

HACKING HATE

A film by Simon Klose



Winner Best Documentary Feature at Tribeca 2024

“... a film that bravely and fearlessly investigates the misuse of the internet to encourage hate and bias by allowing media giants to profit and foster the continuation of the outrage.”

[Tribeca Jury’s Motivation](#)

“... an eye-opening study of the power that far-right influencers wield both online and in the real world.”

[The Hollywood Reporter review](#)

“Simon Klose's exposé of digital hate speech centers a fascinating journalistic subject”.

[Variety review](#)

Short synopsis

Investigative reporter My Vingren goes undercover to infiltrate white supremacist movements online. She unveils how social media platforms profit from hate and examines the threat this poses to democracy worldwide.

Synopsis

Sometimes the only way out is in. Award-winning reporter My Vingren goes undercover online, using fake profiles to expose how extremist movements are using social media to recruit and radicalize. She successfully infiltrates a secret online nazi organization, only to discover it's an influence operation. Truth and reality twist as My gets closer to the group's inner circle and starts to question who is really pulling the strings.

Having published some of the biggest investigations into white supremacist movements in Sweden, the media has come to call her the "real life Girl with the Dragon Tattoo". But her investigations come with a price, she has to live at an undisclosed address. Vingren is not alone in questioning the prevalence of hate online. Her investigations connect her with Anika Collier Navaroli, the whistleblower instrumental in Twitter's suspension of Donald Trump, and Imran Ahmed, a researcher sued by Elon Musk for exposing increasing hate speech on X. Together they unpack the mechanisms of big social media companies that amplify and profit from hate, and share how they are fighting to make tech platforms accountable for their role in real-world violence.

Questions of power thread throughout My's journey. She researches a far-right influencer in real life, and shows how some of the darkest corners of the web are closer to home than we realize. Hacking Hate highlights the vulnerability of democracy and calls for action against the spread of extreme and authoritarian agendas online.

Director's Statement

This year, nearly half of the world's population will vote in political elections around the globe. Many of those elections will be challenged by antisocial influencers who wish to incite hate in order to deceive and drive us apart. My film "Hacking Hate" shows how communities of supremacists are using the internet to recruit new followers, and wage disinformation warfare while using the greed of social media platforms to hide their identities and skirt the rules. It is also a film about what one brave journalist and several whistleblowers are doing to hack them back.

This film has evolved significantly since I started production seven years ago. Originally, I set out to document the history of online hate. As I interviewed leaders of hate groups in Sweden, I learned how interconnected their work was, and how a fascist in my country could get help from sympathizers in Silicon Valley. I was struck by how effective their work was in spreading these messages nearly unchecked. Because their content sometimes outperformed mainstream creators, Social Media platforms turned a blind eye to what was happening on their own watch. As a filmmaker and a citizen, everything seemed bleak.

And then I met undercover journalist My Vingren. Vingren's tech-savvy methods and deep understanding of the far right was awe inspiring. Her singular focus on infiltrating far right groups despite the threats she faced was powerful. Vingren became the heroine with the compelling story that focused the film. Inspired by the

state of the internet today, I wanted to tell this story in a dark and dramatic way. Our DP's, Iván Blanco, Tony Johansson, and I framed the scenes as if we were shooting psychological horror. We got access to the original lens kit from Ingmar Bergman's "Fanny and Alexander" (1982) and shot some key scenes with it. In the editing process, editor Nicolas Nørgaard Staffolani and I drew upon memes and internet culture to tell the story in an authentic way.

The reality of our lives right now is that the actual horrors seem to go on forever. A hate-filled, presidential candidate can be convicted of 34 felonies and still be the frontrunner for his party's nomination. In Sweden, the far-right Sweden Democrats, are using a troll factory to spread disinformation from anonymous accounts without consequences. The opportunities to turn outrage into hate are everywhere.

This is why the story of My Vingren and the voices featured in this film matter right now. Hate is not a problem that will be solved by a single election result, courtroom verdict, or specific policy change. It is going to require work by all of us, to be smarter, act brave, and hold those with outsized power accountable for what they've allowed. It will require us to value, protect, and tell the stories of journalists like My Vingren, whistleblowers like Anika Collier Navaroli, and researchers like Imran Ahmed. This film stands as my part in that task and as a protest against those who hate and the platforms that amplify it.

Director's Bio

Simon Klose is a Swedish documentary producer and director based in Malmö, Sweden. Simon holds a masters degree in law from Stockholm University. In 2013, Simon released "TPB AFK: The Pirate Bay Away From Keyboard", a feature doc about the file sharing conflict that made history as the first film ever to open up the Berlinale and simultaneously being released for free online. The film became a global viral phenomenon, propelling the story to an audience of millions of viewers. In 2016 Simon produced and hosted "Food Hacking Japan", a short doc TV-series for VICE Munchies on food disruptors in Tokyo.

PRODUCTION INFO

Running time: 87:21

Year: 2024

Countries of production: Sweden, Danmark & Norway

Delegate producer: Nonami Film AB (Sweden)

Co-producers: Elk Film (Denmark), Fuglene (Norway)

Languages: English, Norwegian & Swedish (English subtitles)

Sales agent: TBC

Available territories: World except Scandinavia and Israel

Available for broadcast internationally: Q2 2025

Production Company

Nonami Film AB

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Director

Simon Klose

Producer

Elin Kamler

Cinematographers

Iván Blanco

Tony Johansson

Editor

Nicolas Nørgaard Staffolani

Music Composer

Kate Havnevik

Sound designers

Lars Gøberg

Semming Haraldsen

Colorist

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Visual Designer

Åsmund Sollihøgda

Impact Producers

Think-Film Impact Production

Danielle Turkov, Amy Shepherd

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hackinghatefilm/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hackinghatefilm/>

X: <https://x.com/Hackinghatefilm>

Produced by Nonami AB.

Co-produced by Elk film, Fuglene, SVT and Film i Skåne.

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