic] 16-year old who becomes friends with two very different boys – Henrick, a slightly effeminate [sic] and determinedly non-conformist student and Patrick, a blond thug. When Patrick tells him that he is gay and introduces him to his older lover, Kristian is thrown into emotional turmoil. Similar to Denmark's other adolescent gay drama **"YOU ARE NOT ALONE"**, this simple yet unpredictable story presents a positive outlook

No further information currently available. A little of the characteristic gay double standard in evidence there – making the central character at once an "innocent" 16-year old boy and "a young man coming out". The other film referred to – **"DU ER IKKE ALENE"** – was actually made to reassure boys of around puberty that any homosexual feelings they might be experiencing were entirely normal and OK. Hence it implicitly rejected such lazy nonsense about sexual "innocence" in adolescence, recognising that sexual self-discovery is precisely what puberty is all about. It was a film explicitly aimed at children, and decidedly not compliant with the rhetoric of contemporary gay politics. It's wearying indeed to hear a modern gay writer still describing a youth as "slightly effeminate", obedient to the heterosexist premise that certain attributes and qualities are the prerequisite of the female gender, which in fact they are not and never have been.

See subject index under [SCANDINAVIA](#) and [SEX AND SEXUALITY](#).

See also **"BADKONAK-E SEFID"** and **"BASHU"** - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.