

MASTERPIECE 50 Biographical Notes

Atlantic Crossing

Sundays, April 4 - May 23, 2021 at 9/8c



Sofia Helin

Crown Princess Martha, *Atlantic Crossing*

Recognized as one of the most talented of her generation of Swedish actors, Sofia Helin has proved herself to be equally accomplished on stage and screen, and now as a producer as well. Sofia was one of the Executive Producers for the new series *Heder* (*Honour*), which was broadcast on Viaplay/TV3 in Sweden. She also has several other projects in development for other channels. Sofia got her international breakthrough with the role of Saga Norén, a homicide detective, in the Swedish/Danish crime series *The Bridge*, a performance described by *The Times* (London) as "outstanding" and *The Guardian* as "extraordinary." Sofia, who played Saga for four seasons and was one of the executive producers on the final season, was awarded the most prestigious TV Awards in Sweden (the Kristallen) and Denmark (the Robert) as Best Actress in a TV Drama for her performance in *The Bridge*. This year, Sofia will co-star in the Swedish feature *The Emigrants*, an adaptation of Vilhelm Moberg's classic Swedish book, directed by the Norwegian filmmaker Erik Poppe. In 2020, she was the presenter of the drama documentary *Drottningarna* (*The Queens*), which was broadcast by Cmore/TV4 in Sweden. She also co-starred as archaeologist Professor Sondra Elmquist in the second season of the Australian series *Mystery Road*, which was directed by Warwick Thornton and Wayne Blair for Bunya Productions. Her feature film credits include, *Lifeboat*, directed by Josefine Kirkeskov; *The Snowman*, directed by Tomas Alfredson; *QEDA*, directed by Max Kestner; *That Good Night*, directed by Eric Styles; and *The Divine Order*, directed by Petra Volpe. In 2017, she worked with the acclaimed German director Oliver Hirschbiegel (the Academy Award® nominated *Downfall*) on the three part mini-series *Berlin - Der Geteilte Himmel* produced by UFA Fiction and Beta Film for ZDF. Sofia was nominated for a Guldbaggen, the Swedish Academy Award, for her critically acclaimed performance in the local B.O. success *Dalecarlians*, directed by Maria Blom, who also directed Sofia in the stage plays *Liten tuva, I huvudet på Maria Blom* and in the feature *Nina Frisk*. Sofia trained at the National Academy of Mime and Acting and joined the Stockholm City Theatre immediately following her education, starring in a number of productions, including *The Girl on the Sofa* by Jon Fosse and *A Month in the Country* by Ivan Turgenev.



Kyle MacLachlan

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, *Atlantic Crossing*

Kyle MacLachlan is best known for his performance as FBI Agent Dale Cooper in David Lynch's groundbreaking series *Twin Peaks*, for which he received two Emmy® nominations and a Golden Globe® Award in 1990, and for his reprisal of the role 27 years later in *Twin Peaks: The Return*, which earned him a 2018 Golden Globe® nomination. MacLachlan made his feature film debut in 1984 in the futuristic drama *Dune* directed by David Lynch. This was followed by his second collaboration with Lynch in 1986 in the classic film *Blue Velvet*. His additional film credits include Steven Spielberg's *The Flintstones*; Oliver Stone's *The Doors*, in which he portrayed legendary keyboardist Ray Manzarek; and voicing the role of Dad in Disney Pixar's award-winning blockbuster film *Inside Out*. Among his more recent film credits are Steven Soderbergh's Netflix feature film *High Flying Bird*; Amblin's *The House with a Clock in its Walls*, opposite Cate Blanchett and Jack Black; *Fonzo* opposite Tom Hardy; and Michael Almereyda's *TESLA* opposite Ethan Hawke. MacLachlan also

starred in two seasons of HBO's iconic series *Sex and The City* as Charlotte's husband, Dr. Trey MacDougal, and on *Desperate Housewives* throughout its eight seasons as Dr. Orson Hodge. He recently starred in the comedy series *Carol's Second Act*, and over the years has also had acclaimed recurring guest-starring roles in *How I Met Your Mother*, *The Good Fight* and *Portlandia*. In the fall of 2003, MacLachlan made a critically-acclaimed Broadway debut in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*, starring opposite Patrick Stewart. In 2002, MacLachlan made his London stage debut to in the West End production of *On an Average Day* opposite Woody Harrelson. MacLachlan is a supporter of many charities including God's Love We Deliver, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and UNICEF. Additionally, MacLachlan's passion for wine prompted him to create his own wine, "Pursued by Bear," a Cabernet blend crafted from grapes sourced from Washington, MacLachlan's home state. He added a second wine called "Baby Bear," a Syrah named in honor of his son Callum, who was born in 2008, the year of the first vintage. In 2015, he released his third wine, a Rosé called "Blushing Bear." Born and raised in Yakima, WA, MacLachlan currently divides his time between Los Angeles and New York with his wife Desiree and their son Callum. His birthdate is Feb. 22. He can be followed on Twitter and Instagram @Kyle_MacLachlan as well as on Facebook.



Alexander Eik

Creator, Director, Writer and Executive Producer, *Atlantic Crossing*

Alexander Eik's feature film debut came in 2003 with the hit romantic comedy *The Woman of My Life*. Since then, Alexander has directed five feature films and three scripted mini-series altogether, and is today a renowned Scandinavian director, screenwriter and showrunner. Alexander is executive producer on *Wisting*, starring Carrie-Anne Moss (*The Matrix*) and Sven Nordin (*Lillyhammer*). The crime thriller became the most-watched series in the Nordic countries on Viaplay and went on to air on Sundance Channel, and as the first out of Norway, the series sold to the BBC. Alexander is the series creator and writer-director of the eight-part mini-series *Atlantic Crossing*. Nominated in six categories at the Canneseries 2020, including Best Series and Best Screenplay, the WWII drama has sold to 30 territories worldwide.



Linda May Kallestein
Writer & Historian, *Atlantic Crossing*

Linda May Kallestein is a screenwriter and director of non-scripted television series. *Atlantic Crossing*, which she co-wrote with creator Alexander Eik, is her first major television series for an international audience. It premiered at Cannes International Series Festival 2020 as a part of the competition program and has been sold to more than 30 countries. Linda May previously wrote *Kick It!*, a feature movie for teens, and co-wrote *The Little Grey Tractor: Country Fun* and *The Little Grey Tractor Saves the Farm*, feature movies for children. These three movies were produced for Norwegian audiences but have been received awards at festivals worldwide.



Susanne Simpson
Executive Producer, MASTERPIECE

Named executive producer of MASTERPIECE in 2019, in time to oversee the launch of MASTERPIECE's 50th anniversary season in 2021, Susanne Simpson is a two-time Academy Award® nominee and two-time Emmy® winner for her documentary and dramatic films for television and theater. Since joining MASTERPIECE in 2007, Simpson has been responsible for such programs as *Sherlock*, *Wolf Hall*, and *Victoria*, and oversaw all aspects of the U.S. broadcast of the hit series *Downton Abbey*, the most watched drama in PBS history and recipient of 59 Emmy® nominations and 12 wins. She is also the executive producer of MASTERPIECE Studio, a podcast with more than 15 million downloads since 2016. Simpson created the MASTERPIECE Trust, a fund to ensure the future of the series. Prior to MASTERPIECE, she was a

senior producer for the science series NOVA, responsible for the content development, financing, and production of new programming, and was the executive producer of IMAX productions such as the award-winning *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure* and *Special Effects* with George Lucas's company, Industrial Light & Magic. Simpson is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and the Writers Guild.

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About MASTERPIECE

Winner of 83 Primetime Emmys® and 18 Peabody Awards, MASTERPIECE has been essential Sunday night viewing for millions of fans since 1971. Susanne Simpson is the executive producer and Rebecca Eaton is the executive-producer-at-large for the series. Funding for MASTERPIECE is provided by Viking and Raymond James with additional support from public television viewers and contributors to The MASTERPIECE Trust. Presented on PBS by WGBH Boston, MASTERPIECE is known for recent hits such as *Sherlock*, *Downton Abbey* and *Victoria*, and beloved classics such as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Forsyte Saga* and *Poldark*.