

"The Crossing" is a dramatic, exciting and touching film for the whole family. The story is set in World War 2.

It is also a tale of four brave children: on common fear, courage, siblings, longing, contradictions, and friendships.

In a slightly larger perspective, the story is that we are all siblings and that we have a responsibility for each other.

Today, children are fugitives across much of the world, including here in Norway.

To me, "The Crossing" is a film that can help focus on children who are on the run, today and yesterday. It is also a film that can help introduce relatively young children to an important chapter in our national and international history.

World War II and German occupation have been themes in Norwegian film many times, but the children have largely been in the background, and the target group has been adults.

The target audience for the film are children and war can be scary. For the target audience, the "The Crossing" will first of all be an exciting and emotional tale, and it should be. Clothes look different, the villains use uniforms, the adults have secrets, there is rationing of food. It is the good forces against the evil. That said: A guideline for us is that everything should be able to have happened in Norway in 1942. Environments, details, clothing, situations, etc. Should be realistic and trustworthy.

Likewise, historical facts, like the fact that there were Norwegian police officers who arrested the resistance and Jewish families to be deported, just this fall and winter in 1942.

We will also show that there were German soldiers, young men, who were deeply unhappy and who struggled with both instructions and the role they had been assigned.

An important part of my job, as a director, will be to guide the young audience safely through this journey. There are children who are the great heroes of this tale. It is primarily those to whom we are to identify with and become fond of.

All four children learn something important about themselves during their journey. The world has become a brighter and warmer place again.